

**MONIKIE and NEWBIGGING COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Report March 2020/March 2021-03-09**

Since March 2020 and the start of lockdown no formal C/C meetings have been held.

We have been unable to proceed with our on-going agenda for obvious reasons but have continued to respond to queries and concerns from the community and have distributed all relevant communications from Angus Council to our members through e-mail.

We have taken action in response to Angus Council communications

Extensive connection has been made to residents via the C/C facebook page.

The following topics have been addressed.

**1. PLANNING:**

Application 20/00587/FULM – Denfind Quarry

This proposed development had been widely publicised since May/April 2020 and the C/C lodged no objection to this application at that time.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September the C/C posted on the C/C Facebook page notification of this application by Denfind Stone.

We provided contact details for residents and interested parties which included links to the online Planning application, contact details of the Agents dealing with the application and an open invitation from the owners to supply any information that may be requested from Parishioners.

Comments were invited from the public so that we could gauge opinion.

We also posted details and links on our C/C notice boards in both villages. We were unable to hold any public meetings on the issue because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

The Facebook post reached 492 people, had 184 engagements, 3 shares, 10 likes and recorded 20 comments.

## MNCC – Report March 2020/ March 2021

There were 4 objections to the application on our Facebook page from local residents and 1 request for further information which was provided by Denfind Stone. We had 1 comment ( objection) sent to our e-mail contact address.

From a purely statistical point of view the 5 objections to the proposal represents 3% of those who engaged with the post and 1% of those reached by it.

The above information was sent to the Planning Department.

Application: 17/00608/FULL

This was a renewal of an original application for wigwam cabins for holiday use. This was put on the Facebook page to keep residents informed of local proposed developments.

### 2. War Memorial:

The names of the local fallen from the World War 11 were added to the Memorial and at 11am on November 11<sup>th</sup> Iain Richmond , chairman, laid a wreath on behalf of the C/C.

### 3. Speeding in Monikie:

In July several residents in Monikie brought to the attention of the C/C the increasing problem of speeding within the 30mph limits in the village.

Iain Richmond contacted our councillors and received a response on 4<sup>th</sup> September indicating that action is being taken with temporary 20 mph speed limits in villages across Angus.

At that time the first phase was complete with the second phase about to start. Monikie is included in the Third phase.

In 2018 the C/C requested action on speed reduction in the villages but findings did not meet the requirements needed.

We welcome the above action being taken.

### 4. Parking Review Focus Group

A request was made for a C/C member to be part of this group and David Morrison agreed to be our representative.

**5. Broadband:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Cllr. Cheape brought to our attention the News Release from Angus Council's Communication Team-

“Working Together to Bring High Speed Broadband to Rural Angus.”

This may go some way to help the problem in the local area.

**MONIKIE COMMUNITY BROADBAND**

The scheme to improve broadband in the village of Monikie is now progressing and information was posted on Facebook as to how residents can opt into this. Leafleting is also being used to inform residents of this initiative.

**6. C/C Funding:**

The decrease in the grant to the C/C will be discussed when formal meetings start.

**7. Winter Road Conditions:**

The members were concerned that in the winter months gritting in the villages was not up to the usual level especially of the pavements and walkways.

We wrote to our councillors to get information to better understand the Angus Council priorities in this respect.

The reply was very informative if rather alarming.

The reduction, a couple of years ago, of mini tractors from 20 to 10 meant that one mini tractor more or less stays in Carnoustie now all day. The mini tractor in Monifieth does the priorities there before going to Birkhill and Wellbank and then if time and conditions permit to non-priorities in Monifieth, Monikie and Newbigging.

The Service Leader for Roads and Transportation responded also and the Council's declaration on what will be done can be read on

<https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2020-08/199.pdf>

Our concerns are that the emphasis on empowerment of citizens, promotion of self help, individual responsibility and decision making are the key drivers in the council's winter report.

We feel we must be wary of putting the onus of maintenance of services onto to citizens particularly in outlying areas. This is a subject which merits further discussion as policy is reviewed in late summer.

**8. Condition of the Road Surfaces around the Villages of Monikie and Newbigging:**

In January our chairman wrote to Cllr Boyd about the standard of the repair work done on the damaged kerbs in Broomwell Gardens, Monikie and the present condition of the local roads in general.

David Morrison also alerted the C/C about the problems of drainage resulting in water flowing onto the Denfind Brae. He highlighted the dangers of black ice subsequently forming there and becoming a hazard for drivers.

We received a response from Roads Asset Management who noted the issues raised. The intention is to return in better weather conditions to remove the damaged kerb section and install new kerb. They visited the Denfind Brae site and reported that in the heavy rain water was coming out of a BT box and running down road. A few channels will be cut in verge and intended discussion with drainage engineer may provide another solution.