

## Briefing Note, August 2021

During the period of lockdown resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Council continues to function, but has not held any public meetings. If Covid regulations allow, the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall

This Briefing Note outlines some of the work that the Community Council has been involved in.

1 – MINUTE OF 344<sup>th</sup> MEETING - Accepted

2 – MATTERS ARISING - None

3 – POLICE REPORT for July has been received and forwarded to Community Councillors. There has been a decrease in anti-social behaviour, assaults and drink driving. There has been an increase in thefts, careless driving and dangerous driving. There has also been 3 fire raising incidents.

4 – PLANNING

The Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020 was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for examination. Within our Community Council area, there are objections to Aberdeenshire Council's decision not to include bids for 120 more houses on the moor (issue 044) and 50 houses in Muchalls (issue 047). The reporters who have been appointed to undertake the examination will determine the method by which each issue raised in unresolved representations is examined, whether by written representations, hearing or inquiry session. The reporter can request further information or representations from any person in connection with the examination. There is no provision for the submission of further information or representations unless requested by the reporters.

5 – ROCKS AT VILLAGE ENTRANCES

This is a project designed and run by a local resident, rather than a Community Council initiative. Funding would need to be sought from a grant funding body. If necessary, the Community Council could administer the funding as a constituted body in a similar manner to the way that the Phoenix Project is being handled.

There is still the question of whether we know that the signpost-stones/dykes are something that people who live in the villages actually want. It would be good to ascertain this, perhaps through design mock-ups on various community websites, social media and noticeboards. Currently, we have no idea what people in Cammachmore/ East Cammachmore want, as they have no Community Council representation.

This started off as a free donation of feature stones from Barratts but has now grown arms and legs. Approximate cost of each stone is £2000 and would have to be grant funded. Also, would planning permission be required?

6 – ROADS

MR MORGAN has written to Aberdeenshire Council's Principal Roads Engineer for an update on the repair to the landslip on Murray Road. According to a report in the Evening Express no repairs will be carried out this year

MR MORGAN has also written to Aberdeenshire Council's Principal Roads Engineer for information regarding potholes associated with Scottish Water ironwork. These potholes are not included in the ones marked for repair.

Additional contracts have been issued to help with roads maintenance works. Some potholes in Newtonhill and Muchalls have been highlighted but there are still a lot of really big ones in Muchalls that haven't.

## NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### 7 – LONG GRASS AT NEWTONHILL SCHOOL

As a result of conversations with residents living close to Newtonhill Primary School, MR MORGAN wrote to Aberdeenshire Council to request that the grass be cut in the school grounds. Normally grass is only cut at the request of the Head teacher. Some favour the wildflower meadow approach, others neat and tidy cut grass. Cut grass gives children somewhere to play. Wild meadows take a few years to establish, are more difficult and more expensive to maintain. There can be more problems with dog mess, ticks and how untidy it looks. On a positive note, wild meadows encourage wildlife eg butterflies and bees. Hopefully, a compromise can be found.

### 8 – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Aberdeenshire Council has been successful in bid for funding in Nature Scotland 2021.
- (2) Save the Date – Doors Open Day 2021 – 18/19 September
- (3) Trees for Queen’s Green Canopy – NEAT interested but so far, no information on type of trees
- (4) Post Office Scotland Ltd – Outreach Service – Thursday and Friday 10am – 1pm, M and Co, Allardyce Street, Stonehaven.
- (5) 2021 Tour of Britain in our Area on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 leaving Stonehaven at 10am – <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/race/2021-tour/>
- (6) New Firework Regulations – Restrictions on the times that fireworks can be let off, 6-11pm, with exceptions eg bonfire night, Christmas. Fireworks can be sold 7am – 6pm. Purchase a maximum of 5 kilos at any one time
- (7) New Initiative – Portlethen Academy supported by AVA – “ involving young people in volunteering opportunities in Portlethen Area”. Portlethen Academy launching a new unit (Self and Community) for S5 pupils. The Community Council will investigate opportunities. Email – [Pauline.anderson@avashire.org.uk](mailto:Pauline.anderson@avashire.org.uk)
- (8) SURF Awards – “to highlight, celebrate and share the achievements of the initiatives that address physical, social and economic challenges in the communities across Scotland” – <https://w2ww.surf.scot/surf=awards/>
- (9) Foundation Scotland – Crown Estates Community Capacity Grants Programme. Applicants can reside up to five miles from the coastline and estuarial foreshore in Scotland. The fund does not support capital costs but could be used for community consultation or community engagement activities. The fund opens on 5<sup>th</sup> August and is for a one-year grant of £20,000 to £50, 000. Crown Estates Scotland invests in property, natural resources, and people to generate lasting value for Scotland. The Community Council would like to hear of other suggestions for using this grant.
- (10) Flood Risk Management Plans – SEPA public consultation open till 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmplans/>
- (11) Changes to bus services in Aberdeen City, Shire and Moray as from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 – <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/service-updates/serviceupdatesarticle?Situationid=10ID-24/06/2020-17:38:13:966>
- (12) Football Pitches – Open Space Report – Mostly football pitches. Newtonhill and Muchalls are lumped in with Portlethen.
- (13) Neighbourhood Watch – Body Worn Video Cameras – Survey 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 – <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/police-scotlands-use-of-body-worn-vide-public-con/>
- (14) Solar powered installations have been completed at the Park & Choose.
- (15) MR FLOCKHART has reported overgrown bushes at either side of the flyover at Newtonhill. Some trees will be cut back, and the steps cleaned.
- (16) Jim Malcolm has been nominated for an Inspiring Aberdeenshire Award for his work on the Isabella.
- (17) Asymptomatic Community Testing Site and Collection Provision – Details available at Community testing – Aberdeenshire council.

## NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### 9 -AOCB

- (1) Barratt made a donation of £1,000 to the Bettridge Centre.
- (2) NHBC – First round winners to determine the best site manager in Scotland – Allan Barclay (Barratts and David Wilson Homes, North East Scotland) for Whiteland Coast in Newtonhill.
- (3) Damage has been caused to the fence at TESCO from the entrance to the zebra crossing. This has been reported to Police Scotland.
- (4) Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Fund judging panel – Mrs Stephen with Mr Morgan as substitute.
- (5) Update on cliff path at Muchalls – Owner of adjacent property is having wall and culvert repairs carried out. Aberdeenshire Council is waiting for the owner of the path to get back to them.
- (6) Railway Station at Newtonhill – Following an article in the Newsey, where it was reported the Community Council felt that Newtonhill would have more to lose than gain, several residents have responded in favour of the re-opening of the station and some against. As Mr Morgan reported, in his response on Facebook, over the past few years Planning for Real meetings and surveys have been carried out by Community Council asking for residents' opinions. We then consider the data and report on responses given.

Various options about have been discussed about where the proposed station could be located and what facilities would be required, for example shelters and disabled access. Ultimately, any proposals will come from NESTRANS; if they decide that the project is feasible.

The Scottish Government has announced that all residents in Scotland under the age of 22 will be eligible for free bus travel from 31 January 2022. It will be interesting to see if shorter journey times can compete with free travel.

- (7) Finances – This year's Community Council Grant of £816 has been received. Funds now stand at £4096.42 in total, ie Community Council £1978.79, Phoenix Fund £2117.63. The Community Council is considering making donations to local groups.

- (8) It has been reported that Aberdeenshire Council is considering a change to bin collections. It has been suggested that the two big bins presently in use will be used for different types of recycling with third bin for rubbish being issued. Collection of these would rotate on a three-weekly basis with food waste still being collected every week. The Community Council has written to Zero Waste Scotland to point out flaws in the scheme and to suggest alternative ways to reduce landfill.

Councillor Colin Pike has informed us of several schemes being considered to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and at the same time allow Aberdeenshire Council to make more money from selling recyclables.

In response to the comment "Many people will find a further bin very difficult to store on their premises", Councillor Peter Argyle, Chair of Infrastructure Services Committee, wrote: "The same comment was made when the 'blue' bin was introduced but overwhelmingly householders were able to accommodate the addition. Where there are genuine issues – flatted properties for example- alternative arrangements will be made as they are at present; we do not want to make life difficult. In Moray householders have 5 different bins; their house-types are similar to ours".

- (9) If Covid regulations allow, the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall.