

MURROES AND WELLBANK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting held on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: S. Anderson (Chair/Planning); G. Cowper (Secy); T. Nicol; K. Gerrard; A. Fraser; J. Bell; I. Robertson; M. Went; J. Crozier.

Apologies: A. Martin; D. Murdoch; Cllr B. Whiteside; Cllr S. Hands; G. Anderson; G. Reid

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Previous Minutes

These were read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Proposed Crematorium

The Chair invited IR to give the group an update as to the proposed Crematorium.

The application is still undetermined by the planning officer and current information is that this will not likely be determined before the end of 2021, as was previously anticipated and communicated. Estimated timeline for this is now early 2022.

- As requested at the last meeting, Cllr Whiteside was sent two requests for onward transmission to the relevant Council Department – these were:
 - a. The approach roads from the North and West to the proposed site to undergo the same analysis that the main Southern approach road has undergone.
 - b. The Council determine this application as soon as possible given that a year has now passed since local residents were made aware of this proposal.
- Within days of our last meeting there were two further road accidents on the Eastern approach roads to the proposed site – an overturned vehicle on the B978 and a direct hit on a dry-stone wall, both in the vicinity of Murroes Livery making a total of 6 No major accidents on the various approach roads within a 33-day period.
- I would like to thank the Community Council and a number of local residents who then submitted further comments at that time on their concerns regarding both road safety and on the contents of the updated Transportation Assessment submitted by the applicant which promoted the use of school buses as a way to access the proposed development.
- Thanks to Councillor Whiteside for forwarding my message on to the Development Standards Manager and the responses to date have been as follows:
 - a. Development Standards Manager confirmed the planning department is under resourced, but that it was hoped to have the application determined by the end of the year.
 - b. Roads Services Team Lead confirmed due to the recent spate of accidents, the road accident analysis would be re-run and then a further response posted and as part of this, address the points previously raised by myself and Dougall Baillie Associates (the transport consultancy engaged by the local residents). This response has been delayed due to resource constraints within Roads Services, but is now expected by the end of this week.
 - c. The Planning Team Lead has responded today confirming that due to resource constraints, no work has been done recently on processing this application, but that the 'updated roads response should certainly allow more meaningful progress to be made in preparing a report' and that 'it is more likely that a decision will be issued early next year' than by the end of this year.
- Next step now is to review the next Roads Services response when available to see what their position now is regarding this application and if the various points raised have been satisfactorily addressed or not.

SA thanked IR for providing an update on the application and hoped to see a conclusion soon. SA asked if any questions for IR. No questions.

Speeding

The pop-up policeman which had been placed in Westhall Terrace was stolen the day after it had been secured. Police Scotland are purchasing two more and will secure these in a different way. It is expected in the near future they will be located around the Murroes and Wellbank area, helping to reduce speeding in Westhall Terrace and other areas of concern.

A 20mph limit throughout Angus will not be enforced, only around schools. It is hoped signs informing of the lower speed will be enough to deter speeding motorists. TN stated speed signs in Wellbank have not reduce speeding through the village, speeding traffic can be heard before entering the village and requests to slow down are met with abuse.

SA was disappointed to hear of the behavior that some motorists are demonstrating. As previously discussed, other Local Authorities are using measures such as gateway features to slow traffic entering villages and as the report by Atkins demonstrates, this could be a solution for the Murroes and Wellbank areas.

Playpark

SA informed the meeting a survey was underway in the Wellbank area. This was shared on screen (Appendix 1). KG confirmed four companies had been asked to quote for play equipment, two had replied. Sums quoted from two, were between £90-126,000. A display was on show at the Wellbank Hall Christmas Fair for views and potential fundraising. Further support will be required to help raise funds to deliver the play park.

Grant applications had been submitted to SSE and National Lottery. It was hoped local businesses would be willing to help with donation to the fund.

Various ideas have been suggested to provide for all age of users in the new park area. Angus Council will be involved to ensure equipment is meeting all the required standards.

Roads

AF raised concerns with the traffic lights at Kellas having been in place longer than expected. There had been close encounters with cars and lorries on the bend. AF enquired how long the lights were to be in place. SA suggested AF contact Police Scotland should it be found the traffic lights are not operating correctly. There have been numerous posts on Facebook from Wellbank residents concerned with the danger.

It was raised once again the concern over the quality of road repairs being carried out and the number of patches that have been filled with little focus on quality and longevity of patches. The potholes have just had cold tar dropped in the holes with little or no preparation and no finish provided, resulting in minimal benefit.

Christmas Lights

SA confirmed solar Christmas trees have been placed at Murroes Hall, Murroes School. Mattocks School. Feedback from Head Teachers has been positive, but due to the poor weather the full benefits may not be experienced (Appendix 2 & 3).

De-Fib

The Mor Brewery at Kellas agreed to locate a De-Fib at their premises, but they have asked for further information to help with funding and training. SA will push forward with trying to find help for funding. SA asked if any other business would be willing to have a de-fib at their premises to get in touch with him.

Solar Farm

SA stated there had been no further information to date. He will try and find a map of the area for the next meeting.

Police Report

SA shared the most recent Police report with the meeting. The main focus of the report was sexual offending and domestic abuse. There were 8 calls to the Police since October, with 5No relating to the intruder alarm at Murroes P.S, 1No a male walking on the road at Duntrune and 2No relating to storm Arwen due to fallen trees. There have been no recorded crimes in this period. This is good news and hope this low crime levels in the area continues. Full report attached.

Secretary Report

GC raised the issue of correspondence from Angus Council was overwhelming, SA reminded all that admin duties support was raised with Angus Council and it is hoped there would be a minute taker in place for the next meeting. Angus Council Bi-Annual meeting was held and the Information Service will be working to support Community Councils in 2022, with training support and help with volunteers. Elections will be taking place in 2022 for Community Council applicants, SA urged all to put their names forward.

Treasurers Report

No report available. It was confirmed that funding had been provided by Angus Council to provide hybrid equipment to hold face to face and on-line meetings, this will hopefully take place in 2022.

Planning

SA stated there were a small number of planning applications:

Timber Garage- North Greenford, Monikie

Recycling Shed- Ardownie Quarry (retrospective)

Kingennie Hotel and Golf complex- Purifying Planning Conditions.

KG asked about funding from the development of Mattocks School. SA informed the meeting, there would be planning conditions set by Angus Council for the developer to meet, should the school require additional capacity.

MW and MF asked if the road repairs etc would be taken into consideration during building if planning agreed. SA understood that there would be road alterations as part of the planning proposal, but if there was damage caused by the development works, the contractor would be required to make good as part of any dilapidation requirements. The Hotel and Golf Course is a separate application from the housing development in the bottom field, requiring any developer of the housing to put in the full planning application for the infrastructure required depending what was proposed. The Community Council had put forward objections a number years ago when the original planning application was submitted. TN and JC said the village were concerned it could take up to 10 years for completion of the project and disruption with extra traffic that would have a detrimental effect on the already busy infrastructure. TN also asked what benefits the village would get from the developer. It was the hope that the roads infrastructure would be improved along with drainage and flooding reduction measures. It was expected with such a development that SEPA along with Scottish Water will put in stringent requirements for the discharge of water to drains along with improvements to water supplies, etc. The CC would ask elected members to raise this with Scottish Water. TN stated with recent flooding, raw sewage was leaking from drains, would this be raised with developer. It was expected that if such issues have been reported at the time to Scottish Water, they would be looking to ensure such issues are not exacerbated by the development but improved. Field drains would also need to be considered to help reduce flooding from the development along with SUDS.

AOCB

Wellbank Hall

KG informed the group the Hall was very busy. To date there was no permanent member of staff working at the hall, all volunteers, but hoped funding for staff would be available soon. KG asked if there was anyone interested on going on the Committee to please contact KG or the Wellbank Hall.

There were several new ideas and groups being considered, but urgent need for volunteers to help with the supporting of groups and supporting the Wellbank Hall, again anyone interested in this please contact KG or Wellbank Hall. It was suggested to KG that Birkhill Hall had access to funds for a full-time support worker and to contact the Birkhill Hall for details.

Ballumbie Castle Residents Association

There was no available representative to attend the meeting, but there are no real issues currently. A representative will endeavor to attend the February meeting.

Electric Charge Points

Further discussions with Angus Council to be held as additional funding may be available to help install a charging point at Wellbank Hall. It was also hoped to have an electric charging point at Murroes Primary School.

Local Improvement Group

SA informed the meeting about a pilot being undertaken by Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) in the Monifieth & Carnoustie areas. The pilot was for a walk and talk, seated exercise and weight loss groups, which have all be a great success. SA has asked to emulate these groups at the Wellbank and Murroes areas to help provide support to residents, but again is asking for volunteers to become involved.

Brighty Wood

AF had communicated with Angus Council regarding the moving of the post at the East gate of Brighty Wood and was awaiting a response. AF stated horse riders were not wearing fluorescent clothing and AF had phoned the livery stables to make them aware as to the dangers. AF was aware an updated Highway Code was being put out next year.

Power Outage

The difficulties recently experienced by many residents due to storm ARWEN has raised several issues, particularly the resilience measures available in the area and particularly the access to shelter with heating, water, toilets and cooking facilities. AF suggested finding out if businesses in the area would be willing to lend generators to residents should a similar situation arise in the future. SA stated with GDPR, personal information was difficult to distribute to others for them to check up on neighbors but would be looked into.

There had been help from the Wee Cook who sited their mobile van in Westhall Terrace and Wellbank Hall with hot food for residents who had no means of making hot meals or drinks and we would all like to thank the Wee Cook for the help over that difficult period. No contact had come from SSE in the area and apparently SSE and Scottish Water did not recognize some postcodes. It would be useful if there were contacts for residents to access hot food, water etc for future emergencies.

SA informed the group SSE are to reimburse residents who had been without power for a significant time and would have their hotel and carryout meals paid up to a certain value. They were to contact the following email, networks.executivecomplaints@ssen.co.uk.

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

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Appendix 3

