**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON THE 19th OF JUNE 2023 IN THE STABLES, UPPER LARGO**

Those present were: - Chairman Mr Aitken, Mr Allan, Mrs Green, Mr Cargill, Mr Fox and Mr Diamond. In attendance were Councillor Clarke and Priya Logan.

Apologies were received from Mr Barker, Mrs Aitken and Councillor Alexander.

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

Mr Aitken declared an interest for Ukrainian refugee issues as host, and Mr Fox declared an interest as a resident of Castaway Lane for the Durham Wynd field.

**Fire Service Cuts**

There are plans to lose appliances from Methil and Glenrothes fire stations and a ‘high lift’ appliance from Kirkcaldy. The appliances would be redeployed to other stations in bigger towns.

There has been an outcry from the community, who were unanimous in their condemnation of the decision, especially as there has been two or three fires in Leven and Lundin Links recently and it would mean delays in attendance if the necessary appliances had to come from much further away. At the meeting with the Fire Service and Councillor Clarke there was a motion to instruct immediate withdrawal of the decision. The explanation given for the cuts was lack of use over a period of seven years of particular equipment and budget constraints.

It is hoped to get more information by August and Councillor Clarke will keep the Community Council informed. Mr Aitken will add Largo Area’s voice to those in the Leven area.

**Twinning**

Mr Aitken and Mr Allan hosted an evening for the President and Vice President of the Twinning Committee and their wives and families. It was a successful evening with the different languages not posing too much of a barrier. A meeting was held the next day at Mr Allan’s house. Mr Aitken and Mr Allan have booked their flights to France for the Twinning Ceremony in September and it was hoped that other representatives from the Community can attend. The French Committee are able to host 12 people. It was suggested that, in the first instance Community Councillors should be asked, as well as two children, one primary and one secondary pupil. The village in France involve their children in the Ambassadorial process from an early age.

The cost for flights is £320 with a 4-night stay. It is not known whether expenses can be claimed. Fife Council will be asked if there is a budget for this. There are sufficient funds in the Community Council account to help with the children’s expenses and their carer. Community Councillors should let Mr Aitken know if they wish to go as soon as possible.

For the Twinning ceremony it was decided to present symbolic gifts, including suggestions of a painting of Largo by a local Artist, the lockdown book of local people, a Robinson Crusoe novel, a book about the local area and a bottle of whiskey. Mr Aitken will underwrite the gifts and the Community Council can decide what we can contribute to the cost.

It has been suggested by the French twinning group that we put a selection of French books in the library with their translations. This will be looked into. It was also suggested that the Scottish ambassadors wore tartan for the ceremony. Mr Aitken and Mr Allan will hire kilts for themselves and tartan sashes will be provided for the children.

**Inaugural Meeting**

The inaugural meeting of Largo Area Community Council will be held on October the 16th. Mr Aitken again appealed for any members thinking about retiring to wait until after the elections as our Community Council requires a minimum number of members to carry on. Nomination papers for Community Council members will be available on the 14th of August. Anyone interested in standing as a candidate for their local Community Council will have to apply to be registered to vote by **Monday 10th July 2023**.

**Temporary Access Road A915**

We received an email from Ian Jones Fife Council Transport Services stating that, although the access was initially constructed to provide access for construction traffic and that it was initially agreed that the access would be removed on completion of the development, there is no specific detail recorded for this access.

The landowner has now requested the access remain as it would serve any further development, although nothing has materialised on this front. They also requested the access continue to remain in place as it is a safe location for farm traffic using the field than the original access directly accessing onto the junction. The original access has subsequently been stopped up, (this will be checked out). Therefore, in discussion with Planning colleagues there is no requirement for the access to be removed and agreed it should remain as an access to the field. No action will be taken to request removal of the access.

Previously Fife Council stated that, if no application was submitted for planning permission to make the access permanent then action would be taken to remove the access. It if felt that Fife Council’s decision is a complete turnaround of their initial agreement, which Mr Aitken will point out to Fife Council. Mr Allan will search for any original planning documents and agreements. There is concern that, having the access in place would facilitate future application to develop the field.

It is known that Campion Homes are negotiating to purchase the field form Largo Estate subject to planning consent, with a possible option agreement to buy, and they have informed Largo Area Community Council that they intent to lodge a planning application in 3 years.

Wendy Chamberline MP has been following developments and is aware of Fife Council’s comments.

A letter from residents against future development of the field has been submitted to Fife Council, although the Community Council are aware that not everyone in the community is against development of the field.

This process is ongoing and as The Community Council has stated before Fife Council would be consulting with the community when and if any planning applications are submitted and also for the Fife Local Plan.

As part of Largo Communities Together’s Place Plan a consultation public meeting on the subject of housing was held in June 2022. This was a general and strategic consultation in order to find out the general views of the community e.g., where new housing could go or if it is wanted at all. The results of the consultation have been collated and are included in the Local Place Plan which is due to be completed for submission in the near future.

The last Place Plan workshop which is on Environmental, Conservation and Recreation will be held this week.

A big thanks to Largo Communities Together for all their hard work in giving the community their say.

**Treasurers Report**

We have £5,348.09 in our account.

£620 has been set aside for Twinning.

There was a question from a member of the public over whether public funds should be used for other members of the Community Council. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the C0mmunity Council have paid for their air fares but hope they may be reimbursed by Fife Council as they are representing the community.

Largo Area is also twinned with Robinson Crusoe Island off the coast of Chile, which, although initial contact was good it is very difficult to sustain being so far away. It is thought that twinning with a closer town would mean exchange of emails/letters for local children, possible visits, cultural exchange and putting the Largo area on the map for French tourists. Asking representatives/Ambassadors to pay all the cost would exclude those who have little funds for such a trip.

It would ultimately be decided by Fife Council who may already have a budget for twinning expenses.

**Council Report**

* Speed monitoring is to be carried out in the area over the summer.
* Priya Logan will pass the comments from the Local Place Plan deep dive workshops to Fife Council.
* **John Mitchell** is the new Head of Roads & Transportation Services at Fife Council

**Path from Upper Largo**

We have been told that the steps down to the entrance to The Serpentine are owned by Fife Council, which makes improving the accessibility of the path in the future an easier task.

**Changing Places Toilet**

Things are moving forward with outline plans been produced, in the hope of having a modular unit beside the existing toilet, which would become accessible, with a Changing Places toilet with hoist and a storage unit for a disability beach buggy. The hope is to have the work complete by next summer. Largo Communities Together Assets Group are discussing the issue of management with various bodies.

**Durham Wynd Wall**

Plans have been submitted for improvements to the damaged wall on Durham Wynd.

**Eroded Path at Burnbrae Terrace**

Andrew Forgan a local civil engineer on The Pier Group of LCT was asked to have a look at the path and it was concluded that it only needed a layer of tarmac. Nicolas Gilmour is still in the process of updating the land assets of the estate, so it was suggested that Fife Council be asked if they might carry out some good will repairs on the path.

**Refugees – Help with English Language**

Mr Aitken wrote to the Resettlement Team to ask if it was possible for them to inform any refugees who were struggling with speaking English that there may be someone who could help with a bit of practice and general conversation. They wrote back suggesting the Communities Team may be better placed to promote the offer or local ESOL classes could possibly highlight through their service.

It may be that a few local refugees may be able to be contacted by word of mouth, leaflet or email that could be passed around.

On the question of PVG certification for Fiona Wylie, who is volunteering her services to help the refugees, the Resettlement Team said they were unable to help with any funding of the PVG Certificate but that we may wish to contact Fife Voluntary Action who may be able to provide further advice on the request?

**Bathing Water Status**

There was a poor result in October due to a leak which may have been a problem for some time. Mr Allan contacted SEPA. It is felt that Scottish Water failed to move quickly enough to sort out the problem. Jenny Gilruth MSP has been on the case since the beginning of our campaign. It was suggested that, for statistical purposes and to gather more evidence, the wild swimmers in Largo should keep a diary of any sickness which appears to be caused by poor water quality in the sea.

**Largo Communities Together, LCT, Report**

* The ‘What’s On’ diary on the LCT website is now active but needs work to promote it.
* The Big Picnic will be held again this summer on Sunday the 27th of August at 12 midday on The Common at Lundin Links.
* Friends of Largo Bay are doing regular litter picks every month at different points on the beach from Silverburn to Shell Bay, they are also carrying out biodiversity monitoring and are planning an information tent at the Largo Arts Festival in July where there will be rock pooling kits to borrow and litter picking equipment to clean up the beach.
* Assets Group – Working on a search of the Land Register to identify pockets of land in the area for which the ownership is unknown.
* Pony AxeS returns on the 25th of June and the 2nd and 3rd of July to take disabled people onto the beach at Lower Largo in a pony drawn vehicle. There may be dates in August by not known as yet.
* Place Plan the final workshop will be held on the 21st of June and the subject is The Environmental, Conservation and Recreation Workshop. All the information collected from all the workshops will be collated and will form part of our Local Place Plan.

**Planning**

Nothing to report.

**AOCB**

* The damage to the pavement round the drain lid at the top of the Orry in Lower Largo was reported and has been repaired.
* An updated list of Community Councillors should be put in the library.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD AT 7.00PM ON THR 21ST OF AUGUST 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL NEW GILSTON**