

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 26 OCTOBER 2023

PETITION – RENAMING OF CUMBERLAND CLOSE, KIRRIEMUIR DD8 4EF

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND CHANGE

ABSTRACT

This Report advises members of a petition which was received in connection with the re-naming of Cumberland Close, Kirriemuir DD8 4EF.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In terms of Standing Order 14, the Committee may EITHER:

- (i) note receipt of the petition and take no further action;
- (ii) determine that appropriate action has already been taken or is planned and no further action is necessary;
- (iii) request a fuller report from the relevant officer;
- (iv) undertake a detailed scrutiny review, gather evidence, and make recommendations to the relevant committee; or
- (v) refer the matter to Angus Council where in the view of the Committee, its significance requires a debate.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This Report contributes to the achievement of our priority that the council is efficient and effective as detailed in our Council Plan for 2023 – 2028.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 On 17 August 2023 a petition signed by 956 people which included 629 signatories from outwith the Angus area, was lodged with Angus Council. In order for the petition to be put before this committee, there requires to be more than 50 signatories from within the Angus area. This requirement is satisfied. Members should note that Standing Order 14 which details the requirements in terms of any petition received, provides that petitions will only be accepted where the name and address has been provided with all signatories requiring to be resident in Angus. More recently with the advent of e-petitions, the Committee has accepted petitions when only postal codes of signatories are provided particularly in light of data protection considerations. All signatories within the Angus area have provided a postal code and there are 327 signatories from Angus.

The petition was acknowledged on receipt.

As the agenda and papers for the meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 22 August 2023 had already been published, this is the first opportunity for the matter to be considered by this Committee in terms of the procedure set out in Standing Order 14.

The Petition is headed “Renaming of Cumberland Close, Kirriemuir DD8 4EF” and seeks permission to re-name Cumberland Close, Visocchoi’s Close. A copy of the covering letter submitted with the petition along with details of its rationale which was also submitted with the petition are attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Also included is background information submitted with the petition.

Officers of the Council requested Angus Archives carry out some background research into this matter and their findings are detailed in Appendix 2 of this report. Beyond this detail provided

by Angus Archives, officers are unable to verify the accuracy of the information contained in the petition or the veracity of any of the allegations made. If elected members wished to have further background detail regarding these matters officers would be obliged to pay to instruct an appropriate specialist historian.

Members may also wish to be aware that there is a contrary petition on the matter headed "Save our history - Don't change our street names". The contrary petition currently has 86 signatories and has not been submitted to the Council.

Members are asked to give consideration to this matter and determine what to do. Committee may agree one of the options as detailed in Standing Order 14 above. Members should be aware that Standing Order 40(5) provides that in the interests of efficiency whenever possible business should only be presented to one committee being the committee whose order of reference includes the principal issues to be considered. On that basis, the Scrutiny and Audit Committee could determine to refer this matter to the Communities Committee with a fuller report from officers on the matter. This is because under the terms of reference of the Communities Committee, the Communities Committee is responsible for the functions of the Council in relation to street names and property numbers.

Information on naming of new streets is available on the Council's [web site](https://www.angus.gov.uk/roads_parking_and_travel/roads_and_pavements/street_naming_and_house_numbering/naming_new_streets#:~:text=Local%20councillors%20decide%20on%20new,and%20the%20local%20delivery%20office).
https://www.angus.gov.uk/roads_parking_and_travel/roads_and_pavements/street_naming_and_house_numbering/naming_new_streets#:~:text=Local%20councillors%20decide%20on%20new,and%20the%20local%20delivery%20office

The process for re-naming a street or close would include officers preparing a site plan showing the affected addresses, updating of our own address gazetteer, contacting the Royal Mail and lettering all interested parties including emergency services and public utility providers. There are 6 separate addresses in Cumberland Close, five of which are dedicated to commercial units owned by the council. Currently, three businesses are operating within Cumberland Close, with plans for an additional business to occupy another commercial unit in the near future. Any renaming of the close will have an impact in different ways on current owners and occupiers. In terms of any decision of the council, it is advised that a rationale is provided for the decision.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications per se in terms of this report, specifically other than officers' time spent looking into matters to date. There may be additional financial implications depending on what the Committee decides to do with the petition. In particular, if members wish to instruct a specialist historian that will incur costs for which no specific budget provision exists. If members decide to recommend a change in the name of the Close that will incur costs (estimated at approx. £500) in providing the required new signage. There would also be the requirement for further officer time to carry out the process of re-naming the street/close.

It is noted that it is detailed in the petition that the costs could be met from the Common Good Fund of Kirriemuir and Dean. This would require that the expenditure benefit the inhabitants of the Burgh of Kirriemuir. Although the Common Good policy guidelines do not define what "benefit the inhabitants" means, custom and practice is to consider that Common Good funding would only be appropriate where the spend would benefit a significant or substantial proportion of the Burgh. Local Kirriemuir members would be consulted on their views prior to any report going to committee.

5. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications in terms of this report as its recommendations have no differential impact on those with protected characteristics.

REPORT AUTHOR: Fiona Anderson, Acting Democratic Services Manager

EMAIL DETAILS: LEGDEM@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Petition and background information

Appendix 2 – Angus Archives Background Research