

## Furnace Community Council meeting

26/10/2023

### 1: Welcome

Present: Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar, David Moncreiff, Peter Hogbin, Mark Boston, Sharon MacInnes, Ruth Tott, Andy Henderson, Sarah Nixon, Phil Nilsson.

Apologies: Martin Wilson, Dougie Philand, David Bowen.

### 2: Adoption of minutes from September's meeting

Approved: Sharon MacInnes      Seconded: Ruth Tott

### 3: Matters arising

- MW attended the An Suidh panel member induction and will feed back to the council at next month's meeting. SN due to attend induction on 13/11/2023.
- Regarding the land that has been cleared by Bridge terrace – No further developments, investigations are ongoing.
- Foot path adjacent to the surgery – there has been no response or update from A&B council operations team despite follow-up emails being sent to team leader of the department of development and infrastructure (Julian Green).
- Provision of lamp post fixtures for Christmas lights etc. Cllr Dougie Philand has raised this with the council but is not hopeful that they will agree to the request.
- Screen machine – potential cessation of service. Ronnie Dodd was going to draft a letter to submit - no update. The local MP's have been contacted and say that they are sympathetic but cannot help.

### 4: Treasurers report

Account balance held by the CC has increased by 82p (interest).

An easy access account has been opened with the Bank of Scotland.

### 5: Police Report

The report was issued on 09/10/2023.

**LB43 Area** (Furnace/Inveraray/West Loch Fyne): Had 78 calls for service during August and September. Of the calls received, 8 resulted in crimes being recorded. These crimes were: 1 x Drive Whilst Unfit as a result of Drink / Drugs; 1 x Failed to Provide Breath / Obstruct / Resist / Without Insurance; 2 x Drug Driving; 1 x Fail to Stop at Road Traffic Collision; 1 x Vandalism; 1 x Serious Assault; 1 x Assault / Offensive Weapon. There were no press releases.

### 6: Roads

**A83** - There is no significant progress to report on the installation of 40mph repeater and settlement name signs. Further to comments received at last month's meeting, MB has met with Cecilia MacGregor & Louise MacKellar to explain & share past communications between Transport Scotland & Furnace CC leading up to the installation of the additional signs now appearing along the A83. Whilst there is general agreement that we (residents) do not believe that the installation of additional 40mph repeater & settlement nameplate signs will satisfactorily address the problem of

speeding on this section of the road, we recognise that we are constrained by the guidance given by the Transport Scotland's Road Safety Manager and so have agreed to their proposal. There is concern among some residents that one of the settlement name sign (Whitebridge) has been placed in the wrong location and may cause confusion when deliveries are made.

MB will invite Kevin McKechnie to a meeting so that the matter can be discussed.

**Village** – There has been an accumulation of litter in the Furnace bends. PH suggested that we need to know when the traffic lights are being removed so that a litter pick can be organised. The work at this site has been paused temporarily as a BT fibre line is causing an obstruction.

Cost for the supply of the 20mph "please drive slowly" signs has been obtained:

150 x A4 self-adhesive stickers for wheelie bins = £276 plus delivery (£300 approx.)

MB proposed that the SCIO submit an application for a micro grant to cover the majority of the cost of the signs. This was seconded by SM. The chair of the SCIO (PN) and two other committee members were present and they agreed to this.

### **7: Micro Grant Applications**

No new applications but note comments above.

### **8: Furnace Surgery Closure – Update**

- Numerous emails have been exchanged between FCC, Cllr. Philand and A&B HSCP during the past month and we have been advised that a joint A&B HSCP & GP Partners statement in relation to the closure of the Furnace Surgery will be issued shortly.
- Lochgilphead's Medical Practice Manager has now provided the statistics requested which show that there were a total of 6,833 face to face appointments in Inveraray from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2018, of those 554 (8.1%) were from the Furnace/Minard area. It was pointed out that the surgery in Furnace was still operational during this period, and that people who attended appointments are not included in the figures provided. MB will contact the practice manager to seek clarification.
- RT advises that there is a new pharmacist starting at the pharmacy in Inveraray and that they will be on duty every day from November onwards.
- Letters have been sent out to selected residents requesting feedback on local NHS services/provision. Residents are urged to respond to the survey to ensure their voices are heard.

### **9: Environment**

David Bowen was due to attend the meeting to give information about a proposed cycle path linking Lochgilphead and Inveraray. This has had to be re-scheduled, and he will now be invited to attend in the New Year.

### **10: Correspondence**

Planning: A&B council no longer distribute Planning Notices on a weekly basis. A search of the council's Planning website can however be undertaken which provides details of applications etc. - No new applications to-date for October.

### **11: Any other competent business**

- Remembrance Sunday - The Community Councils wreath will be laid at the village cenotaph during a ceremony to be held at 1:30pm on 12/11/2023. MB has approached a local resident to ask if they would like to lay the wreath.
- SM commented that David & Cindy would be re-starting their Sunday roast dinners in the village hall on the 12/11/2023.

The next meeting will be held in the village hall on 30/11/2023 at 6:30pm.