**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21st OF NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM IN THE DURHAM HALL LOWER LARGO**

Those present were: - Chairman Mr Aitken, Mr Allan, Mrs Green, Mr Cargill and Mr Barker. In attendance were Councillor Clarke and Mr Green representing Largo Communities Together.

Apologies were received from Mrs Aitken, Mrs Low, Mrs Young, Mr Fox and Councillor Alexander. Mr Morrison also apologized for being unavailable to set up the Zoom meeting.

Last month’s minutes were moved for adoption by Mr Cargill and seconded by Mrs Green.

Mr Aitken declared an interest as a resident of Largo Road, Lundin Links.

**Annual Accounts**

A draft of the accounts is complete and they have been submitted to the Auditor, however due to the problems with moving banks there are still items missing. The audited Accounts need to be submitted to Fife Council by the 31st of December in-order for us to get this year’s grant. Mr Aitken will contact the Treasurer.

**Largo Place Plan**

A Community Groups Day was held on the 14th of November in the Durham Hall in order for local businesses and farmers to come together to discuss the Local Place Plan, what their needs might be and what they may be able to contribute to the community. It was reasonably well attended the a lot of good ideas were put forward. Maps of the area were marked with problem areas eg parking as well as potential areas for improvement and potential. All the information will be collated and submitted to Fife Council as part of the Place Plan.

Another Community Groups Day will be held on the 4th of December in the Durham Hall, to which all the groups, clubs and associations are invited to share their ideas and pass on information about what they do.

**Durham Wynd Wall**

The retaining wall next to the road on Durham Wynd was showing signs of collapse some time ago and, despite the shoring up attempt, part of the wall came down onto the road. The large stones have been put back but the wall still needs repaired but the common problem for responsibility is delaying the work and further cracks and signs of subsidence are appearing. Mr Barker will ask for an update from Fife Council.

**Burnbrae Terrace, Lower Largo**

Lundin Mill Primary has been receiving letter from parents with concerns over the eroded path leading down from the school to the harbour. This is the main safe route to school from Lower Largo and due to erosion with rainwater it is now hazardous for children and parents. Mr Atken has written to David Patterson, our Area Services Manager and David Crichton, the Landowner, as the path has not been adopted by Fife Council. Nothing has been resolved as yet.

**Councillors Report**

There has been a problem with yellow lines on Emsdorf Road where the lines were covered at a dropped kerb and cars were parking across the dropped section blocking access. The problem is in hand.

Leven Rail Link – There have been continuing issues with the Bawbee Brig and the rail link with the internet link being broken as the main duct goes under the bridge, although it is planned to lift the bridge closure till after the New Year to allow local businesses to take advantage of easier access to the shops for customers. A new temporary bridge is to be put in place over the river as traffic will be diverted for a year. There are concerns over the extra pressure put on the Iron Bridge due to roadworks and this is being investigated.

Christmas lights switch on in Leven will be on the 26th of November and businesses in Leven are trying to encourage people to keep shopping in Leven to support local business during this trying time and hang on in there till the train link is complete at which time business development is predicted to improve.

Further consultation will take place on the 1st of December at Bayview Stadium and on the 8th of December at Methilhill Bowling Club.

The Active Travel Plan for Leven and The River Leven Project, consultation document was launched online on the 21st of November. It is planned to create a network of paths and segregate cycleways to allow access to the railway stations.

Temple Toilets – A meeting is planned on the 5th of December to discuss the Temple Car Park improvements, including a Changing Places toilet of disabled people.

There is a 1.3 million pound budget available to support projects that will help our area bounce back from the present situation and support tourism. Where the money is spent will be decided by Fife Council’s Area Committee and although the criteria are still to be decided, community resilience may be included.

**Largo Area Christmas Lights**

For the last few years we have had a community Christmas Tree, erected, lit and decorated by local volunteers, this year an electric point has been installed at the tree and we have been given 6 weeks of free electricity for lights. It is hoped to also put a light display on the viaduct but still need permission from Network Rail.

**Police Scotland Front Counters**

A consultation is to be held following the change in the way the public contact the Police in Fife

The proposed new model represents some reduction in hours. Levenmouth remains as a primary counter with 7 day opening and that St. Andrews continues to operate as normal across 5 days. The proposal is that the counter in Cupar reduces in respect of opening in line with the provision in St. Andrews.

If any member of the public would like to comment on the proposal there is a link to the survey below, or contact Largo Area Community Council.

[Public Counter Opening Hours: Fife Division](https://consult.scotland.police.uk/fife/public-counter-opening-hours-fife-division)

**Village Halls**

Next year it is hoped to get back up to New Gilston with Community Council meetings. LCT representatives have been to meetings recently in New Gilston and they are keen for Community Council meetings to resume in their village hall. The first meeting there will be April.

The general feeling of the meeting is that we return to The Stables for our Upper Largo meetings. The hall is available and we can use the hall from 7.00pm

**Ukrainian Refugees**

It has come to Mr Aitken’s attention that the Ukrainian refugees in Fife have not yet been issued with their promised bus passes, except the children. There are ongoing negotiations between Fife Council and Stagecoach and it is hoped that these discussions will give the impetus to move forward. We should write as a Community Council in support of this issue being raised and the promise being delivered quickly. We have Ukrainian refugees saying in the village now.

**Road Works and Traffic Lights**

The issue around the traffic lights at the top of Scoonie Brae was a lesson learned and Fife Council hope that mistakes will not be repeated when work begins on the Dangerfield Road early in the New Year.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

The Liquidator has given the Community Council no information and no risk assessment was carried out, despite warnings from the Fire Chief.

It is felt that Scottish Water did not give a satisfactory reply to the Community Council’s concerns over the local water supply although Peacehaven now has an extra tender if required. Following the enquiries about high volume pumps, the Fife Brigade let us know that it is a specialised vehicle costing £1/4 Million and there is one in Central Scotland. Mr Aitken will ask for a meeting to suggest to The Scottish Government, should there not be at least two High Volume Pumps to cover Fife. Perhaps Jenny Gilruth MSP can get a result.

**Speed Monitoring**

Four people have put their names forward as volunteers for Speed Watch training. PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) clearance has been asked for, including children and adults. This is holding up the process.

HGV Signs – no progress so far, nor has there been any progress over the ‘No Entry for Large Vehicles’ on Hillhead Street.

Path from New Gilston – Nothing to report

Twinning – Nothing to report

**Parliamentary Boundary Change**

The Boundary Commission for Scotland is to review the boundaries of the Parliament constituencies and carried out a secondary consultation on its initial proposals, which ran until 23 March 2022. In late 2022 the Commission conducted a four-week public consultation on its revised proposals. The Commission must submit its recommendations by 1 July 2023.

**Bathing Water**

An update meeting was held on the 18th of November with Jenny Gilruth MSP, Scottish Water, SEPA, Mr Aitken and Mr Allan. Scottish Water stated that intense water sampling had taken place over the summer and it was hoped to have the testing finished by the end of November and they are now assessing the results, which will take some considerable time.

SEPA reported that samples had been taken from the bay next to the Keil Burn, Temple Burn and Strathairly Burn. The samples showed high levels of E coli/bacteria with the Temple Burn showing consistently high levels. It is thought to be predominantly from human source and it was suggested that it was from pipes going into the bay rather that from the burns.

Next steps - There is a statutory requirement from SEPA to display ‘poor’ classification which will be presented at the start of the next bathing season. Fife Countryside Trust will erect this poster on the beach notice board with the summary of the classification.

Scottish Water was asked what their ideal plan for reducing the level of E coli/bacteria in the bay and the suggestion was to put in secondary and tertiary treatment.

**Largo Communities Together – LCT**

A new group has been formed called ‘Friends of Largo Bay’ with the aim of examining the potential for the coastal area of the bay, it’s eco systems, looking at marine conservation, funding for habitat reinstatement, pollution on the land and the sea and education. Funding has already been made available for equipment and surveys to be carried out.

Another group will be specifically looking at land in the area e.g. unused land and the ownership, also underused buildings, and their potential in the community.

The Pier Group are carrying on their work and the pier is stable for the winter.

The Resilience Group are working on developing warm spaces in the community to provide a local space where people can gather for free in a warm, safe, welcoming place and maybe enjoy a hot drink and some company. It is thought the spaces will be, Largo Library in Lundin Links, The Paxton Centre and The Simpson Institute, Upper Largo. A grant of £1500 to cover expenses has been given by Fife Voluntary Action.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OF JANUARY 2023 AT 7.OOPM IN THE LIBRARY, LUNDIN LINKS**