

MURROES AND WELLBANK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting held on Thursday 24 February 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: S. Anderson (Chair/Planning); G. Cowper(Secy); G Reid (Treasurer)
A. Fraser; I. Robertson; M. Went; J. Crozier Cllr B. Whiteside; Cllr S. Hands;
D McNeil (Angus Council) Scott McIntosh (SSE) Sam O'Connor (SSE)
L Hally (Note taker)

Apologies: A. Martin; D. Murdoch; K. Smith; J. Bell

1. Welcome & Apologies

SA thanked and welcomed everyone to the meeting apologies were given as above.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute from the previous meeting held on 9 December 2021 was agreed as accurate.

3. SSE Update (Sam O Connor & Scott McIntosh)

SA introduced Sam O'Connor from SSE to give an update and address some issue raised in the area after the recent storms.

Sam O'Connor spoke in detail to the presentation she shared on screen the slides will be shared when they are available.

- SSE works closely with AC all year round we sit on a partnership group call Tayside Local Resilience Partnership and have an obligation to keep our partners up to date on what we're doing in a case of an emergency.
- constantly investing - some of the recent investments in Angus are the primary substation updates. We also have network improvement projects.
- Automation -this includes controlling everything remotely from Perth. Smart system can detect where the fault is on the network and switch itself around.
- Arwen was an exceptional event, in general most customers across this area have experienced less than one outage a year and some customers before Arwen it's been one in almost five years.
- Annual Resilience Fund – this has been enhanced this year to £1m across the North of Scotland for communities to apply for project that will enhance their community resilience. SOC can work with you to look at establishing a community emergency plan aligning to the local authorities plan to identify gaps where funding can be applied for.
- SSE Power Track – report or view any issues on the network either through the app or by internet browser.
- Priority Services Register – We shared the list of customers off supply with AC who cross referenced and prioritised the welfare efforts. If you can help promote the register your area and advise of anyone who should be added to the current list.

There were some questions including

Lack of communication – lack of trust, SSE have learnt lesson, now provide a more pessimistic view and lots of work going on in the background.

Priority Service Register – it is critical we share the data with local authorities, if there is a risk to life this should be escalated to emergencies services through LRP or through the Social Care Partnership. The door knocking was coordinated through AC this did not reach certain areas. SSE only have a legal obligation to restore the power and provide updates, the local authority has a legal obligation under civil contentious to provide care for people, it is critical that we are working together to enable them to do that.

Power track App This does not recognise local postcode – SOC will take this as an action.

Resilience Community Fund – Individual community groups can apply to up to 20k Gold standard of a Community Plan in Angus would be the Glen Ogilvie Resident Assoc. and East Haven both have excellent plans. There is also a resilience centre at Eassie & Nevay Hall which were awarded 10k for upgrades. Invite a representative from Eassie to share what they have done. Neil McLeod can also advise on resilience planning, SOC can share contact details.

Communities Team were working under the Red Cross banner along with Angus Council Housing team.

No one predicted the force of Arwen it started as a yellow alert and then moved to a red, we have not had a storm like it since 1953 it was unprecedented. Angus Council were a gold standards authority, they door dropped 3,500 leaflets, they had welfare vans, opened up leisure centres and took ownership of the welfare coordination. We can work in conjunction with AC to build a resilience plan for the residents in the area.

SA thanked both Sam & Scott from SSE for attending, further follow up questions/comment can be forwarded on through SA.

4. Matters Arising

Proposes Crematorium

The following statement was submitted by IR

Headline:

Planning application was refused at the end of January by the planning officer under delegated powers on the grounds that if approved it would promote unsustainable travel and development due to the lack of public transport, pedestrian and cycle access to and from the proposed site. If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal they have until 24th April 2022 to do so.

Detail:

1) Numerous local residents have communicated to me their relief at this decision after living with this proposal hanging over them for the past 16 months. I would like to thank the Community Council for their support, our councillors for their interest and the many local residents who lodged objections during this difficult and protracted period.

2) Whilst naturally pleased with this decision, I would like the following noted on the public record, **as it was very disappointing that local residents had to fight as hard as they did and had to employ external consultants to ensure that Angus Council Roads Service applied the correct road safety standards when considering this application** namely:

a) The initial acceptance, without any form of apparent check, by the Roads Service of the visibility splay data provided by the applicant in the Transportation Assessment

b) When it was pointed out by the external consultant that some of this information was incorrect, the Roads Service's response was just to lower the visibility splay standards required

c) When it was then pointed out to the Roads Service by the external consultant that a lowering of these standards was not allowed in these particular locations according to the DMRB (Design Manual for Roads and Bridges) the Roads Service capitulated and finally applied the correct standards to 2 junctions on the southern approach to the proposed site which resulted in significant and material changes to their requested conditions. The correct conditions should have been identified right at the outset and not after a fight by local residents costing them £1590 in professional fees, as local residents are entitled to expect that the Roads Service will apply the

correct safety standards at all times and that they should not have to resort to hiring an external consultant to ensure that this happens.

3) Additional notes for the public record:

a) Despite repeated requests by both myself, other local residents and the external transportation consultant, the Roads Service refused to consider any approach road to the proposed site other than the ones from the south and east. Given that these were predicted to carry circa 60% of the traffic generated by this development, this meant that the other approach roads carrying the other 40% incl through Westhall Terrace and Burnside of Duntrune etc were completely discounted despite being predicted to carry significant traffic volumes from the north and west. Again, from the viewpoint of local residents this is very frustrating and unacceptable.

b) There is an apparent contradiction in how Angus Council view road traffic accidents when assessing planning applications as the Roads Service only assess those accidents that result in personal injury, yet they clearly stated in their final submission dated 14th December 2021 that given the recent spate of road accidents on the approach roads to the proposed site (6 accidents in a 33 day period) 'that does not mean that the concerns raised [re damage only collisions] by local residents are not valid'. However, in the Handling Report these collisions are completely discounted under the cover of 'they [the Roads Service] offer no objection to the proposal'. This is a clear contradiction and demonstrates to local residents that the council does not, quite frankly, care about road safety.

4) The Courier ran an article on 26th January 2022 communicating the delegated decision and the local residents' reaction to this.

5) I was interviewed on the campaign and current status of the application by 'That's TV Scotland' and the resulting piece was released into the public domain on 28th January 2022

6) Next step is to monitor the planning portal for any signs of an appeal being lodged which, if lodged, will be robustly challenged.

Requested Actions:

1) None at this time.

Cllr Hands suggested using the Angus Council Complaints procedure to highlight the fact Angus Council Roads Service applied the incorrect road safety standards when first considering this application. IR to action this. This has been a very challenging time for local residents around the proposed development.

Speeding

No update from Police Scotland re the pop-up policemen. If available this will be included with the papers from this meeting.

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Roads

SA has had discussion re the repairs that are being carried out on the roads which are not up to standard and very inadequate, WS will take this back to Tayside Contracts. Traffic lights and development of new footpath – SA has raised this with AC – it was reported back this would be fast tracked and the project is now completed.

Playpark

No update available – meeting with SSE and positive feedback regarding funding which will show this moving forward with pace.

Solar Farm

AF gave a detailed update on this application. There will be a significant number of objections submitted to AC asking the local authority to log a statutory objection on

the basis that there are numerous material planning considerations that are not adequately covered in the supporting documentation to the application and are indeed completely absent from the supporting documents. We hope the local authority take these into account and insist on a full planning application from the company.

The Community Council will look into putting forward an objection.

Brighy Wood

AF advise that she had received an email from the councils Countryside Access Officer who had meet with the chair of the Brighty Wood group and a local authorities traffic engineer.

The following advice was given

- Equine access located on a bend with poor visibility of approaching traffic
- Ideal located further north away from the bend

They understand that this would involve crossing an area of wet ground and the removal of a number of trees as well as creating a new gap in the wall, an alternative solution would be to improve site lines to the west. We are still waiting further response from PC. The British Horse Society Access Officer will now submit an assessment and we will submit it to the council.

Kingennie

We discussed the planning application at the last meeting. There has been a number of concerns re these proposals. SA spoke with the planning department of AC bringing forward the points raised at the meeting in regard of the drains and water coming from the development and the potential flood risk.

5. Police Report

SA share the police report on screen a copy will be attached with the meeting papers. SA will provide feedback stating the report seems quite generic and will ask if a more specific rural report can be provided.

6. Secretary Report Correspondence

Community Resilience funding from SSE will be added to the Facebook page. Angus Council Winter Resilience – Assistance to Communities Grant 2022 meeting on Monday 7 March. This will also be posted on social media.

Queens Jubilee Event

The idea of coffee & cake in the hall has been suggested with reminiscing stories. This will be advertised on the community council Facebook page to gauge interest. More details will follow.

7. Financial Report

GR provided the following figures as from the 9 November 2021

£1,735.82 spend

£3,966.66 balance

8 Planning Report

21/00989/FULL - Change of use to change existing field to form extended car park / yard at Westhall Garage.

22/00005/FULL - Erection of new Dance School building and extension of hardstanding to improve access and parking at Knowehead Farm.

21/00960/FULL -Installation of composting toilet at Cairnbrae Natural Burial Ground.

An application has been submitted to the Roads department to extend and open the road at the end of Meadowbank Gardens Wellbank into a field, for farm vehicles, Cllr Whiteside submitted an amendment and the application was refused, the applicants have a right to appeal this decision.

9. AOCB

Wellbank Hall – Electric charging points – funding maybe available for this.

Discussions relating to improving the carpark upgrading the drainage.

Relating to the funding DMcN advised one quote would be sufficient so long as there were others requested

The walking group based at the hall are keen to get involved in well-being activities

DMcN can support this contact him at McNeillD@angus.gov.uk

The youth group had seven attendees in the first week we are hoping these figures will increase.

No issues from Ballumbie Castle Residents.

Community Resilience Plan SA & HZ have a basic template any volunteers to help with this would be very welcome, this would be a great benefit to the community in light of the recent events.

We would like to improve the halls in the area to make them more like hubs with generators and improved facilities.

JC would be interested in starting a craft group in Wellbank. CllrWhiteside can pass on JC details to an established craft group in Arbroath.

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21 April in Wellbank Hall at 7.30pm this will also be a hybrid style meeting.