

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 7th February 2022.

The meeting opened at 7-30pm.

Attending

FCC Rita Holmes (chairperson), Alan Holden (minute taker), David Telford, Malcolm Milne, Karla Tully, David Nairn, Ian Hunter, Mairi Wyatt,

Councillors -- Ian Murdoch.

PC -- Dominic Murphy, PC Mark Semple.

Members of public --- 6 members of public.

Apologies --- Councillor Tom Marshall, Marco Piva.

Approval of January 2022 minutes -- proposed by D Telford , Seconded by A Holden.

NAC councillors report. --- IM would comment on issues as raised at this meeting.

Police Report. 9 incidents noted for the past month, no crimes. This noted as a major fall in numbers from last year. There were 2 traffic issues, 1 person falling and injured by the burn at Kelburn.

RH asked about the use of CCTV at private properties? Police said their use is not a police issue as long as the formal guidance is followed. The main thing is that cameras should not point at other properties.. Mark said he would send some details to RH.

DT asked about several vans parked on Main Rd obstructing traffic. Police have seen them and they are not a problem but do restrict traffic flow.

IM ---- expressed public concern about trouble on the trains, and at stations. He requested that police pass on the concerns at the soon to happen meeting with transport police. One of MOP also passed on her concerns about the trouble on the trains. DN was also concerned about this topic and the vandalism , why are they doing this what complaints do the trouble makers have? PC MS says that very little gets reported directly to the police or transport police, so very little police time and effort is allocated.

A meeting is due in Largs with Largs CC , transport police and police so this topic will get talked about.

Presentation by Alan Hewlett. ---- he is doing a 'dissertation' at Edinburgh University.

The topic is based on doing a public survey on planning and related environmental issues in this area of North Ayrshire.

His survey is to be found on the local 'Facebook' areas for Fairlie, Largs and West Kilbride. So far he has been getting a steady stream of replies but wants us to spread the word asking more people to do and return the survey data.

Dates of note -- see as listed on the agenda, for February into March.

Comments from Denise Frazer of NAC.

Denise commented on the Young Persons Youth Forum - which involves discussions of local issues at Largs Academy on Thursdays after classes end in the afternoon.

Youth projects include the Wild Oyster project being run locally.

Training of new members for CC's ---- this has been delayed and will be rescheduled.

Fairlie Community Trust -- next full meeting is due on Wed 23rd Feb at village hall 7.30pm.

Next full NAC council meeting is on Wednesday 16th February, IM says it looks like being a busy meeting.

1) National Planning Framework 4.

It appears that Hunterston Clydeport Area fits into the topic for Productive Places Planning Session, RH has expressed an interest in participating in the discussions. The site is still classed as a Site of Strategic Importance zoned only for Industry. We cannot understand why the site is so zoned when it could be used for other useful and needed developments such as housing or small industrial units. This would be far better than using green field areas for housing and locally needed small industrial units.

David N has in the past voiced his concern that Hunterston Clydeport area could be an area encouraging Environmental projects along with sustaining the SSSI. He has written to Mr McSporan, NAC and SNH @ University of West of Scotland

asking about environmental projects being possible for the SSSI area as per the intent expressed in the plans for Hunterston. Some of the Scottish MSP's are also interested in the Fairlie Coastal proposals and the SSSI.

A mop expressed concern that from past activities and proposals Clydeport do not appear to have concerns for the protection and preservation of the SSSI area and the inter tidal areas. He asked is there not a possibility that ownership of those areas could be transferred to the community. DN said that recent changes give Crown Estates the ownership of land between Hi and Lo water.

Mop commented on the need for improved transport links to Central Scotland if any major industrial development was to take place at Clydeport Hunterston. The recently announced proposals for upgrading the road from Dalry to Saltcoats B714 would help traffic flow but at the expense of more traffic through Seamill area.

DN commented that there always appeared to be a desire to build on Green Field sites, we should always resist this if other areas are available.

Mop -- mentioned the proposed 'Sustainability event' which is planned, this could be worth considering for attendance.

Mop Jackie - reported that he did not get a reply showing any interest from Scottish Government minister, to the proposal as used in other countries, that Hunterston B redundant Generators could be used to aid stability of the grid system. Their use could be a valuable use as a 'circular economy' example rather than the redundant equipment being scrap metal. The reply from Scot Govt was that the energy network is not part of Scottish Govt remit, its a Westminster issue.

2) Hunterston PARC and Jetty.

Mr McSporan had said recently that the drill ship DS8 may soon be leaving Hunterston. From recent activity observed they may at the moment be preparing to leave. (Note the ship left on 8th February).

It has also been noted and reported to us that the Container ship which berthed overnight recently had difficulties tying up due to lack of shore based staff at Hunterston..

Proposal for a cable manufacturing factory at the Hunterston PARC - it was reported that an initial planning application may soon go in to NAC... There have also been comments about an area of the site being used to support an off shore windfarm land base, but nothing has been said by planners or our councillors.

RH once again expressed concern about the 'noise nuisance' from the jetty and ships, depending on what activities take place.

3) Garden Centre and Restaurant Approval

It was noted that this proposed development at the North end of the village has been approved by NAC.

The submission from FCC was acknowledged as received and noted, but was not posted on the website as it was regarded as sensitive.

The planning officers at NAC had recommended rejection of the plan, one of the reasons being that it was on a green field site. But NAC councillors passed the application.

4) Coastal Path and Cycle Path maintenance. Nothing new to report, awaiting approval of next phase of work.

Some concern had been expressed about sea weed building up on the new path.

5) Swing Park and Sports club improvements (Castlepark Drive).

The Sports Club and Alan Hill alternative plans for improving the swing park and tennis club area.

Mairi has been talking with some users at swing park and helped by some youngsters has been doing clean up of the area. A problem of concern is that any new building/ shed will be at risk of more vandalism as in the past. Another comment made was a complaint that the 'wild flower' areas have in the past been mown over regularly by the council.

6) Proposal for Hunterston Estate 'battery storage project'.

It has been stated that if this project gets the go ahead from NAC and gets built there could be some 'community benefit' payments to Fairlie and West Kilbride villages. This has yet to be confirmed.

7) Dawn Homes and RES 3.

Drainage problems by the garage continue with the main road being flooded regularly. DT has circulated details extracted from the original planning consent which said that the building company had to sort out the drainage problems. This evidence has been sent to Councillor T Marshall and a reply is awaited.

RES 3 we are still awaiting a reply to our questions from Councillor Gallagher.

8) CCTV and Drone use?

DN commented on what he knows of restrictions, eg not to view other properties, or into other properties. He is awaiting more detailed comments from the police, and will circulate details to FCC members.

9) Rigghill Windfarm.

There has been nothing to report yet from the reporter as the appeal has gone to Scot Govt. A site meeting is planned soon says IM to look at the Roman Fort and Red Road access issues. This will be a FACT gathering visit by the reporter so as to assess the issues of concern.

10) Hunterston Nuclear Sites SSG

The next SSGmeeting will be at 1-30pm Thursday 3rd March as noted on Agenda for this meeting. Other nuclear issue ---- Some concern is being expressed about the reported plan for a Fusion power project to be built at Ardeer . The comments are that no proper local consultation has taken place, and much more detail of the project is wanted. The meeting which took place recently in the area was unable to answer many technical and environmental questions.

11) AOB.

Fairlie --- new pedestrian crossing A78. No work has started yet, we are told the work has been put back in time and letters are yer to go out to local residents. KT will continue to oversee this issue.

Clyde Marine Planning Partnership. DN received a reply to his question to Information Commissioner. --Saying that the 'local planning representatives' have the controls required for whatever is proposed and they see no reason or intention to include representatives of any Community Councils.

There is a Governance Review taking place – with only ONE person representing all of the Local CC's so there is no need for each Local CC to be represented. The review has primarily member representatives of commercial businesses and other vested interests.

DN wants there to be at least ONE representative for the Local CC's (not one from each CC) and the local elected councillors to be included for areas affected locally by proposals in the CMPP area. Some MSP's have also raised some related issues at Scottish Government level.

A single document is being put together to send to the Governance Review and MSP's – stating what CC's propose in order to be adequately represented on the CMPP.

A78 and Causeway junction.

Mop raised her concern about the lack of 'double yellow' lines on Causeway at the traffic lights junction. Vehicles frequently park on Causeway right at the traffic lights and this makes it very difficult for vehicles turning.

IM says this should be raised with the police, and is probably a 'NAC local council' issue. He will try and get it sorted.

Small industrial Units a Mop pointed out that there is a need for more small units to be made available locally.

Meeting closed at 2130 hrs.

Next FCC meeting is on Monday 7th March at 7-30pm.

This could be a ZOOM meeting or to try and get more public involvement we may use the Village Hall.