

Meeting of Largs Community Council 15th September 2022

Present

Jim Phillips, Wendy Low Thomson, Georgia Bow (guest speaker), James Perman, Calum Corral (Reporter), Ian Murdoch (Elected member), Tom Marshall (elected member), 3 members of public, Robbie Stevenson, John Knowles, Andy Adair, Jamie Black

Apologies

Alan Hill, Patricia Perman, Linda Smith, Margaret Woods, Todd Ferguson

Welcome

Jim Welcomes everyone to the September meeting, welcomed our guest Speaker and members of the public.

Police Report

Copy of report was provided to all members in advance.

Transport Scotland undertook the survey on traffic speeds on A78 and CC should contact them to get the more detailed results. Police have been undertaking speed checks and not issued any fixed penalty notices for speeding on the A78 in north Largs.

Issue of reports of trail bikes riding on Halkshill Estate - loud, fast and extremely likely not to be legal. Police Scotland will be issuing quad bikes and will look to try detect.

Tom Marshall has raised issue of Jet Ski noise on the foreshore. He also raised speeds on north section of A78 - police have been out regularly but not issued any fixed penalties. Will continue to monitor.

Largs Prom

Will request presentation to be forwarded. Printed handouts were circulated.

Summary :

Looking to identify issues along the prom amongst users and opportunities for improvements. Output will be to produce options - 4 options (1 being minimal intervention, 4 being if there was a huge budget to allocate). Report will be provided to Council in coming months.

AA asked about pedestrians on pavements and pedestrians and has suggested that when you have pedestrians and cyclists in same space, it doesn't work. You have families with pets and children and people it is a recipe for disaster. Georgia advised that it's illegal for cyclists to be on pavements. CC Black suggested this is not necessarily the case. This fact was disputed and CC Black agreed to take an ACTION (closed - this is not a straight forward matter depending on pavement, footpath, footway, core path etc - see notes below) There was a heated discussion on cycling on pavements, shared spaces, cycling responsibly with a variety of opinions however the spoken consensus did seem to be that dedicated cycling spaces along the prom would not work in practise.

IM was most vociferous in his opposition to the dedicated cycle lanes as this is simply not practical. Member of public suggested there are some hot spots on the prom for cyclists, in particular the bridge crossing the GoGo Water and some other narrow spots. JK also agreed with this and around Aubery Park which is not wide enough, as well as down towards the Pencil.

Calum Corral gave his experiences as a cyclist of Lanzarote where the cycle section was painted like a road and this made a clear distinction on what area was for whom but this could be an idea.

Member of public suggested that there are grants available. Tom Marshall indicated that this would be pursued when a proposal was firmed up.

CC Black asked if a wide pedestrian bridge has been considered for the Gogo Water, also where the ice cream hut is, there is a mid level path that could be dedicated for cyclists. This was noted. IM opposed using the mid level path in case dogs ran on.

Minutes

Action - LCC met surgery and Jim advised that he didn't feel he got much from the meeting and whilst he understands the issues the way the public are being treated is poor and not acceptable.

There was a discussion on this but it seems clear there is limited further action that can be taken due to a host of issues outside any control of the LCC. Robbie indicated that there are barriers to access Tom Marshall indicated we are very fortunate to have 12 GPs - it is the case that many don't work full time but Largs is fortunate.

The matter of the Practise being closed for the Queens Funeral was raised Ian Murdoch

Badges - Wendy enquired but the machine wasn't available. Wendy to check Timmpsons

Proposer - Andy Adair

Seconder - Wendy Low Thomson

Matters Arising

Largs Ferry Signalisation

IM gave an update date. This was raised as a proposal a number of years ago by CAImac and was investigated by AMEY and no further action was taken. Over last 3/4 years, Ian has pursued pavement resurfacing and parking issues. Etc etc.

Resurfacing starts soon. When the pavement surfacing was raised with TTRO then it became clear that there was a proposal to upgrade the traffic light junction. IM questioned with Transport Scotland and constituents who were clear - this wasn't needed and no-one supported. Elected members were unsure about this either.

One of the issues IM raised was that it was called the Largs Ferry Signaliation scheme which suggests this is part of the ferry issues (being delta with under another budget).

C Black raised the fact that the scheme is paused which is great but the wider issue is that this should not have happened. The scheme was likely unlawful (i.e. did not comply with the law) because the required process and actions were not completed by AMEY. C Black reiterated in case the press quoted that the LCC did not oppose the scheme, but simply asked questions around the process.

IM read an email out verbatim.

Tom Marshall commented that NAc Head of Roads has no involvement in this - CC Black raise the point that the Head of Roads approved the TTRO which closed Bath Street to enabled works which was being undertaken unlawfully. All elected members were very defensive about this and said it was not the responsibility of Head of Road to act with a Duty of Care to at least flag that the works being planned may be unlawful. C Black disputed this strongly but this point was made by elected members most strongly that this was nothing to do with Head of Roads and if we have any questions for this person, an FOI must be raised. C Black suggested that if Councillors and the Head of Roads were not able to identify that the right process was not being followed, it's a bad day and a case of teflon shoulders.

Car Park Fund

Agreement to postpone the discussion on this until all FOI requests are complete.

Access to Food

Robbie provided update on this. Cook School starts in October and will spend some funds to get this going, including leaflets to encourage people on new and refreshing skills on preparing meals. £150 vouchers has been donated by Morrisons towards food. Changed School Lunches for last week from Vikingar which had a great update. This is unlikely to be possible during school holidays but will look for other options, the most likely to be provision of vouchers that can only be used on food stuffs. Awaiting outcome of application to Coop in October and 4 other funds Robbie will pursue there.

Litter and fly Tipping

Litter campaign going well, signs appearing in shop fronts, some signs are curling up in direct sunlight but supplier is supporting with this. Have provided a good number of signs and likely we will need more. Have had further meetings with Largs Academy Youth Forum who are 100% behind this. School supporting massive posters to go up in the Refectory in the school (1.1meteres wide). ALso looking at badges and loyalty reward schemes which will provide discounts for school children at local venues. Nardinis are interested in supporting a beach Clean with the school and providing food and a mini high tea for pupils as well as PPE Will look to involved Sam Nicholson to participate. Likely to be a Saturday or Sunday / Member of public has said Helen Rumbolt is planning one so Robbie will link in tyo co-ordinate. Member of public has suggested contacting Baking Bite and Spar - both shops are already on board and have signs.

Robbie proposed ordering more signs (£104 inc vat). Seconded by Andy Adair.

Secretary Report

There is none as our wonderful Secretary is on leave :)

Treasurer Report

Margaret is not in attendance

Sub Committee Reports

HSSG - Jamie Black provided a written update and minutes will be forwarded. Asked for support to respond to EDF Consultation noting concerns raised at last meeting around landscaping and ensuring site is not left as an industrial wasteland like Ardeer. This was unanimously approved.

Separately, he asked members to consider if the LCC would support any future use of the site for continued nuclear use, should political landscape change, such as SMR/AMR or Fusion or other. Not looking for a decision from people at this stage but would like to raise at future meeting to ensure representation on that part of the HSSG reflects the LCC and wider community views.

Community Garden - Robbie and Andy have helped keep it tidy. Robbie installed Union flag at half mast to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth. Jewsons provided flagpole at no cost to the LCC. Flowers and cards etc will be removed in due course and disposed of or otherwise appropriately. Halloween is round the corner and Jewson will hopefully support providing materials for the decorations. Jewsons will start providing zero cost invoices.

Issue over litter at sharp raised by Ms McLarty. IM has dealt with Gateside Street and Boyd St dealt with including bins on pavements. Bin capacity has been increased to help ensure suitable capacity for litter. General rubbish has been cleared and weeds treated. We will respond to Ms McLarty.

Environment

Righill appeal was rejected by the Reporter. Jim Phillips paid tribute to the work of Ian Dippie who's work on behalf of the Community Council was fantastic in this and our thanks go to Ian for his legacy. All were in agreement with this.

Planning

7 Irvine Road Largs, (currently disused). Looking to make apartments for AirBnB. Will be managed by a management company to increase tourist visitors to Largs. James will note discussion and put in a Neutral comment from the LCC. If parking is an issue, this will be picked up by relevant department.

Transportation

Cumrae Ferry meeting. Andy provided an update on the Largs side of consultations, where Fort Street will be altered and Bath Street will prevent right turns into Fort Street during the summer - the intent is to stop people trying to turn right and then realiser the queue is full. This will go out to consultation with the appropriate options (Linda has send summary of these).

Sandringham residents are aware of taxis being at 21 hours a day doing nothing in Union St and part of Union St. IM raised that this has been raised - if vehicles are taxed, MOTd and insured they are permitted to park UNLESS they are using the areas as a taxi rank.

NAC Reports

Will be top of agenda for the next meeting due to running out of time.

Other Items

Callum was on way home on train and there was a fight outbroken. The next week he was going to Glasgow and the train was stinking of cannabis and sticky substances. ACTION to write to Scotrail to raise concern.

Also buses north on a Sunday is 1439 and last bus south is 1509.. COuld Largs CC write to Stagecoach on this. AA Agreed to take this action forward to write a letter

CC Black - Residents in the top of Brisbane Glen have asked if a request can be put in to put in proper tarmac passing places on the stretch of road between Tourgill Lodge and Nether whittleburn. There are three passing places, but all are hard to use because of being effectively mud and some dropping sharply from tarmac. This is a difficult stretch of road due to sightlines and proper passing places are much needed. Agreed. JB to provide details to C Murdoch.

Next Meeting - should this be AGM and appropriate notification should be issued.

Meeting closed shortly after 9pm.

Follow up action -

https://archive2021.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_12-24.pdf

CYCLISTS AND THE LAW This section aims to set out the main features of roads law as it applies to cyclists. While every effort has been made to ensure this information is accurate it is not a comprehensive description of the law and is not intended to be legal advice. Cycling on the pavement: Most people will tell you that an adult cycling on a pavement is committing an offence. However, the issue of cycling on the pavement is more complicated than it may first appear. The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 does not use the term "pavement", as this can also mean the surface of a road. Rather, it defines five key terms: Road: A way over which there is a public right of passage by any means, including the road's verge and any associated bridges, tunnels etc. Carriageway: Commonly known as "the road", the carriageway is a way which can be used by any vehicle. 10 Footway: Commonly known as "the pavement", a footway is a way, which is associated with a carriageway, where right of passage is limited to foot. Footpath: A way, which is not associated with a carriageway, where right of passage is limited to foot. Cycle track: A way where passage is limited to bikes or bikes and foot. Generally, anyone cycling on a footway or footpath in Scotland is committing an offence under the provisions of Section 129(5) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. It is not an offence to cycle across a footway or footpath to access a cycle track, driveway or other land where cycling is allowed. The issue is complicated by access rights granted to cyclists under Section 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act"). The 2003 Act allows cycling on most land unless access is controlled by or under another enactment. This means that land reform access rights do not normally apply to roads or footways as their use is restricted under various statutes. However, the 2003 Act does allow

cycling on any path where access has not been restricted by a Traffic Regulation Order or through other legal means. In practice, this allows cyclists to use most paths in urban parks and rural areas. To further complicate matters, Section 7(1) of the 2003 Act states that the restriction on access rights described above does not apply where land has been designated as a “core path” under the provisions of the 2003 Act¹. This means that cyclists may be able to cycle on a footpath, or even a footway, designated as a core path without committing an offence. However, it is important to remember that access rights must be exercised responsibly and cyclists should consider cycling on the carriageway (i.e. road) even if the associated footway has been designated as a core path.