

There was discussion about telephone calls to the police. Sgt Wallace confirmed that the public can no longer make direct calls to local police stations; all calls initially go through to the Call Centre at Bucksburn and will then be directed to the Control Room in Queen Street in Aberdeen. Local officers are then despatched as required.

There are 5 clerkesses based at Stonehaven Police Station, 7 days a week. The office is generally manned from 7am to 1pm but when it is not staffed the door will be shut. Police officers do not man the office when on duty. They are required to deal with all types of incidents from road traffic accidents to sudden deaths.

Michael Innes asked if any officers still carry out patrols on bicycles. Sgt Wallace advised that a Special Constable still uses a pedal cycle and there is also to be a Community Police Officer based in Stonehaven who will use a bicycle.

Sarah Dickinson raised the issue of whether it is police enforcement or education that is the key to solving the problem of vandalism. It was agreed that vandalism is essentially a community problem that arises from many different causes.

Two crime bulletins are appended to these minutes.

Update of Committee Activities:

4. Planning – David Fleming

No written report.

The planning committee has a high workload and needs help with monitoring planning applications. Michael Innes and David Wood volunteered to help.

Peter Bellarby outlined further responses that had been received from MSPs regarding third party right of appeal and about public enquiries into future national plans.

Peter Bellarby gave an update on the following planning applications:

- 5c Robert Street

This application had not been discussed at the last business meeting. However, a letter of objection had been sent as previously discussed and agreed by the Planning Committee.

- Wind Turbines at Auquhirie

As previously agreed, a letter of objection had been issued. Aberdeenshire Council had requested an environmental impact assessment of the developer who had asked for a scoping opinion. The Community Council has been asked for its views on the scoping. The Planning Applications Committee had therefore advised Aberdeenshire Council that the scope should include the adverse impact on the landscape, visual disturbance to drivers, noise, proximity of underground pipelines and problems of transport access, these matters having been raised when the Community Council discussed the planning application.

- Supermarket at Fetteresso Cemetery

Cllr Agnew left the meeting at this point due to a declaration of interest.

A letter had been received from the Scottish Executive indicating that a Public Enquiry is to be held. A pre-Meeting is to be held on 28 August to discuss procedural matters.

David Fleming advised that S&DCC had previously lodged a comprehensive objection to this application. He asked members if a S&DCC representative should be present at the meeting. This was agreed, having been proposed by Sarah Dickinson and seconded by Raymond Christie. Michael Innes queried how the public view would be represented at the meeting and asked if S&DCC had received any public comment or feedback about the application. Sarah Dickinson said there had been some views gathered through a questionnaire.

Raymond Christie nominated Ian Hunter as the best choice for a S&DCC representative. David Fleming will contact him on his return from holiday.

David Fleming reminded members that another planning application had been submitted for a supermarket at East Newtonleys.

Gordon MacEwen, a member of the public, advised members that 121 representations had been made against the application and as these were not necessarily all individuals, the level of objection is therefore very high. He stressed that a united front was needed by all objectors to ensure their voice was heard.

Cllr Agnew returned to the meeting once discussion of this item had concluded.

**David Fleming
Peter Bellarby**

- 5. Transport – Peter Bellarby**
 A response is required to the Local Transport Strategy before the end of August. The main topics to consider are the need to cut carbon emissions and to encourage more use of public transport. However, the current provision of public transport is neither good nor attractive and is also costly. A draft paper has been circulated to which members are asked to make response. **All Members**
- 6. SuSET**
 There are still no firm plans in place for the August visit. David Fleming will liaise with Jane Davidson. **David Fleming**
- 7. Future of Stonehaven**
 Sarah Dickinson advised there is nothing further to report to date. The planned meeting is still to be arranged, possibly in August.
- 8. Strategy**
 The group had met and the first draft paper is currently being produced by David Fleming. There will be an open meeting organised for all members, possibly in September.
- 9. Constitution, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct**
 A paper entitled “Response to Aberdeenshire Council on the consultation concerning the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils” was circulated by Peter Bellarby. He highlighted the proposal regarding the co-option of younger members with full voting rights. A draft copy of the code of conduct, outlining the protocol for Community Council members, will be circulated for members’ comments. A response will then be submitted.
- Issues around Planning**
- 10. Ury House developments**
 A Briefing Paper had been circulated by David Fleming.
 Sarah Dickinson queried what “other options are being considered” by FM Developments, and what the timescale might be.
 David Fleming advised that the statutory advertisement regarding the development had now appeared and there are 21 days in which to respond. He had prepared a draft letter of objection to the application on behalf of S&DDC, which had been circulated to members. Apart from some minor editorial changes, there were no comments raised by members and the letter will therefore be sent to the Planning Dept. **David Fleming**
 Two other draft letters had been produced, addressed to Bill Howatson, Chairman of Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee, regarding Community Council decision making and comments previously made by David Fleming in a statement to the Area Committee. There were no comments made by members and these letters will therefore both be sent. **David Fleming**
- 11. County Hotel Site**
 An appeal has been lodged by the developers against the refusal of planning permission for this site. It was noted the the developers had put in second application , which differed from the first only in that 2 fewer flats were proposed. S&DCC has already put in an objection and no further action is therefore necessary at this stage.
 David Fleming pointed out that all planning applications submitted since December 1994 can be viewed on the Aberdeenshire Council website. This includes all paperwork, drawings and representations.

12. Action taken on “complaints” to Aberdeenshire Council

David Fleming stated that a set of “ground-rules” is needed to deal with any complaints against Aberdeenshire Council referred to or noted by Community Councillors , as well as an awareness of the response outcomes. Examples of current complaint issues include the road repairs under the railway bridge and the sewage plant at The Backies.

Sarah Dickinson pointed out that Community Council members are empowered to ask questions and bring problems to the attention of Aberdeenshire Council. They should be proactive when dealing with queries and problems brought to them by the public.

The list of Aberdeenshire Council contacts is to be updated and circulated.

Peter Bellarby

A record of all contact made (by the Community Councillor involved) and subsequent action taken should also be maintained. This should include the name of the person at Aberdeenshire Council to whom enquiries are made. This record will be maintained by Peter Bellarby and all information should be passed to him.

Linda Digney suggested that this could eventually be done through the S&DCC website.

13. Website

Lyn Jardine said the Communications Committee had not yet met. She had drawn up a plan, looking at various methods of communication, for consideration by the Committee. The use of the website is also still under review. It is hoped to have an open meeting to which all members will be invited.

The Mearns FM Community Radio group AGM is to held on 17 August. Ian Hunter and David Fleming will be attending.

The pros and cons of the website and other forms of communication were discussed. Sarah Dickinson said there was a need to offer information through the website and to make use of its potential, but not to become dependant on it. Many people do not have access to the internet.

David Fleming suggested that the library should be able to access information from the website for people if required.

Linda Digney stated that the internet is a powerful tool and it should be the main focus of communication. Lyn Jardine said that it is a very effective way to communicate for the majority of Community Council members but that alternatives must be offered for community-wide communication.

Michael Innes queried the privacy and security aspects of electronic communication. David Fleming agreed that care needs to be taken in what goes public on a website.

Michael Innes stated that the Mearns Leader should be the most effective tool for communication within the community.

Cllr Morrison pointed out that Stonehaven has an ageing population who are becoming more isolated by modern technology. However, David Wood said that most working people now use electronic communication and will continue to do so in the future. It was also essential to use electronic communication in order to involve young people.

David Wood said there were various issues to take into consideration in the use of a website. It involves a lot of work, especially if there is a lot of activity which would require moderation.

Raymond Christie said that S&DCC had previously issued a newsletter every 2 or 3 months and perhaps there was still a need for this.

Sarah Dickinson stated that the Town Hall display window could be better managed and could become an excellent central information point. Likewise the notice board in the Old Town, which needs completely updating.

14. Councillor Training

Nothing further to report at present.

15. Planning Gain

This should now be referred to as “Developer Contribution”.

David Fleming said the the financial calculation was done in a formulaic way which would be hard to question, but there are concerns about the actual process with regard to the lack of

transparency in that Local Councillors have no input to the decision making process. Cllr Agnew advised that Councillors do not know how much money is given by a developer because of confidentiality issues. Sarah Dickinson questioned why this information should not be made available. There was discussion about the issues of competition and developers costs. David Fleming will raise these concerns at the Community Council Forum on 28 September, which will be attended by Stuart Robertson of Aberdeenshire Council.

David Fleming

16. Margaret Scatterty Bequest monies

David Fleming asked members to suggest suitable projects for which this money could be used. He felt that the fund should not be used to simply help fund the running costs of the Community Council.

All Members

17. Newspaper Archive

Volunteers are needed to maintain the archive, started in 1987, and consisting of all newspaper references to S&DCC. In response to Linda Digney's query regarding the usefulness of the archive, Sarah Dickinson advised that S&DCC's involvement in the Cowie Enquiry was one instance in which the archive had proved very useful. Neil Smith (member of the public) said that, in his experience, it was hard to carry out research retrospectively and it was much easier if facts were readily accessible.

After discussion Raymond Christie agreed to monitor the Mearns Leader and Sarah Dickinson will continue to check the Press & Journal and The Evening Express.

18. How we handle issues

Dealt with under Item 12

19. Publication of the Agenda

There was discussion about ways of improving the "attractiveness" of the Agenda. Raymond Christie said that the NHS Grampian agenda includes timings for each item. Members of the public are then able to attend at appropriate times.

Cllr Agnew questioned why "Correspondence In for information" is included as an agenda item although the items are never discussed. David Fleming said it was important to make everyone aware of correspondence received so that subjects could be brought up for discussion if desired. He asked all members to come forward with other suggestions with regard to the agenda.

All Members

20. Contacts and Relationships List

David Fleming had received only 1 reply to date.

All members

21/22 Correspondence

Item 21a : East Grampian Coastal Partnership

Peter Bellarby proposed that S&DCC become affiliate members of this partnership. As membership is free, this proposal was agreed. However, the objectives of the partnership, which covers groups within the area from North Esk to Fraserburgh, are unclear and more information is required.

Peter Bellarby

23. AOCB

It was noted that Ian Balgowan had been absent from recent meetings due to work commitments, but he had been carrying out some work for the Community Council during this time.

David Fleming proposed that "the Community Council accepts there is a reasonable explanation for his absences". Lyn Jardine seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously.

Waste Management

David Fleming advised that Christine Gore, or one of her managers, is to attend the next Community Council meeting to discuss:

- (i) unresolved issues

(ii) the opening of the Redcloak facility and what changes will ensue from this.

A list of questions are to be forwarded to her in advance and members should advise David Fleming of any questions they wish to ask.

The press were asked to advertise the meeting to encourage the public to attend.

Linda Digney said that it should be ensured that issues raised in the internet questionnaire are included in the discussion. It was important to reflect the public's voice.

David Fleming said that it would be pointless to discuss some issues, such as the frequency of collections, where Aberdeenshire Council's policy is now set in place.

Linda Digney agreed to help with the preparation of questions.

Peter Bellarby advised that there had been a series of letters received from Tom McPherson about the waste management issue, along with copies of letters to, and replies received from, the Chief Executive. Mr McPherson had suggested that the Public Ombudsman should be involved but it was agreed that this would not be appropriate, particularly as the Public Ombudsman's role is to work with individuals rather than organisations. Peter Bellarby is to reply accordingly but thought that some of Mr McPherson's points could be raised in discussion.

Michael Innes questioned if there was any reporting back to individuals who had made complaints about waste management issues through the Community Council. David Fleming pointed out that the Community Council can follow up complaints that are generic and about the principle problems, but individual complaints are better reported to the Wasteline service.

Linda Digney volunteered to help David Fleming in drawing up questions to be put to the Waste Management Team at the next meeting, and the replies would, of course, be public. It was agreed that the Community Council should report back after the next meeting, where possible, to individuals on the questions they had asked,

All members

There was discussion about the naming of the new development at the Commodore Hotel site.

The name Bairds Court or Commodore Court had been proposed; it was agreed that an objection should be made to the latter name. Wendy Agnew pointed out that the park used to be called Cowie Park, not Baird Park. Cllr Sullivan and Stonehaven Heritage Society will both be consulted about the name of the development.

Peter Bellarby

It was agreed that future Community Council minutes should include the date of the next meeting.

Sharon Hall will be unavailable to take the minutes at the next meeting and a replacement will need to be arranged.

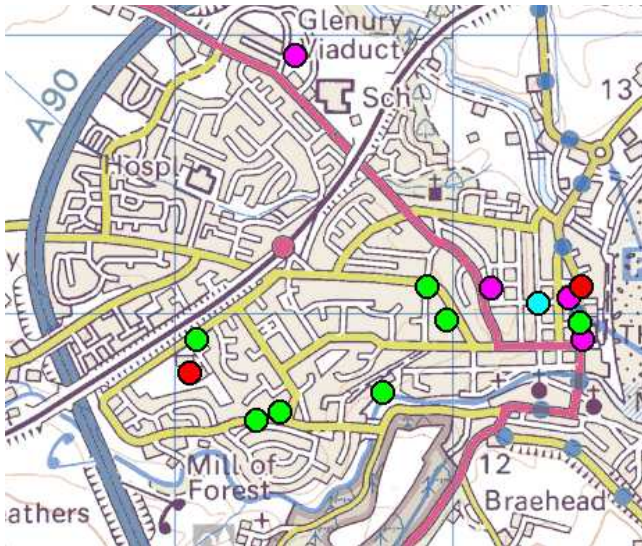
Date of next meeting : Tuesday 12 September

CRIME BULLETIN FOR THE STONEHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

19 June – 2 July 2006

Priority Crimes in Stonehaven

Vandalism	8
Youth annoyance	2
Assault	5
Breach of the Peace	7



Although there were incidents at Carronhill and Mill of Forest schools, the majority of calls have centred around the streets towards the shore and occurred mostly on Friday and Saturday nights.

Overall calls/crimes in Stonehaven are down with only 2 Youth Disorder calls received this fortnight, the lowest figure for several months.

Youth Disorder, Red dot
Vandalism, Green dot
Petty Assault, Blue dot
Breach of the Peace, Magenta dot

Comment.

During this period 50 crime reports were created by officers in Stonehaven. This is a similar figure in comparison with previous two weeks. 16 of these offences were detected.

Two thefts took place at Glenury Quarry. The first occurred between 1700 hours on 22 June and 0800 hours on 23 June 2006 where a large quantity of tools were stolen. The second incident took place between 1230 hours on 24 June and 0700 hours on 26 June 2006. On this occasion a container was entered and tools were again stolen.

Between 0030 on 24 June and 0500 hours on 24 June 2006 an England flag was removed from the front of a house on Newbigging Drive and was later found having been damaged by fire on Mill of Forest Road.

At 2040 hours on 1 July 2006 a robbery was committed on Barclay Street. A male was apprehended and a report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Grant Wallace
Sergeant

CRIME BULLETIN FOR THE STONEHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

3 - 16 July 2006

Priority Crimes in Stonehaven

Vandalism	11
Youth annoyance	11
Assault	10
Breach of the Peace	3



This map shows a cluster of incidents at Arduthie Primary where reports were received of youths cycling along the flower beds, damaging a bus shelter and kicking footballs off walls. These occurred on various nights but usually between **2000** and **0000** hours.

Comment

During the period under review 56 crimes were recorded by officers in Stonehaven. 22 of these crimes were detected by the investigating officers.

Between 2359 on 5 July and 0800 on 6 July 2006 a pedal cycle was stolen from the porch of a house in Inkbottle Way.

Between 1230 & 1330 on 6 July 2006 a mobile phone was stolen from an unlocked car on Allardice, Street.

About 0800 on 10 July 2006 youths were seen riding a motor cycle in a field at nether Toucks. Damage to crops amounted to £200.00.

Between 2340 on 10 July and 1300 on 13 July 2006 a shed was broken into near the Netherley Road and a welder was stolen. It was recovered nearby.

Between 1800 on 15 July and 0400 on 16 July 2006 damage was caused to various parts of Stonehaven golf course.

A credit card information card is available to householders to help them reduce the risk of their homes being broken into when they go away on holiday

We have produced the card along with The Royal Bank Of Scotland and Garioch & North Marr Community Safety Group. The card includes six bullet points that householders can take before they go away.

- Cancel any milk or newspapers
- Don't leave valuable items on view
- Make sure your house looks occupied
- Don't tell everyone your house will be empty
- Ask a friend to check your house
- Cut your lawn if you have a garden

The cards are an easy way for the Police to pass on common-sense and practical advice to householders and are available at Police Offices.

Grant Wallace
Sergeant