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|  | **Meeting of Kenmore and District Community Council**  **Via Teams**  **28th April 2022 7pm**  **Minutes** |
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**Present**

Peter Ely, Carol May, Paul Cargill (Perthshire Advertiser), Colin Morton, Alex Low, Xander McDade

**Apologies**

Olive, Liz Stott

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**Previous Minutes**

Previous minutes agreed.

**Matters Arising**

1. Finance

* Micro & COVID Grants
  + Item carried over to next meeting - Peter will review the details he has received previously from Richard and will try and provide an update on the balance available for micro grants at the next meeting.

**Agenda Items**

2. **LOCAL ACTION PLAN -** Progress Update

Alasdair Finlayson and Andrew Ballantine from PKC will be attending the May meeting of the Highland Action Partnership to discuss Local Place Plans on 17th May at 7pm. A zoom call is available for members of the public to attend.

Local Place Plans offer communities the opportunity to develop proposals for their local area, expressing their aspirations and ambitions for future change. Local Place Plans were introduced in 2019 and contains a new right for communities to produce their own plans as part of the new Scottish planning system. The Plans contain a community’s proposals for the development and use of land and provide a new opportunity for communities to feed into the planning system with ideas and proposals. We are keen to see how this could be adopted for the area.

Peter has spoken to Colin Roxburgh who has worked on Local Action Plans for Pitlochry. Will try and set up a zoom call with Peter and Community Council to assist with our Local Action Plan.

On recent planning issues, Peter Ely has sent letter to PKC Chief Executive voicing our concerns about the frequency of retrospective applications and had a follow up call with a representative from PKC planning department. The call was inconclusive, Peter was asked to send specific questions that could be addressed. Follow up questions have been provided and a zoom call with Peter Marshall and PKC Chief Exec will hopefully be arranged.

We discussed the desirability of encouraging the development of affordable housing for the area. Xander McDade suggested that Kenmore District could join in with the Community Housing Project recently started in Aberfeldy and take a joint approach. Funding for a Housing Needs Assessment is available and can be applied for. Peter Ely agreed to investigate this.

Community Self Build projects may be another option and the Forestry Commission may be willing to provide some land for community housing.

**3. TAYMOUTH CASTLE ESTATE & KENMORE HOTEL – Progress Update**

The attached email from Peter Ely summarises his very positive and enlightening meeting with Ian Connelly and Peter Allen from the Taymouth Castle developers, the Development Land Company (DLC) on 26th April.



The plans sound positive for the local community and it seems there may be healthy potential for the development, or establishment, of local businesses. Examples given were for possible requirements for a laundry and a bakery.

We were very pleased to note that the developers would like to discuss the local action plan with the community council and appear very willing to work with us. They consider that it may be possible to reinstate Kenmore in Bloom and make the village and beach front more attractive.

It is understood that some of the staff from the Kenmore Hotel (now closed for refurbishment) will be working at the Castle to support the building contractors.

Ian Connelly and Peter Allen are uncertain re finalised plans as the owner is still making decisions. DLC is willing to work on smaller projects (pathways and toilets) while the overall plans are still being finalised. Peter will suggest a Community Zoom call with the Taymouth Castle teams to share plans as far as they are known.

There is understandably considerable local interest in this major development and its inevitable impact on both the local and the wider community. There have recently been many rumours about the current owners and their plans. Urgent pro-active ccommunications might help to address such speculation. The new path closures are causing current concern and the rationale, extent and duration for these have not yet been fully made clear. DLC understands that it needs to provide clear communication and has appointed an Edinburgh PR company, Redmond Harvey Communications, to provide them with professional support. Paul Cargill will try to get a formal announcement from RHC on the castle.

**4. AOCB**

Complaint has been received about the new fence that has appeared along the roadside at Balnaskeag as it closes off one of the locally used footpaths into Taymouth Castle. Peter Ely has asked for details from the council.

Date of next meeting Thurs 26th May at 7pm.

Alex Lowe

Minutes Secretary