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Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Agenda - April 2002

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm on Monday 1st April in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall, Queen's Gardens. There will be a short break at about 8pm during which the 200 Club draw will be made.

0. Reception

At 6.40pm there will be a reception and presentation for Mr Jock Ballantyne, the recently retired hallkeeper at the Town Hall, as we were omitted from his official send-off.

1. Attendance

2. Minutes of March 2002

(Read for accuracy in matters of substance - harangue the secretary for minor (spelling etc) errors outwith the meeting)

3. Presentations

(For anyone wishing to address the meeting on a matter relevant to St Andrews. Please contact the Secretary or Chair before the meeting. Priority will be given to those who have been invited to speak or have given advance notice).

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

4.2. Sheila Hill (South)

4.3. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

4.4. Bill Brooks (Central)

5. Planning Committee Report

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Byre & CGF

Appendix A: response to our letter from Neil Anderson, Chair, Byre Board.

6.2. Recycling Centre

Iain Smith MSP has written to the Chief Executives of Safeway plc and Fife Council in support of our call for

action on the recycling centre.

6.x. Others...

7. New Business

New business should be notified to the secretary in advance for inclusion in the agenda, otherwise it can be taken under AOCB

7.1. 200 Club Administrator

Archie Strachan is retiring.

Who will take over?

7.2. Golden Jubilee Gala

Fife Council are organising this for 13 June. Do we have any Gala Royalty of any sex whom we could put in contact with the organisers?

7.3. ASCC Executive Member for Fife

A postal ballot is required to decide between a Jeremy Hawkings (N. Queensferry) and Stephen Reddy (Crail).

Do we have a preference?

7.4. Friends of the Earth Scotland

Send us their seminar programme: How to influence the Scottish Parliament (Edinburgh, April, £60); The Future of Scotland's beaches (Dundee, May, £80); Climate Change (June tba).

Do we wish to affiliate (£30 for community organisations)?

7.5. East of Scotland Water Charges 02/03

A very interesting report full of facts and figure on what they are doing for us and why they have to charge us more... They offer to come and talk to us about it or issues in our area.

7.6. Other Correspondence received

7.6.1. Environmental Bodies Council Newsletter Winter 2002/3: Future of the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme; adding value through the LTCS; reports from the regional forums.

7.6.2. Scottish Parliament Local Government Committee Briefing March 2002: Conference on Lo-cal Government Bill; Message from the Convener; Looking to the Future; proposals in the Bill; Finance inquiry report for publication; www.scottishparliamentlive.com; who's who on the committee (MSPs of local note: Iain Smith, Keith Harding, Tricia Marwick).

7.6.3. SEPA View Spring 2002: IPPC changes in environmental legislation, Outcomes - measuring the success of SEPA; National Waste Strategy Conference; Landfill Directive; Working with Industry; Green Offices; Community Woodlands; Waste management in Ghent.

7.6.4. Renewing Local Democracy: The Next Steps Scottish Exec consultation paper: Removing Barriers; Electoral Reform; Remuneration; powers, Resources and Structures; Timetable; Kerley on STV; Alternative Electoral Systems; Outline Role Descriptions for Councillors.

7.6.5. Cycleclips Millennium Cycleways newsletter: New St Andrews cycle routes; Velo-City 2001 conference; St Andrews-Guardbridge - bollard damage and calls for upgraded surface; Cycle route map stockists; Rosyth-Zeebrugge Ferry; Coastal path; Bike Week Scotland 2002 15-23 June; Fife Cycleways official launch summer 2002; Winter Cycle Safety (incl discount voucher for lights etc which expires 31 March); Falklands Burgh Lodge; CTC Benchmarking Project; Safer routes to school; www.fife-cycleways.co.uk.

8. Reports from Officers

8.1. Chair

8.2. Treasurer

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. AGM

members are reminded that the May meeting will start with the AGM. Officers will be elected for the coming year.

8.3.2. Coastal Path

Chris Broome, Service Manager Countryside Services, will speak to us next month about the state of the coastal path.

8.3.3. Letters sent Appendix D

9. Reports from Committees and Representatives

Written reports are required by terms of the Scheme for Community Councils.

9.1. Publicity Committee

Appendix B

9.2. Health Education and Welfare Committee

Appendix C

10. Any Other Competent Business

Please notify Secretary/Chair of items before the start of the meeting. Hint: Given that the end of the meeting is usually taken in something of a rush, unless items are urgent it might be better to submit them for next meeting's New Business.

Correspondence Received

Date	From	Subject
8/3/02	Byre Theatre Board Chair	Byre & Common Good Fund reply
8/3/02	Local Office	Kate Hughes is ill
9/3/02	TMP Environment & Infrastructure working group	Jan minutes, April Agenda
14/3/02	Community Services	Search for Gala Queen

15/3/02 Supplies & Printing Service	Supplies contract award
18/3/02 Environmental Bodies Council	Newsletter winter 2002
19/3/02 Scottish Parliament	Local Government Committee Briefing (newsletter)
21/3/02 Local Office	European Funds available
22/3/02 ASCC	Fife Executive Member elections
22/3/02 Friends of the Earth	Seminar programme
23/3/02 SEPA	SEPA View spring newsletter
23/2/02 Fifefest Ltd	Marquee hire & event management
28/3/02 Scottish Executive	Renewing Local Democracy: Next Steps
29/3/02 Fife Millennium Cycleways	Cycleclips newsletter
29/3/02 Law & Admin	Common Good Fund: St Andrews in Bloom
29/3/02 East of Scotland Water	Charges 2002/03 - report to CCs
29/3/02 Assoc for the Protection of Rural Scotland	AGM notice & Agenda - Stirling 18 May

Appendix A - Byre Theatre & CGF

Response from the Byre Board Chair:

I thank you for your letter of 25 February 2002. I understand and sympathise with the concern of the Community Council about the constraint on Common Good funds caused by the need to service the loan raised to assist the Byre. I think you are aware that this was not a decision to which we were party prior to the event.

Before addressing other matters I will clarify the status of the Byre in so far as it relates to your suggestion that we might in the future make donations to the Common Good fund if we were to generate a profit. The Byre Theatre of St Andrews is a company without share capital limited by guarantee, and a registered charity. Our operation is and will remain dependent on public funding, provided currently by Fife Council and the Scottish Arts Council. In addition to this precluding the possibility that we shall ever become a profit making operation, we operate under tight guide lines as to how we are allowed to use the funds that we receive.

Whilst recognising your concerns there are positive matters that I would like to put before the Community Council in connection with this situation. Completion of the new Byre with the help of the loan made possible by the Common Good fund enabled the continuation of a tradition started by A. B. Paterson in 1933 of producing theatre in St Andrews. We have moved from an out dated building that was in serious decline into a fine new theatre which, I hope, is a source of pride to all in St Andrews.

The new theatre represents:

- A fine addition to the architectural heritage of St Andrews
- A centre for the performing arts that will provide pleasure for years to come
- A popular informal meeting place for all sections of the local population
- A five star visitor attraction (unique among Scottish arts venues) that will play an important role in making St Andrews a successful visitor destination
- A major employer - we employ up to 100 part time and full time staff, the majority of them living locally
- A significant contributor to the local economy - our turn over will approach £1,500,00 in the coming year - much of this is spent in the immediate locality

The Board and staff of the Byre are putting a tremendous effort into continuing the success that the theatre has enjoyed since it became fully operational in June 2001. I would ask the Community Council to put all its influence and energy into supporting and capitalising on a major

local success to ensure that local people and visitors alike can continue to profit from the outstanding resource that St Andrews now enjoys.

If you wish to meet with me to discuss any aspect of the Byre's operations or the contents of this letter please do get in touch.

Neil Anderson
Chair

Appendix B - Publicity Committee

18 March

1. A form was devised to facilitate a 'database' of interests, skills and relevant experience of Community Councillors (appended). It would be helpful if members could complete it and give it to D. Macgregor.
 2. The Links Trust's PR Committee is to consider Mr McCartney's suggestion of a commemorative tree at the Eden Clubhouse.
 3. P. Uprichard suggested that a Jubilee 'golden tree' (species to be investigated by her) might be planted in the lawn outside Madras College South St to replace the Coronation gean presented by the Preservation Trust in 1953, which died some years ago. Council is asked for approval so that we can write to the College.
 4. The next Bulletin will, it is hoped, appear before the Jubilee. Material for it would be needed a.a.a.p after the April meeting.
 5. Responses to the Bulletin tear-off slips were approved.
 6. Next meeting 3rd Mon in April 7.30 Meeting Room.
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Appendix C - Health Education and Welfare Committee

Tues. 19th March 2002 10.30am.

Apologies: Frank Riddell

Attendance: Joe Peterson, Chris Lesurf, Joe Lamb

Current matters

Joe Lamb said that the St David's Centre meeting rooms had reopened for use by voluntary groups.

He stated that he and some friends had set up an action group Blind Advice Services and Empowerment [BASE] to promote better services for the blind locally.

Chris Lesurf was concerned that some parts of the Right for Fife full consultation document might be misleading. The map on chart three indicated that both Ninewells and Kirkcaldy hospitals were half an hour from St Andrews. Is this the time taken by ambulance? Certainly not by public transport.

Chris raised the matter of volunteers who might spare an hour of their time at drop in centres, to help people with various problems even if it was only to listen.

Joe Peterson brought up the Clean Coast Scotland Community Council Questionnaire for discussion. This was the completed on behalf of our council.

Date of next meeting

Tues. 16th April 10am.

Appendix D - Outgoing Letters

1. Right for Fife - Hospitals

[March 7.1]

I write on behalf of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council, who recently discussed some aspects of the Right For Fife proposals.

We would like to make the following points on hospital provision.

We support the idea of there being two general hospitals in Fife with a central specialist unit at one (Full Version Final.pdf, 4.4.2.5 Scenario 3). Of the two sub-options we back option 3a, locating specialist services and critical care as centrally as possible at Kirkcaldy's Victoria Hospital. This more central of the two locations seems to us to be the only equitable option for the whole of Fife.

Considering the question purely from our local perspective, Kirkcaldy is clearly closer to St Andrews in absolute terms of distance.

Kirkcaldy is also more directly served by rail and road from St Andrews, and NE Fife generally, than is the alternative so that practical travel times too unfailingly favour the Kirkcaldy option.

Notwithstanding our support for Kirkcaldy within Fife, community council would also emphasise the importance to much of North East Fife of the links to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. Whatever the outcome for the central Fife specialist unit the cross-Tay link must be maintained for the same reasons of ease of access given above.

Neither Kirkcaldy nor Ninewells is a community hospital for St Andrews. We are also concerned that Right For Fife should not distract NHS Fife from progressing the replacement hospital and health centre for St Andrews. We have been disappointed by reorganisations, re-directions and strategy rethinks in the Health Service too many times since a new hospital was first seriously proposed to be entirely sanguine about the present hopeful signs, though we would be pleased to be proved overly pessimistic.

2. Response to Fire & Rescue

[March 7.5]

Thank you for your recent letter concerning Stakeholder Consultation. The issues raised were discussed at the March meeting of this community council, who have asked me to make the following responses:

•*Types of information required by stakeholders.*

1) The first measure must be response times, but these must be broken down by location where a large area or diverse conditions (eg the town / country split about St Andrews) make a significant difference. As well as raw response time - when did the first vehicle arrive? - quality of response should also be measured in terms of when the full complement of vehicles arrive or how long a particular essential vehicle takes. Best and worst cases should be noted as well as a statistically significant average. The trend over the last few years should be noted.

2) Number of times the service has been called out, broken down into genuine emergencies, well meaning but mistaken call-outs (perhaps sub-divided into human calls and automatic alarms), and hoaxes.

3) Some analysis of Fire Prevention work effectiveness. This may be difficult to determine objectively however.

In all three cases any national guidelines should be given as a benchmark for comparison, as should equivalent

figures where available for neighbouring services in comparable areas.

- *The best method of communicating this information to the public at large.*

Without doubt the best way to get this information over is to put it through the local and regional printed press both as informational advertisements and journalistic reporting/analysis.

Publishing the reports mentioned above on a web site page is essential nowadays so they are always available for reference.

- *Any specific concerns*

None were raised.
