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Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Draft Agenda – April 2003

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm on Monday 7th 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.

1. Apologies

Donald Macgregor

2. Minutes of February 2003

(Read for accuracy in matters of substance – harangue the secretary for minor errors (spelling etc) 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. Bill Brooks (Central)

4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

5. Planning Committee Report

6. Matters Arising from previous meetings

6.1. Bandstand Concerts

[Feb 6.2.] Will anyone run them this year?

We have now received an enquiry regarding our position from Fife Council.

6.2. Hustings

We have the LibDems, Conservatives and SNP on-board. Labour interested but to get back to us. Nominations close on Monday 7th.

6.3. Cycle Lanes

[March 6.5.] Due to the short time before the {committee} meeting opinions were canvassed by email and forwarded to FM.

There is to be a formal consultation process starting May 7. Fife Council Transportation Service have asked for assistance in letting people know about this perhaps through an article/advisement in the Bulletin.

6.4. Police Level of Service

[Feb 7.4./ Mar 6.4] Murdo Macdonald to report.

7. New Business

7.1. Bus Shelters

Mr Hillyard writes:

I hope you are aware of the absence of a shelter for Bus Passengers in the 'CSA' (Central Shopping Area) of St Andrews - and the recent correspondence in *The Citizen*.

To help with any deliberations you devote to this subject, enclosed find an article on "Green Roofs" - which may be persuasive in assisting you to accept the crying need for a "Bus Shelter" in our 'CSA'.

[Green Roofs material is copyright and probably should not be reproduced here - will be circulated at the meeting].

7.2. CC Vacancies

We now have two vacant community councillor positions and no one left on the list from the elections. How shall we fill these places?

8. Reports from Officers

8.1. Chair

8.2. Treasurer

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. Alcohol Free Zone [March 7.1.] Appendix A Submission to Fife Council

Appendix B Late response from Vice-Principal Alastair Work

9. Reports

9.1. from Committees

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

9.2. from Representatives

For any verbal reports of meetings attended etc. Issues requiring a decision by community council should be raised under items 6 Matters Arising or 7 New Business, as appropriate.

10. Any Other Competent Business

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

Appendix A - Alcohol Free Zone

Response to Frank Jensen, Fife Council Law & Admin

The review of the Alcohol Free Zone was discussed at Monday's (3/03) community council meeting.

Having heard the police say, during their regular presentation slot, how useful this byelaw is to them and how they hope to use it against the café-style on-street tables at various pubs and restaurants in the town centre, the community council's discussion showed two schools of thought.

On one hand that

- peaceful consumption of alcohol in public should not, in itself, be illegal;
- the police could use other legislation to solve specific problems rather than this catch-all;
- CCTV addresses some of the problems the AFZ was introduced to ameliorate;
- the AFZ disproportionately penalises law-abiding, responsible (would-be) drinkers;
- the desirability of the encouragement of southern european culture of integrated, moderate drinking against the northern model of contrasting repression and excess;
- the unfriendly image presented to tourists
- even the benefits to health of moderate quantities of alcoholic drink.

On the other that

- it seems to be working
- a useful tool should not be taken from the hands of the police;
- alcohol abuse is the worst and most widespread form of drug abuse in Scotland today, so alcohol consumption

- should be discouraged in any way;
- young people should be spared the bad example of people drinking in public;
- there has been a reduction seen in the amount of on-street (and in-garden) drink-related debris (bottles, cans) in the centre of town.

On a vote we split right down the middle:

Retain the AFZ: 7

Abolish the AFZ: 7

(Abstainers: 2)

Appendix B - AFZ: the University View

From Vice-Principal Alastair Work

If it is of any use at this stage, I would offer the view that the University's disciplinary process has been greatly aided by the bye-law, particularly in the containment of student events such as Raisin Sunday, Raisin Monday, May Morning etc.. Most especially, it has been helpful in relation to the growing and unwelcome student habit of celebrating the end of exams by gathering in the street in order to spray drink at each other. This practice causes considerable damage to property, costs both the University and Fife Council's Environmental team (who are remarkable patient) a lot of money and effort to clean up and endangers both student and non-student residents of St Andrews, not to mention visitors to the town. The ability to proscribe alcohol at these gatherings is one of a range of important devices for tackling excesses.

Consequently, I would support continuation of the ban, subject to the possibility of occasional relaxations for particular festive occasions, where appropriate and where it can be demonstrated that they would be well-managed.

Correspondance Received