

## **MURROES & WELLBANK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Virtual TEAMS meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** S. Anderson(Chair/Planning); A. Martin(Vice Chair); G. Reid(Treas); Cllr B. Whiteside; Cllr S. Hands; I. Robertson(Stop the Crem); B. Jack; J. Crozier; G. Cowper(Secy). K. Gerrard.

**Apologies:** D. Murdoch; A. Fraser; J. Bell; D. McNeil(Angus Council)

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Everyone attending was asked to introduce themselves.

It was asked if anyone attending the meeting would be interested in becoming a Minute Taker, to please remain behind at the end of the meeting when more information would be given.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were read and approved.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Proposed Crematorium**

IR asked if the Architect for the Crematorium application had been requested to attend the previous meeting or had he invited himself. He was informed the Architect had contacted GC in January and was invited to attend the meeting in February. He did not attend.

### **Update**

IR, State of limbo since last meeting. Applicant was required to submit two items by the end of February, one was an updated transport assessment which has been carried out, it was a very minor point changed, concerning the Shank of Omachie development traffic, something the Planning Officer requested, the Roads Department response still quite concerning. The Crematorium would bring a 37% traffic uplift during its opening hours, the Council had stated anything more than 5-10% was significant, but they haven't commented on that. The roads to the North and West of the site, past Duntrune House, out past Burnside of Duntrune over the bridge and also North past the school and Westhall Terrace, none of that had been commented on in terms of any issues and improvements. The Roads Department specified a visibility display condition at the junction with the unclassified road where it meets the B978 Kellas Road, which cannot physically be achieved, because of the typography of the road. IR is quite disappointed in the Roads Department response. Stop the Crem Transportation Consultants have submitted a second letter of comment raising all these points and IR hopes they will be given proper consideration. In terms of the second piece of information, the applicant required to submit a site specific stack emissions impact study for the Cremator, that seems to have proved quite troublesome to provide, there has been three different dates agreed for that to be supplied, all missed, it's now expected by the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. This item seems to be the cause of delay. IR reported last time Angus Roads department had asked for a doubling of car parking provision from 60 to 120, so that is significant. Revised site drawings are expected to show this. The Planning Officer seems to be indicating this will be picked up in his planning report. Stop the Crem consultants feel Angus Council should be expecting the applicant to be submitting new material change drawings. IR asked if anyone had any more experience in these matters, could they comment. SA commented he was not clear how the system worked on this issue. SH commented she had not been on Planning standards committee, so could not comment. BW stated she had no information either, but felt that each application was dealt with individually. IR hoped it would become clearer in due course. The two consultees who have not responded are, SEPA and Natural Inbuilt Environmental Landscape. IR feels this may be linked to the emissions issue, and also the car parking increase which is a larger provision. There is also a well in the South East corner and Reed

beds, which will potentially be compromised by the doubling of the car park. IR hoped the two consultees would be shown an updated drawing. The next determination date is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> June, IR has submitted another letter with comments. There are now 717 public comments for objections, and 82 supporters. IR stated in terms of the application being heard at Development Standards Committee, it is unlikely to meet the May Committee meeting, he assumes the next meeting will be 15<sup>th</sup> June. GR stated he was puzzled by the doubling of the car park which suggests there is to be a lot more traffic. IR stated that as there is no public transport, it is supposed most people will come by car, also there is no offsite parking other than verges etc. SA stated he had been in contact with the Architect and he had been invited to attend the February meeting and also tonight's meeting, but had failed to reply. The Architect has asked to have off line meetings with SA, but SA has explained meetings need to be transparent that all meetings are in the presence of Stop the Crem group and CC members. There has been no response.

### **Speeding**

SA believes there have been signs installed in the Wellbank area to reduce the speed to 20MPH. SA is not aware if there has been further signage. We will try and liaise with Roads Department regarding any further actions on signage. SA added there has been speeding reported at Westhall Terrace. AM concerned, despite having 30MPH flashing signs, speeding is still ongoing and he requested police attendance to monitor the situation as vehicles speeding at 50/60mph at all hours of the day and night. SA stated he will raise the issue with Police Scotland for their input.

### **Dog Fouling**

BW confirmed this issue had been discussed with colleagues and dates for issuing warning notices in the area to be confirmed. BW confirmed it was a common problem across the ward, and there were not enough dog wardens to be in every area. BW was aware of problems around the school and would make another request for more signage.

### **Play Park Wellbank**

We have been in discussions with Angus Council, unfortunately there is no one from Wellbank Hall on the call, but we will be in touch with the Wellbank Hall Committee. One of the projects proposed is providing new play park equipment for the area, but after speaking to the Parks Department, it is becoming quite an onerous exercise to try and provide support to put new equipment in that area. The Council don't appear to own the land. In the discussions with the Parks Department there would need to be a payment of 20 years maintenance up front and this was quite a large hurdle to overcome. We will discuss proposals with the Hall Committee and see if they wish to progress with the play equipment.

### **Roads**

GC stated there had been a number of potholes in the area and Angus Council had recently been repairing these. The junction at Murroes School was particularly bad and had been repaired for the moment.

AM stated he had contacted Angus Council regarding an exposed drain on Shielhill Road, close to the school junction, which was a danger to vehicles. The repair was dealt with in 24hrs. AM was informed the roads in the area would not be fully repaired until Seagreen had finished their contractual works.

SA stated there had been good work undertaken to make temporary repairs to potholes, but there are many potholes in the area to be repaired and this would take some time to resolve. AM concerned this was a mammoth undertaking and the contractors have been patching on top of patching and the only resolution is to resurface the roads. It is the Lorries which are damaging the roads as they go up on the verges to pass other vehicles. BW confirmed there would be some additional spend on roads this year, but this would be taken from reserves and was only a one off. Hopefully additional spend this year will alleviate some of the problem. SA thanked BW for her input and hoped some improvement will be made to the roads in the area. GC was concerned about the quality of the road repairs being carried out, which were dislodged after only a week. SA was disappointing to hear this, and long term repairs were needed. JC asked if some of the funding from

SSE could be used to help the road situation. SA replied there is potentially funding, but we don't know how much and when this will be forthcoming. If there is a concern in the area, we can certainly raise that as a potential project to be considered for funding. JC raised concern over the increase in traffic from the cabling works and SSE should be accountable for that. AM stated road openings created by SSE for access into the fields were of good quality. The next time the CC have a meeting with SSE, the concerns over verge damage will be raised and ask what kind of support they can provide.

### **Flooding**

SA stated there had been little rain to highlight the problems and any rectification work carried out would be difficult to confirm successful. There were no comments from anyone regarding this issue. SA asked BW about an issue in Omachie Place a resident had raised. BW confirmed facilitating putting the resident in contact with the relevant people. There had been some neighbour consultation, and Angus Council were involved, with residents given options as to what way to go forward.

### **Snow**

It was felt when the country had the heavy snowfall, Angus Council had kept roads in the area as clear as possible and the efforts by all were to be commended. Residents had all worked together to clear roads etc.

### **Planters and Baskets**

SA had been in contact with Angus Council Roads Department, and it was confirmed no hanging baskets on lampposts in the area. We have been trying to source planters that we might be able to use in the area. SA had been in contact with a number of distilleries who were quite positive to provide support. They were looking for a fee of £30 per planter. SA awaited response from Dobbie's regarding plants and hoped Angus Council may be able to help with compost for the planters. SA asked if the Councillors were able to give some direction on this issue. SH and BW stated Angus Council give compost away at the recycling centre and the Parks Department would be the contact for this. SA stated it would be good to involve the local schools. SA will contact the schools once further progress with planters are confirmed and try to engage them in the project. BW stated if schools do want to become engaged, they may want to become Pollinator Champions.

### **Police Report- Attached**

A number of bicycle thefts reported, just to reiterate for residents to chain up their bikes. In all 22No calls had been received from the area. 6No crimes in the area, one concerning is of extortion and a number of break-ins. SA also mentioned wild camping and people not clearing up their mess and hoped it was not prevalent in the area. IR stated police presence at 10pm, Duntrune Hill where a lot of young people were present and lots of rubbish had been left. SA thought maybe that this had come under breach of covid and had come under that category rather than wild camping. BW confirmed Lunan Bay Community Council had meetings with local landowners regarding wild camping as lots of cars had been parking and causing concern. Police had moved them on, but it seemed to be a problem throughout the area.

JC stated a dog had attacked one of their lambs on her land and wondered if that had been mentioned in the police report. Police had been involved and JC just reiterated to keep your dog on a lead when near farm animals. SA will ask Police Scotland regarding the incident, but perhaps included in the calls to area. It was raise that resident should keep dogs under control.

### **Secretary's Report**

A road closure for this area over 5 days, the C4 Westhall Farm Road from the junction with the B978 to the junction with the U315.

### **Treasurers Report**

Bank Balance at £5012, with Murroes Hall to still receive £1000 for COVID measures provide by SSE.

### **Planning**

SA stated there were a number of planning applications:

Gagie Holdings, Kellas – roof replacement.

Grace Cottage, Drumsturdy Road – extension

Steadings, Kellas – extension.

Chestnut Green, Ballumbie Castle – extension.

School Road, Wellbank – extension.

Land at the Stables, Gagie – car sales area.

None of these have raised any concerns.

### **AOCB**

Wellbank Hall, no update available. Ongoing next meeting.

Ballumbie Castle Residents Association, no update available. SA stated a number of residents have been carrying out tree felling which has caused an issue. The Forestry Commission have contacted the Association to inform residents that anyone felling trees without permission will have legal action taken against them.

### **Dirty Camping**

A concern for the area over the summer period including litter which is left at the road side.

Ballumbie Residents went litter picking around the Kellas Road area and collected many bags of rubbish which is disappointing that people discarded that amount of litter on the roadside.

AM stated fly tipping is a big issue in the area. BW confirmed Angus Council will try to identify the perpetrators. BW did not feel it was only young people who are discarding rubbish as older people have been witnessed throwing rubbish out of vehicles and also when out for walks in rural areas. SH considered deposit return scheme would help reduce discarded bottles as people may see these as having monetary value. Schools are trying to change mind set of children for disposing of their rubbish correctly. JC confirmed picking up others discarded rubbish previously, but it was now too dangerous with the amount of traffic on the road.

BW confirmed McDonalds are finding it difficult to get the message across. They have contacted schools to help with reinforcing the message. IR confirmed Perth and Kinross Council used the 3 words app to identify dirty camping and people could use this to pinpoint the worst areas. BW confirmed Police Scotland are using this method to identify fly tipping and people who are lost, BW will raise this at the next Council meeting. SH raised further signage on McDonald's materials, with warnings of the danger of rubbish to animals and the environment. GR stated McDonalds and KFC are aware of the issue, as it is their branding reputation impacted. There is no easy solution.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**NEXT TEAMS MEETING THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 7.30PM.**