

## 2021 NEFAC 199

### THE FIFE COUNCIL - NORTH EAST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

9.30 a.m. – 12.55 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Donald Lothian (Convener), Tim Brett, John Docherty, Andy Heer, Linda Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Jane Ann Liston, David MacDiarmid, Karen Marjoram, Tony Miklinski, Bill Porteous, Brian Thomson and Ann Verner.

**ATTENDING:** Donald Grant, Community Manager (North East Fife), Communities & Neighbourhoods; John Mitchell, Senior Manager, Martin Kingham, Service Manager, Roads Network Management, Allan Maclean, Lead Consultant, Sustainable Traffic and Travel, Lesley Craig, Lead Consultant, Traffic Management, Stuart Goodfellow, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management (North Fife), Roads & Transportation Services; Ryan McQuade, Property Gazetteer Officer, Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Sarah Johnston, Access Officer, Communities & Neighbourhoods; Gordon Binnie, Housing Manager, Area Housing Management, Housing Services; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods, Michael O'Gorman, Service Manager (Estates), Property Services; Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Finance & Corporate Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Bill Connor and Jonny Tepp

#### 385. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Liston and Docherty declared an interest in Para. 394 - Public Right of Way and Core Path Diversion - St Andrews West Strategic Development Area, as they were Trustees of the Gibson Trust.

Councillor Brett declared an interest in Para. 393 - Street Naming and Numbering Consultation - Land North of Cupar Road, Newburgh, as a close friend and ex-colleague of Andrew Arbuckle.

Councillor Thomson declared an interest in Para. 389 - Objections to Speed Cushions on Buchanan Gardens, St Andrews, as he had been copied into some of the correspondence, Para. 392 - Spaces for People Programme, as a Director of BID St Andrews and Para. 404 - Public Question, as a Director of Fife Sports & Leisure Trust. However, in relation to Para. 389, he was satisfied that the interest was so insignificant and remote that it would not prejudice discussion or decision making in his role as a Councillor and he would therefore remain in the meeting for this item.

Councillor Lothian declared an interest in Para. 393 - Street Naming and Numbering Consultation - Land North of Cupar Road, Newburgh, as an ex-colleague of Andrew Arbuckle and Para. 404 - Public Question, as a Director of Fife Sports & Leisure Trust. However, in relation to Para. 393, he was satisfied that the interest was so insignificant and remote that it would not prejudice discussion or decision making in his role as a Councillor and he would therefore remain in the meeting for this item.

386./

## 2021 NEFAC 200

### 386. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the North East Fife Area Committee held on 29 September 2021. With reference to paragraph 373, the Convener advised that a response had been received from Scottish Water and had been circulated to members for information.

#### Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

### 387. PROPOSED 50 MPH SPEED LIMIT: B939 AT STRATHKINNES CROSSROADS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment in respect of proposals to introduce a 50mph speed limit on the B939 through the Strathkinness Crossroads.

#### Decision

The Committee, in the interests of road safety:-

- (1) approved the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawing no. TRO/21/55, attached to the report, with all ancillary procedures;
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections; and
- (3) agreed that a review of the traffic situation at the crossroads be carried out one year after implementation of the TRO.

### 388. OBJECTIONS TO SPEED CUSHIONS ON HEPBURN GARDENS, ST ANDREWS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment in respect of objections to the proposal to introduce speed cushions on Hepburn Gardens, west of its junction with Buchanan Gardens, St Andrews.

#### Decision

The Committee agreed to set aside the 2 outstanding objections to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow the introduction of the speed cushions as shown in Drawing No. TRO21/37/01 attached to the report.

### 389. OBJECTION TO SPEED CUSHIONS ON BUCHANAN GARDENS, ST ANDREWS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment in respect of an objection to proposals to introduce speed cushions on Buchanan Gardens and part of Strathkinness Low Road, St Andrews.

#### Decision

The Committee agreed to set aside the outstanding objection to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow the introduction of the speed cushions as shown in Drawing No. TRO21/38/01 attached to the report.

390./

## 2021 NEFAC 201

### 390. **OBJECTIONS TO 40MPH SPEED LIMIT - A91, SEGGIE, GUARDBRIDGE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment in respect of objections to proposals to introduce a 40mph speed limit on A91, at Seggie, Guardbridge and the inclusion of new residential roads within an existing 20mph Traffic Regulation Order.

#### **Motion**

Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Porteous, moved that the objections not be set aside in respect of the 40 mph limit.

#### **Amendment**

Councillor Verner, seconded by Councillor Miklinski, moved that the objections be set aside as recommended in the report.

#### **Roll Call**

For the Motion - 3 votes

Councillors Brett, Liston and Porteous.

For the Amendment - 10 votes

Councillors Docherty, Heer, Holt, Kennedy, Lothian, MacDiarmid, Miklinski, Marjoram, Thomson and Verner.

Having received a majority of votes, the amendment was accordingly carried.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to set aside the 2 outstanding objections to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow the introduction of the 40mph and 20mph speed limits as shown in Drawing No. TRO21/13/1 attached to the report.

### 391. **PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT: B936, NEWBURGH ROAD, DISTILLERY STREET AND BURNSIDE, AUCHTERMUCHTY**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment in respect of proposals to introduce a 20mph speed limit on the B936 Auchtermuchty.

#### **Decision**

The Committee, in the interests of road safety:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawings nos. TRO/21/42- 1, 2 & 3 attached to the report, with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

*Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Thomson, having declared an interest, left the meeting for the item.*

**392./**

## 2021 NEFAC 202

### 392. SPACES FOR PEOPLE PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing an update on the Spaces for People (SfP) interventions in North East Fife, given that the Scottish Government had now relaxed social distancing requirements.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of this report regarding the Spaces for People interventions implemented in the North East Area;
- (2) agreed to the continuation of interventions for Murray Place and South Street, St Andrews through Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) until 4 March 2022;
- (3) agreed that measures in Murray Place and South St, St Andrews be considered beyond March 2022 as part of a 'place-based' approach and that a further report be brought to the committee early in 2022;
- (4) agreed that Traffic Regulation Orders should be advanced, including statutory consultation, for permanent 20mph speed limit zones in Cupar and St Andrews Town Centres; and
- (5) agreed to installation of a new wider footway on St Andrews Road, Crail, immediately east of Bowling Green Place.

*Councillor Thomson rejoined the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

*Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Brett, having declared an interest, left the meeting for the item.*

### 393. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability proposing that the names 'Arbuckle Lane' and 'Cumming Wynd' be adopted as new street names for a development on land north of Cupar Road, Newburgh.

#### **Motion**

Councillor Marjoram, seconded by Councillor Docherty, moved that the street names not be adopted as they were contrary to Council policy and there were other appropriate local notable names which could be used.

#### **Amendment**

Councillor Miklinski, seconded by Councillor Heer, moved that the street names be adopted as recommended in the report.

#### **Roll Call**

For the Motion - 3 votes

Councillors Docherty, Marjoram and Verner.

For/

## 2021 NEFAC 203

For the Amendment - 9 votes

Councillors Heer, Holt, Kennedy, Liston, Lothian, MacDiarmid, Miklinski, Porteous and Thomson.

Having received a majority of votes, the amendment was accordingly carried.

### Decision

The Committee agreed that, contrary to adopted policy, the names 'Arbuckle Lane' and 'Cumming Wynd' be approved for the A & J Stephen Ltd development at land north of Cupar Road, Newburgh.

*Councillor Brett rejoined the meeting following consideration of the above report.*

*Having declared an interest in the following item, Councillors Docherty and Liston left the meeting at this stage.*

### **394. PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AND CORE PATH DIVERSION - ST ANDREWS WEST STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking approval for a diversion of public right of way FN322 and core path 10 through the St Andrews West Strategic Development Area from Strathtyrum to the Strathkinness High Road.

### Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the proposed diversion of the public right of way and the core path under section 208 of the Town and Regional Planning (Scotland) Act 1997; and
- (2) delegated confirmation of the diversion order to officers, subject to no objections being received, in which case it would be submitted to the Scottish Government for confirmation.

*The meeting adjourned at 11.00 a.m. and reconvened at 11.10 a.m.*

*Prior to consideration of the following item, the Convener, Councillor Lothian, left the meeting and the Vice-Convener, Councillor Verner, took the Chair.*

### **395. AREA HOUSING PLAN 2022-24**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval of a revised area housing plan which set out area performance, service delivery and highlighted key housing issues following consultation with key stakeholders.

### Decision

The Committee approved the revised North East Fife Area Housing plan for 2022 - 2024.

*Councillor Lothian rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

**396./**

**396. HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE IN 2022. CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION – ST ANDREWS**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advising of the Civic Honours competition that had been launched across the UK to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and seeking formal endorsement of a bid for city status for St Andrews.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted that the Civic Honours competition had been launched across the UK;
- (2) noted the submission of bids for city status from the Dunfermline and St Andrews areas;
- (3) approved the submission of a bid for St Andrews; and
- (4) delegated final sign-off for the bid to the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods.

**397. BYRE THEATRE, ST ANDREWS**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment seeking comments on the proposed renewal terms of the lease for the Byre Theatre, St Andrews, which included the grant option to buy to the University of St. Andrews.

**Decision**

The Committee provided comments on the proposals which would be reflected in a report to the Assets and Corporate Services Sub-Committee for a decision on the terms of the lease.

**398. ANNUAL COMMON GOOD UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising of the current status of the Common Good Funds in the North East Fife area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2020- 21.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the relevant appendices for the various Common Good funds; and
- (2) agreed that officers review rental levels of Common Good properties, particularly when related to commercial operators.

**399./**

## 2021 NEFAC 205

### 399. NON-SETTLEMENT TRUSTS – ANNUAL UPDATE ON EXPENDITURE AND FUNDS HELD – 2020/21 AND FEEDBACK ON REVIEW OF TRUST FUNDS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods providing a position statement on the expenditure relating to the Non-Settlement Trusts covering North East Fife and a Fife-wide statement on funds as of April 2021. The report also provided an update on the outcome of decisions taken by the Committee in January and December 2020 following a review of Non-Settlement Trust Funds.

#### **Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the expenditure statement for the financial year 2020/21 contained in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) the funds available at the year end;
- (3) the projects supported by the disbursement of these funds as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (4) the action taken to implement the Committee's decisions of January and December 2020.

### 400. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising members of action taken using the List of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

#### **Decision**

The Committee noted the content of the report.

*Councillor Kennedy left the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

### 401. NOTICE OF MOTION – SPACES FOR PEOPLE

In terms of Standing Order No. 8.1(1), the following Notice of Motion had been submitted:-

#### **Motion**

Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Brett, moved as follows:-

“The North East Fife Area Committee notes that there were several interventions under Spaces for People in North East Fife since last summer, requests a report on how these operated and also which ones are being considered for retention.”

#### **Decision**

Having noted that a report on this matter had been considered earlier in the meeting, the mover and seconder withdrew their motion.

### 402./

## 2021 NEFAC 206

### 402. NOTICE OF MOTION – PARKING CONGESTION

In terms of Standing Order No. 8.1(1), the following Notice of Motion had been submitted:-

#### **Motion**

Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Liston, moved as follows:-

“Many parts of North East Fife suffer from parking congestion which is inconvenient for residents and visitors and a potential danger to the public when emergency services are inconvenienced. North East Fife Area Committee requests a report from officers outlining how measures such as residential parking permit or controlled parking zone schemes have been used by other Scottish local authorities to ease parking congestion and an officer view on the opportunities that these measures may present to improve parking congestion in North East Fife. North East Fife Area Committee also agrees that officers consider how best to include any of these measures as part of the current review of local transport strategy (due to conclude in 2022) in so far as that applies to their potential use in North East Fife.”

#### **Amendment**

Councillor Lothian, seconded by Councillor Porteous, moved as follows:-

“Add 'Fife Council and' prior to 'other' in the second paragraph of the motion.

The mover and seconder of the motion agreed to conjoin and the conjoined motion was as follows:-

“Many parts of North East Fife suffer from parking congestion which is inconvenient for residents and visitors and a potential danger to the public when emergency services are inconvenienced. North East Fife Area Committee requests a report from officers outlining how measures such as residential parking permit or controlled parking zone schemes have been used by Fife Council and other Scottish local authorities to ease parking congestion and an officer view on the opportunities that these measures may present to improve parking congestion in North East Fife. North East Fife Area Committee also agrees that officers consider how best to include any of these measures as part of the current review of local transport strategy (due to conclude in 2022) in so far as that applies to their potential use in North East Fife.”

#### **Decision**

The conjoined motion was agreed unanimously.

### 403. NORTH EAST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the current Forward Work Programme which would be updated as appropriate.

*Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillors Lothian and Thomson, having declared an interest, left the meeting and the Vice-Convenor, Councillor Verner took the Chair.*

### 404./

**404. PUBLIC QUESTION**

A question was submitted (in terms of Standing Order No. 6.1) by Ms Gina Logan, resident of North East Fife. In the absence of Ms Logan, the Vice-Convener read out the question.

**Question**

"The North East Fife Area Committee is asked to note that there are restricted opening hours in the North East Fife area leisure facilities - Cupar Sports Centre and East Sands Leisure centre. On the basis of the hours there may be a disadvantage for North East Fife residents, especially in relation to opportunities for free swimming over the school holidays, swimming for schools and, in Cupar, the football team cannot get access to the astro turf pitch when the centre is closed. I believe that health is a priority in society and encourage people to get active, both in the pool and Gameshall. Can the Committee find out why the Trust have restricted opening hours for the sports centre in Cupar and East Sands Leisure Centre?"

**Response from Fife Sports and Leisure Trust**

"Thank you for your correspondence regarding the operating hours of facilities in North East Fife, following the re-opening of Fife Sports and Leisure Trust facilities after the easing of COVID restrictions.

Fife Sports and Leisure Trust is a charitable trust set up in 2008 to manage and operate leisure facilities on behalf of Fife Council – the trust remains committed to getting more people more active more of the time.

Like many trusts across the country, the forced closure of facilities and associated COVID restrictions have presented the trust significant challenges both operationally and financially. The situation has meant that the trust has had to work harder, and innovate, to deliver on its charitable commitments to making a difference to local communities by delivering quality and affordable sports and leisure opportunities.

Following on from the impact of COVID, the trust is now in a phase of recovery, and this requires some difficult decisions with regards operating costs, staffing and opening hours

In response to the questions raised:

- During the summer holidays both Cupar SC and East Sands LC were able to offer kids from the local community's access to the swimming pool for 'Splash out for nowt' and 'Quid-a-kid' sessions. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and requirements set out by the Scottish Government and Sport Scotland, FSLT ran controlled sessions to ensure that we could provide access while ensuring safe facilities for our customers. These sessions ran for a one-hour period and could hold up to 16 children aged 8-17 at one time. Over the course of a week Cupar held 13 dedicated junior sessions with East Sands hosting 17 dedicated junior sessions. To further support families with younger children, we introduced more family/inclusive sessions over the summer holidays. East Sands hosted around 30 per week and Cupar hosted around 8 per week. As most restrictions had eased after the summer period, we were able to return to a less restriction October holiday programme. During the October holidays Cupar offered around 13 hours per week and East Sands offered around 20 hours per week where children had access for £1. East Sands were also able to enhance their offering by hosting the aqua inflatable each week. FSLT were also able to offer their holiday programmes while still operating; Swimming lessons; fitness classes; club/group bookings; and public swimming.

## 2021 NEFAC 208

- The management team have been working closely with Bell Baxter High School to create opportunities for their young sports leaders to gain access to Cupar Sports Centre - we are currently hosting 2 sessions per week which tie in with their school timetable. The project has been a collaboration between FSLT, Bell Baxter HS, Active Schools, East Fife Sports Council and Cupar & District Swimming Club. This project is in its early stages but will hopefully lead to a meaningful partnership which will create opportunities for local young adults to take part in training opportunities which will support Sport and Physical Activity within NE Fife. The teams in NE Fife are supportive of further conversations with local schools to see how best our centres can support them.
- As we reopened our facilities following the closure period due to the COVID-19 pandemic FSLT put communication plans in place to ensure that we were able to support any group/club returning to our sites. Our bookings team led on the re-engagement of groups who use the STP at Cupar SC. We have been able to accommodate all groups apart from one - our team reached out multiple times however, this group never responded. Their slot was later utilised by another group. We have since been able to accommodate this group at another FSLT centre and the club are happy with the current arrangement. We currently have around 7 different organised clubs utilising the STP with some local casual bookings throughout the week. The Area Leisure Manager has also been in discussion with a local football group about further partnership arrangements and how FSLT can further support this group. As part of the new opening hours FSLT have also secured additional STP time on a Saturday afternoon - this allows us to support any local teams looking to use our facilities to host any weekend games.

As a charitable trust, we have a responsibility to ensure the financial sustainability of our programmes and facilities for the benefit of the wider community. Any decision to change any aspect of our service delivery is taken with the objective of ensuring programmes and services are available for a range of users, as, unlike a private operator, we are committed to providing programmes and facilities for all ages and abilities.

We appreciate that the resident may find the new operating hours inconvenient but please be assured that we are striving to deliver the right balance for the benefit of a wide range of users we serve. Venues in North East Fife are not alone in having its operating hours amended and other of the trust's sites have also undergone reviews. The communities of Fife are of great value to the trust and we are committed to delivery access to our facilities in order that people can enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits associated with physically activity – which are even more important during the COVID pandemic.”

### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) acknowledged the Public Question and the response from Fife Sports and Leisure Trust: and
- (2) delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Vice-Convener, to consider whether it would be in line with Standing Orders for the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust and Ms. Logan to attend, through virtual means, the next meeting, to allow further discussion.

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