

FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FCC)

THURSDAY 27th June 2024

Agenda & Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & apologies:

Attendees: Mark Boston (Chair), Peter Hogbin (Tres), Sarah Nixon (Minutes), Sharon MacInnes, Louise & Kenneth MacKellar, Clr. Jan Brown, Kevin Gibson, Ronnie & Ann Dodd, Andy & Lynda Henderson, Phil Nilsson.

Adoption of minutes from previous meeting:

Proposed: S. MacInnes

Seconded: Louise MacKellar

2. Matters arising: To be covered during the meeting under each specific agenda item.

3. Treasurer's report: (Peter) Total funds in-hand £2,501.76

Wreath for Remembrance Day has been delivered and the invoice is in the box. The FCC is waiting on the annual grant payment from the County Council for conducting its business. All information required has been submitted by FCC.

4. Police – Police Scotland have introduced a new reporting format and following feedback have provided a detailed explanation of why the changes were made – see appendix A.

There was a feeling that the new format still does not contain the information required/needed. Residents are encouraged to look at the report and there will be chance to discuss further at next month's meeting.

JB commented that there was a new police Commander in post in our area (L division) and that he seemed eager for change, and to get the police back into the communities. Police Scotland are invited to attend CC meetings but the lack of representation has been disappointing thus far.

5. Roads update – A83 road signage works:

- Bear Scotland have advised that they are currently awaiting fixing posts for the signs.
- Furnace bends embankment reinforcement works, have now for the time being been completed, and the temporary traffic lights have been removed and then re-instated. Post minute note 28th June --- the temporary lights have now been removed again! ☺

6. Micro Grant applications –

- No new applications received.
- Sarah updated meeting attendees on recent An Suidhe' windfarm panel activities.
- The next deadline for fund applications for the An Suidh fund is 07/10/2024, with the panel expecting to meet on 18/11/2024.

7. Furnace Surgery – Updates:

- A&B HSCP have advised that the GMS (general medical services) contract has been awarded – see copy of announcement - appendix B.
- Dr R. Coull and his team will assume overall responsibility with effect from 1st August.

- Dr Coull is currently in discussion with HSCP regarding the reintroduction and provision of some form of limited healthcare services from the Furnace surgery building in the near future.
- The surgery Patient Participation Group's (PPG) next meeting will be held at the Nicol Hall, Inveraray, at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9th July – Please come along - All patients Welcome. Going forward, these meetings will be rotated between venues to ensure fairness and representation for all parties involved.
- Findings and feedback from A&B HSCP's patient questionnaire, expected July.

8. Environmental – no new issues.

9. Correspondence –

- Planning – no new planning applications received/approved during past month.
- A certificate of lawful use for (existing) bed and breakfast accommodation has been approved – 5 Queen Elizabeth Cottages.
- FCC have written to the Argyll Estates property manager to request an update and clarification on the ownership of the piece of land that borders Shore Road & also the area just off Galloping Brae that appears to be 'under development' and we await a reply.
- An invitation to attend a future FCC meeting is to be sent to Scottish & Southern Customer Liaison Mgr so that they can provide an update on progress of 275kV substation upgrade works.
- Bear Scotland have issued numerous notices & updates regarding night work and amnesties over the past month – see press for details.
- Tim Eagle (Highlands & Islands newest MSP) has sent a letter of introduction and has expressed his willingness to work on our behalf whenever required. His contact details are: email, Tim.Eagle.msp@parliament.scot, or by phone, 0131 348 6989.

10. AOCB – General:

- Anyone who wants to contact Furnace Community Council (FCC) can do so by emailing: furnacecommunitycouncil@furnace-argyll.com
- If you would like to know more about what FCC do and how you can help, please send an email to the above address, or alternatively speak to Sharon, or Mark.
- KG raised the issue of dust from the quarry. He asked if the sprinklers had been turned off. SM confirmed that this was not the case, and that the work of the "crusher team" was now complete, so the dust should be reduced now.
- PH has suggested that specific email addresses should be created for the different posts within the CC (convenor, treasurer etc.), so that when people leave post, there can be a smooth transition between people, and emails retrieved without issue.
- SM raised the issue of the Stables down by the Leacann Water. There is a property which has been empty for some time and unfortunately, is falling into a state of disrepair and risks becoming a magnet for anti-social behaviour. SN agreed to email the empty homes officer at A&B council regarding the property.
- JB stated that the council were now in recess for a month but that the councillors will still be working. A new administration is in place and will be implementing changes. JB stated that the councillors wanted to make changes to how the council runs and that they would like to involve the community councils more.

- JB has been taking part in a series of sponsored walks to raise money for the MS centre in Lochgilphead, as they have had their funding cut this year. Anyone keen to support the fund raising can find details on Facebook on the MS centre's page.

Date of FCC's next meeting – Thursday 25th July 2024 - 6.30pm, Furnace Village Hall

Appendix A Police Scotland report clarifications – June 2024

Dear all,

Following publication of the latest Police Report we have had varying feedback from a number of Community Councils (some preferring the new style, some against it) and I wanted to contact you all to address some of the points raised.

- **Why the change?** As explained in previous correspondence, the new format was adopted to fall in line with what is produced in the rest of Argyll & Bute, to ensure the same level of service is provided within the policing area of L Division;
- **I don't know what beat number applies to my area?** Within the next incarnation we'll look to provide a key for which Beat Area applies to which Community Council, but the beat numbers have not changed and your Community Council area will be as it has been since these reports were first issued;
- **Why can't we have more detail on crime?** Previously the releases into the press were included along with a crime breakdown. By including the press releases in this report we are effectively duplicating the publication and the work to do so. The information is already within the public arena via local news outlets. With regards to the crime breakdown – this is done in a different way, with a broader subsection reviewed, understanding the demand for the whole area we cover. This has the benefit of then providing greater detail for review at the respective Area Planning Groups;
- **Why weren't our issues raised at the bottom of the sheet?** This will be done on a month by month basis. For that month (May), the two issues raised were the ones that were directed to the team by Community Councils (including Councillors on their behalf). If we don't know about it, it won't be detailed. Please feel free to contact either myself or PC Dewar (copied in on this email) with queries and we will do our best to address them. It was suggested that this section might be better incorporated into the main body of the report rather than standing alone – I'll look to review that moving forward;
- **Why don't we get attendance at our meetings?** Each week PC Dewar contacts and sends out applicable invites for each Community Council to the Duty Sgt that will be on shift working at the time of the meeting. They can only attend when demand of calls permits. Calls for service from 999 and 101 have to be prioritised. Further to this, attendance is compounded by meetings often clashing with one another and being scheduled during our peak call times. This is why myself and PC Dewar have furnished our contact email addresses so, as Community Councils, you have a local SPOC to contact for any concerns you might have. To be clear this isn't to report crime – use 999, 101 or the Online Contact Form - but to review community issues or to seek advice. We will quickly seek to reply to any correspondence and guide accordingly. By having the Q&A section within this new format, we share the learning from these questions, to help strengthen the knowledge base of what is happening and what we can do to assist in certain circumstances;
- **The Police that attended my meeting didn't know my local issues.** The officers that answer your 999 calls have a dual role – Response (999 responders) and Community Policing. This latter role is at the direction of the Community Inspector and Sgt that cover the MAKI and OLI Policing areas. The officers attending will not be cognisant of every initiative and every event taking place within the wider policing area. They are there to listen to your concerns, answer questions where possible and should any further work be required or they have questions that can't be answered, they will feed this back to PC Dewar and myself for further action;
- **Could we have more useful links/contacts?** We'll look to add to this list as the note develops;

- **Why can't we have a more tailor-made report with greater detail?** The short answer to this is capacity, but also proportionality in information sharing. You'll have noted in historic reports that our area covers multiple Community Council areas. To do a bespoke report for each community council is not practicable. Should you wish further information on a specific area in crime then let us know what and why that information is required. Any sharing we do has to be proportionate, legal and for a reason, not just because someone wants to know. Where there is a crime trend we will have identified it and will be talking about it, be it in the press, directly with Councillors or detail it within the report. Equally, where a Community Council has recognised an issue and believes more bespoke work should take place or heightened information is required for a legitimate purpose, we would encourage them to engage with us and we can review the request;
- **The report is just a tick box exercise.** I've been lucky enough to work in a number of Policing areas and can advise that many do not provide any information or engage in any positive way with Community Councils, being reactive not proactive in their communication. We are fortunate in the MAKI and OLI area that the Area Commander and Area Inspector put great store in developing these communication channels, hearing your voice and seeking to act on what is said. Please use this platform in the way it's intended, a gateway for you to have direct access to your local Police. I work from Lochgilphead Police Station between 0700 and 1700 hrs and am always happy to discuss issues face to face. Our community resource is what you choose to make of it. For those nearer to Oban and Campbeltown Police Stations, I can arrange face to face engagements accordingly.

With the above in mind, I encourage feedback that you might have and am more than willing to meet to discuss any ideas or concerns you have. I look forward to hearing from and continuing to work closely with you all.

Kind regards,

Matt PS Matthew Shaw – L Division, Sergeant for Partnerships & Management Support
Address: Lochgilphead Police Station, Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8JJ

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Service Demand & Recorded Crimes Per Beat Area					
LB28 Calls: 52 Crimes: 13	LB29 Calls: 5 x Crimes: 1	LB30 Calls: 37 Crimes: 3	LB31 Calls: 8 Crimes: 0	LB32 Calls: 4 Crimes: 0	LB33 Calls: 9 Crimes: 1
LB34 Calls: 15 Crimes: 1	LB35 Calls: 72 Crimes: 23	LB36 Calls: 27 Crimes: 25	LB37 Calls: 42 Crimes: 2	LB38 Calls: 9 Crimes: 1	LB39 Calls: 12 Crimes: 1
LB40 Calls: 15 Crimes: 2	LB41 Calls: 12 Crimes: 2	LB42 Calls: 84 Crimes: 39	LB43 Calls: 44 Crimes: 13	LB44 Calls: 24 Crimes: 3	LB45 Calls: 18 Crimes: 3

Local Policing Priority

- SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME**
- You identified drug dealing / drug misuse as a priority.
- We identified human trafficking as a priority.

Local Good News

- Pro-activity success in terms of crime detections (execution of warrants, stop searches etc)

How can you help?

Your local police would like for your Community Council to help us with tackling Drug related crime by reporting any suspicions you may have either in person or anonymously via 101 or via crime stoppers online:

[Crimestoppers in Scotland | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\) 0800 555 111](#)

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Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership

Furnace and Inveraray Medical Practice

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is delighted to announce that following a competitive recruitment process Dr Robert Coull has been successful in his application to take over the General Medical Services (GMS) contract for the Furnace and Inveraray Medical Practice.

The HSCP would also like to thank Lochgilphead Medical Practice, who held the previous GMS contract, for their work caring for the patients at Furnace and Inveraray as well as their assistance during the recent recruitment process. The HSCP will now be working with the staff involved in the change of GMS contract to ensure there is a smooth transition for them when they move to their new employer.

Fiona Duff, Interim Head of Primary Care for the HSCP, said:

"I am delighted that we have been successful in appointing a General Medical Services contract for the Furnace and Inveraray Practice and I look forward to working with Dr Coull when he takes over the delivery of services from 1 August.

"We would like to thank the local community for their ongoing engagement with the HSCP over the last few months and also those community representatives who helped us with the recruitment process and interviews."

Dr Robert Coull said:

"We are delighted to be offered the opportunity to provide GP services to the patients of the Furnace and Inveraray Surgery from the 1st of August, and we are really looking forward to working with the new Patient Participation Group and the HSCP as we develop the future service."

Note: Dr Coull also holds the GMS contract for Strachur Medical Practice and will continue to provide services from Strachur as well.