

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

30th March, 2022

2.00 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Erskine (Convener), Alistair Bain, Alex Campbell, Gary Guichan, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea Mclelland and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Area), Bruce Penman, Lead Officer, Cowdenbeath, Communities and Neighbourhoods; Keith Johnston, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management South, Roads & Transportation; Russell Gray, Housing Team Manager, Housing Services; Dawn Jamieson, Safer Communities Team Manager, Leisure & Cultural Services and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Inspector Steven Hoggan, Police Scotland.

268. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

269. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 9th February, 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

270. PROPOSED 30 MPH EXTENSION – B925 DUNFERMLINE ROAD, CROSSGATES

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment which asked members to consider a proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit on B925 Dunfermline Road, Crossgates.

Decision

The Committee, in the interests of road safety:

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to extend the 30 mph speed limit as detailed in drawing no. TRO22_25 (Appendix 1), with all ancillary procedures;
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections, and
- (3)/

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- (3) requested officers undertake further work to explore the feasibility of suitable crossings to be placed at the entrance and exits of the A92 Halbeath Park and Ride facility and asked that a report be brought back to the next relevant Committee following the local government elections in May 2022.

271. PEOPLE & PLACE LEADERSHIP PROPOSED DEMOLITION- BLOCK 101-147, MARTIN CRESCENT, BALLINGRY

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services which asked members to consider the proposal to demolish the properties block 101- 147, Martin Crescent, Ballingry as part of the Housing Regeneration programme.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) agreed to the proposal to transfer existing tenants of Block 101-147, Martin Crescent Ballingry to other accommodation on a priority basis;
- (2) agreed to suspend housing allocations to the block and take all empty properties on an ongoing basis out of active management;
- (3) approved the demolition of the empty block at 101-147, Martin Crescent, Ballingry, and
- (4) agreed to pay all qualifying council tenants a home loss and disturbance payment in line with existing council policy.

Cllr Alistair Bain joined the meeting during consideration of the following item.

272. NOTICE OF MOTION

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

Councillor Mclelland, seconded by Councillor Liewald, moved as follows: -

"Cowdenbeath Area Committee notes the apparent deteriorating condition of The Miners Winding Wheel within Lochore Meadows Country Park and this is of concern to elected members and the wider Community.

Committee notes the interest of Professor Demetrios M. Cotsovos of Herriot Watt University in examining the structure with his students.

Committee requests that Officers engage with Professor Cotsovos with a view to presenting a report on the condition of the structure at a future Area or relevant committee and thereafter explore options for appropriate restoration".

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed the terms of the motion as detailed.

273./

273. 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.

274. COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee noted the draft forward work programme for the Cowdenbeath Area Committee.

275. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A question was submitted (in terms of Standing Order No 6.1) by Mr. Paul McGowan, resident of Lochgelly.

Question

What steps have the Cowdenbeath Area Committee taken to resolve youth anti-social behavior in the Ward in regard to the following points:

- Introducing a Byelaw against consumption of alcohol in public places
- The reduction in availability of Alcohol Licenses in the town
- Putting wardens on buses and trains (at certain weekend times) to raise intelligence for the Police
- Introducing visible CCTV to the area
- Funding a number of youth diversionary activities
- Engaging/funding the community for a "Community Watch" scheme

Response

Police (Inspector Steven Hoggan)

In relation to the byelaw against consumption of alcohol in public places. It is currently an offence to be found to be in possession of an open container containing alcoholic liquor - S201, 202 & 203 Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, relates. Police regularly carry out licensed premises checks, engaging with licence holders and ensuring that they are complying with the conditions of their licence.

Police are currently looking into a bottle marking scheme with a view to identifying problematic premises and will firstly look to support them to prevent further offences and secondly, carrying out enforcement with those who choose not to take responsibility.

Fife Division do have access to a mobile CCTV vehicle, and we are looking to utilise this as a part of a coordinated response.

Safer/

Safer Communities (Dawn Jamieson)

Safer Communities Officers have close links with transportation and stagecoach, we attended a meeting 2 weeks ago to discuss the ongoing Anti-Social Behavior in and around the bus stations, this may be exacerbated lately by the recent free bus travel for young people.

Safer Community Officers and Police do monitor and patrol bus stations and train stations, but we cannot stop young people from coming into the town if they are not displaying any Anti-Social Behavior at the time. Safer Community Officers and Police share either radio contact or mobile telephone numbers and pass on intel around issues such as these.

CCTV is something that is currently under review, Safer Communities Team do not currently have any redeployable CCTV systems that we can use. I met with the Community Education Worker for the area this week and shared information from the patrol matrix including the times my officers are finding issues in the area and this has been passed on. Community Learning and Development will try and adjust their working days and times to be at locus when they are needed there the most.

Decision

The Committee noted the question submitted by Mr. Paul McGowan and the respective responses provided.

CONVENER'S VALEDICTORY COMMENTS

As this was the last meeting of the Committee prior to the Local Government Elections in May 2022, the Convener expressed her appreciation of the contributions and efforts by all members and officers in supporting the work of the Committee over the past five years.
