

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council
Meeting: Mon 24th June 2024, Nairn Community & Arts Centre

Present:

NWSCC Members: Kevin Reid (KR, Chair), Alastair Noble (AN, Vice-Chair), Joan Noble (JN), Graham Stuart (GS, Sec, Minutes),

Ex-Officio: Cllrs Michael Green, Babs Jarvie, Paul Oldham

Apologies: Kristin Duncan (KD), Phill Stuart (PS, Treasurer)

AGENDA

- 1. Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items - None**
- 2. Minutes of Community Council Meeting, 29th April 2024, for Approval ([link](#))**
 - The minutes were approved by JN and seconded by AN.
- 3. Minutes of Joint CCs Meeting, 22nd May 2024 ([link](#))**
 - The jointly agreed minutes were approved by JN and seconded by AN.
- 4. Review of Actions Log from Last Community Council Meeting (See Appendix) (GS)**
 - All actions completed or to be removed as plans have changed.
- 5. Accounts and Admin**
 - PS reported outside the meeting that the bank balance is still £2773.66. Outgoings not yet accounted for are the pledged sum of £1000 to NICE for the Local Place Plan and website subscription of £78. The e-bank account conversion is encountering some logistical issues.
- 6. Planning Applications Submitted Since Last Meeting for Review (GS)**
 - 24/01882/FUL | Erection of House in garden of Sunnyside ([link](#))
 - 24/01652/ADV | Illumination of sign, Newton Hotel, Altonburn Road ([link](#))
 - 24/01712/FUL | Erection of extension and decking | The Gables Moss-Side Nairn ([link](#))
 - 24/01538/FUL | Erection of extension | 8 Fairways Altonburn Road Nairn IV12 5NB – ([link](#))
 - All applications were reviewed by email and no concerns were raised.
- 7. Delnies Development (GS)**
 - For information - South Planning Approval [link](#) and recording of South Planning Committee Meeting 18 June 2024 ([link](#))
 - KR expressed the CC's disappointment in the decision to approve the planning conditions, which was actually a small part of the process, with the development expected to come for full planning approval in August. The councillors were thanked for their support in trying to have the application rejected, including PO's attempted motion and his closing speech. **Action:** GS to coordinate further engagement with River CC to discuss possible next steps.
- 8. Local Place Plan Update (AN)**
 - AN as NICE Chair expressed his extreme disappointment that the Delnies development goes against the majority of the community's views for the future of Nairn which will become part of the LPP. With respect to the LPP process, a first draft is to be issued in

early July on the NICE website for public and Highland Council feedback.

9. Community Regeneration Funds Distribution (GS)

- For info, letter to councillors on E&I broadened remit ([link](#)), CC letter summarising funding issues ([link](#))
- MG commented that the E&I sub-group is due to meet in the last weeks of August to review the funding allocations and methodology. MG will try to have fellow councillors included in the meeting to boost the representation for Nairn's interests.
- GS said that the topic was to be a standing item at future meetings to ensure that there is momentum for change following the letter to councillors.

10. Nairn Common Good Charging and Leisure and Recreation Spend in Nairn (JN)

- For info CC letter on unfairness of charging the Common Good for providing statutory open spaces and L&R spend ([link](#)), Community Centre Funding Request ([link](#)) and response ([link](#))
- MG reported that at the special Area Committee Meeting that day the councillors awarded the Centre up to £50k in emergency funding with certain conditions on seeking funding streams and implementing the business plan (see [link](#) to NAC meeting video and the minutes of the meeting [link](#)).
- PO said that NWSCC's (and others') proposal for the money to be provided as a loan was considered (and discussed with legal counsel) but was not taken up due to legal and technical difficulties in setting up a loan and BJ commented that a loan may have impacted the ability to get future funding.
- JN expressed disbelief that the Centre would be responsible for the roof repairs (est £500k) since Highland Council own the building but MG confirmed that this is apparently their contractual obligation.
- JN pointed to the developer contributions that would be more sensibly used for the Centre funding, MG said that he would again look to see if the DCs already allocated to the Leisure Centre could be repurposed. GS reminded the meeting that NWSCC has been engaged with Developer Contributions Officer Ross Lindsay and will look to follow-up on identifying 'lost' developer contributions for Nairn developments and reallocation of existing contributions.
- JN commented that if High Life Highland assumed responsibility for the Centre it would be fully-funded and reported that she is working up an overview of the Highland Council funding to local amenities across the region for further consideration.
- GS said that the topic was to be a standing item at future meetings to ensure that there is momentum for change following the letter to councillors.

11. Active Travel Signage (JN)

- For info, summary of meeting with Gary Kennedy and confirmation of signs in yard ([link](#))
- The signs have been found and Gary Kennedy is looking for suitable places to attach them, see above link. JN commented that another route from Altonburn Road up Tradespark Road, across the A96 and on to the Cawdor Road via Moss-side shop was scoped out previously; the route from beach to the A96 was rejected but the second part from Moss-side shop via Lochdhu crossing was traversed and is under consideration.

12. Coastal Erosion (GS)

- PO provided feedback on the councillors' meeting to discuss the Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Report ([link](#)). There was encouragement (if slight scepticism) that the East beach dunes were considered not to be at risk. There is a lack of funding for the remedial action on the Central beach. GS noted that KD had circulated an email with an example of the funding that may be available for ecosystem restoration projects ([link](#)) and Green Hive

in the loop, the specific example timeline not suiting application for Nairn. Po mentioned that a paper was coming to the Aug Area Committee Meeting on options for the area between Marine Cottages and the Leisure Centre, where the options would seem to be spending common Good money to reinforce the existing rock armour or move the path inland and accept erosion. PO expressed pessimism at the messages from the Scottish Government Flood/Erosion risk Consultation ([link](#)) where it is clear there is limited future central funding available for shoring up defences and communities will need to find their own solutions or accept the loss of land to flooding and erosion. JN reminded the councillors of her suggestion that Coastal Community Funds be used for coastal erosion projects. JN highlighted the need for new flood reports but PO responded that the Scottish government document indicated that no more flood reports would be funded.

13. A96 Tradespark Wood to Sandown Road Speed Limits (GS)

- NWSCC has considered the A96 report and local resident Mandy's Rush personal response that she approved to be circulated publicly ([link](#)). There is disappointment that Transport Scotland does not consider that a reduction in the speed limit from Sandown Road to Cranloch/Tradespark Wood junction is justified and does not feel that there are any more arguments that can be made in support of a change. The report recommendation for a pedestrian crossing in the area comes with caveats on logistical challenges on citing such a crossing and it is considered unlikely that a crossing will be approved and built. **Action:** GS to contact Mandy Rush with NWSCC position and offer support for her advocacy going forward.

14. Tradespark Hall Charity Trust (GS)

- NWSCC has been unsuccessful in setting up a meeting with the Tradespark Hall Trustees, whose legal representative communicated that the Trustees declined to meet ([link](#)). It was decided to write to the Trust formally setting out NWSCC's concerns with the administration of the Trust and again seek engagement to discuss the fund which may be a useful asset for projects arising from the LPP. **Action:** GS to draft letter to Tradespark Hall Trustees.

15. Ardersier Port Community Benefit Fund Working Group (PS)

- A meeting was held on 12th June and the setting up of the process and panel to review funding applications is progressing.

16. Nairn and Nairnshire Community Partnership (AN)

- AN gave some short feedback on the NNCP meeting of 12 June, see Emerging Priorities Document ([link](#)). Ross McCartney is moving on and his successor was introduced to the group.

17. AOCB

- **Vaccinations**
 - AN summarised the current situation as set out in the letter to councillors ([link](#)). The issue has been discussed with the Cabinet Secretary and head of NHS Highland but there seems to be no urgency to take action despite a whooping cough epidemic in the UK. MG commented that discussions had taken place with the chief of public Health and shared his frustration that the system has to change as it is not working in rural Scotland. BJ mentioned that a peer review commissioned by the Health and Social Committee is due to report at the end of July and actions have already started.
- **Infrastructure Levy Discussion ScotGov Document ([link](#))**
 - NWSCC welcomed the potential for further development contributions for

- infrastructure and decided not to take any action to respond to the document,
- **SSEN - New substations between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead** ([link](#))
 - NWSCC decided to take no further action on this matter and PO commented that the proposal is not really affecting Nairnshire.
 - **Nairn Academy Planning** – Planning recommendation 18th June document ([link](#))
 - NWSCC welcomed the approval of the new Academy planning and the confirmation that planning approval was not contingent on a library move, which will be determined separately.
 - **Core Paths**
 - KR asked if the councillors would follow-up on cutting of core paths around Moss-side and it was commented that the Howford Bridge to Cawdor path was also overgrown. PO said that there has been a cutback in grass cutting, JN reminded councillors that there is a Nairnshire Paths Fund and explained that the landowners are responsible for Nairnshire paths, Highland Council has a duty to organise, not to cut.
 - **NWSCC Agenda and Minutes**
 - MG asked to minute the councillors' appreciation of the links provided in the agendas and minutes which were very helpful to them.
 - **Next Meeting 29th July**

For Reference - Communications from/to NWSCC Since Last Meeting

- 20240510_NWSCC_Email_Councillors_CRF ([link](#))
- 20240513_SSEN_Transmission_Lines_Consultation ([link](#))
- 20240514_Empty_Homes_Advice_Service ([link](#))
- 20240529_NWSCC_eplanning_Delnies ([link](#))
- 20240520_Lindsay_Developer_Contributions ([link](#))
- 20240527_Haventus_CLG_Meeting_Notes ([link](#))
- 20240606_NairnGC_Delnies ([link](#))
- 20240607_NairnGC(Kane)_Delnies ([link](#))
- 20240609_NWSCC_Email_Campbell_Academy ([link](#))
- 20240611_Cowie_Tradespark_Hall_Trust ([link](#))
- 20240612_Garrow_East_Beach_Signage ([link](#))
- 20240613_Kennedy_Active_Travel_Signs ([link](#))
- 20240614_Community_Centre_Funding_Request ([link](#))
- 20240616_NWSCC_Email_South_Planning_Committee_Delnies ([link](#))
- 20240619_NWSCC_Letter_Common_Good_Community_Centre ([link](#))

Appendix – Actions Log

(Date) Action	Status
(25Mar24) - Active Travel Signs – Action: GS to follow-up with BJ to identify person responsible for providing update.	See item 11. Completed
(29Apr24) Tradespark Hall Charity Update - Action: JN to draft letter to OSCR seeking attention to the status of the charity.	See item 14. Completed - Decided alternatively to seek to have a meeting with the Trustees.
(25Mar24) East Beach Signage and Conveniences - Action: JN to follow-up with Ali Garrow to confirm the CC support for the design and enquire about the size of the signs.	Completed – signs installed (link)
(25Mar24) Nairn Academy – Library Relocation Action: GS to draft a letter requesting a response to the last letter submitted, requesting that the public library references be removed from the planning documentation and that a decision on the public library is not part of the school planning approval.	Completed – link, plus email to Robert Campbell requesting a meeting, link
(29Apr24) Community Regeneration Funds Methodology - Action: MG to report back to NWSCC on when the CCF will come before the E&I Committee	Completed - See item 9
(29Apr24) Common Good Charging and L&R Spend – Action: JN to follow-up on the source of the information for Chanony Point.	To Remove – JN to pull together all information on THC funding
(22May24) Community Centre Funding – Action: Agreed that the CCs would dovetail the Councillors’ support for the Centre by writing to the Board offering assistance.	See item 10 - To Remove