

# Kinghorn Community Council.

## Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at Kinghorn Community Centre

1) **Present:** - John McLeod (Chair), Alex Cook, Rena Wallace (Treasurer), Martin Melvin, Marilyn Edwards (Secretary) James Willis, Neil Chalmers

2) Ron Edwards, Cllr. Fraser Ballantyne acting Police Sgt Steve Donnelly

**Members of the Public – 14 people present**

**Apologies** –Sadie Wilson, Collett Salvona, Sgt. Johnston

3) **Police Update**

Acting Sgt Donnelly was present to give the police report. He said that there had been some problems with theft in the area lately. When asked he said that most offences were minor. He reported that the big problem of youth disorder was not so prevalent at the moment. A letter was handed in and read out about the disturbance youth disorder caused in the High Street. Sgt Donnelly said that he would be happy to speak with the resident who wrote the letter.

Generally people present felt that there was a lull in the disturbance problem and nothing had been resolved yet. Complaints expressed were that people felt scared and worried that situations could get out of hand and people could get hurt. Everyone agreed that it was not a satisfactory situation. The Chairman urged people to keep reporting problems to the police because this helped to get more resources in place. Reoccurring issues mentioned were police response times, Call Centre problems of passing on messages and securing prosecutions.

A petition was given in to the Community Council with over 1,000 names on it. The Chairman agreed that this was significant but said a thousand people writing in individual letters would have far greater influence. Representatives of local people were invited to join the police Pulling Together Visual initiative and point out things that may help. Cllr Ballantyne said that the Blue Light Discos organised by the police had been very successful and allowed communication with youngsters. More initiatives may be needed. Everyone was assured that the problems would continue to be considered.

4) **Guest Speakers**

The first speaker was Stuart Ward – Architectural Liaison Officer for Fife Constabulary.

He explained that his job involved crime prevention through architectural design which meant advising on crime avoidance measures for new buildings.

Stuart had been invited along because he also had responsibility for installing CCTV Crime Prevention throughout the region.

He began by saying that the growth of CCTV had been phenomenal and everyone wanted it. He explained that it was not the answer to end all ill doing but rather a tool to assist in getting the job done. CCTV gave additional information but it did not stop crime. People still needed to be identified and this was often difficult because cameras were often sited high up and wrong doers wore hoods. Also all cameras needed to be watched and this was not possible to do continually. He urged people to be thoughtful when considering the effectiveness of CCTV because this needed to be weighed against the cost of installation.

He had brought along a CCTV mobile kit called a Hawk Wireless Rapid Deployment Camera System to show how this worked. He said this could be put in various places and moved around. One person asked if a home camera could be positioned looking out on to the street to take images of offenders. It was agreed that this could be done as long as it did not intrude on people's privacy. Identification of individuals was a problem as youths often came from a distance away.

A comment was made that parents had a responsibility to know where their children were and this was important to remember.

People were assured that the problem would not be dismissed and would continue to be considered until solutions were found.

The Chairman thanked Stuart for giving his time to the meeting.

The second guest speaker was Allan Brown – Planner Natural Heritage  
Development Services F.C.

Allan began by saying that the designation of local nature reserves was covered by an act that was 60 years old. It provided statutory protection for that site. There were certain requirements that had to be met. It needed to be a high nature conservation area, an environmental education area at the site and the community had an interest in it.

He then commented on how this might apply locally to Kinghorn loch. It would be necessary to look at all the issues with the site. All relevant landowners would need to be consulted and in agreement. He was asked if it would be an advantage for the land to be in community ownership, Allan said it would help but was not a necessity. A management group to oversee management of the local nature reserve would be needed and Kinghorn Loch Users Group could be the basis for this.

Allan explained that there was a process by which designation was granted. He passed around a leaflet that showed how this progressed. LNR status would bring in by-laws for controls and also Fife Council management rules would apply. It was agreed that if KLUG could arrange a meeting with the main landowners, Alcan and Craigencait Farm then Allan would go along and talk to them about LNR designation. He remained hopeful for the future.

The Chairman thanked Allan for taking time to come along to the meeting.

#### **Acceptance of the previous minutes**

The minutes were proposed by Martin Melvin and seconded by Rena Wallace

#### 5) **Matters Arisi**

- a) A letter received from Andrew Ferguson, Law & Admin. F. C. about ownership Kinghorn Loch
- b) Letter to Inspector Ken Chatham asking about future Pulling Together meetings.
- c) Planning Issues  
Letter from Development Services concerning planning Application at Viewforth Place  
Correspondence concerning Golf Clubhouse Planning Application

#### 6) **Correspondence**

- a) Newsletter from Ted Brocklebank MSP
- b) Scot. Exec. National Planning Framework – Big Plans Leaflet
- c) KCLA minutes – 11<sup>th</sup> January 07
- d) Letter from KCLA
- e) Notification of Fife Council change of telephone numbers from April 07

#### 7) Discussion Areas for co-operation with KCLA

#### 9) Any Other Business

Date of next meeting

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 7.30pm in Kinghorn Community Centre.**