

Kinghorn Community Council.

Notes of the emergency meeting held Thursday 6th August 2008 at Kinghorn Community Centre

1) **Present:** - *John McLeod (Chair), Alex Gibb, Marilyn Edwards (Sec) Rena Wallace (Treasurer), Martin Melvin, John Lancaster and Fraser Ballantyne.*

Cllr Ron Edwards

Lesley Coir link representative for travelling folk in West Fif

Members of the Public – 1 person present

Apologies - Cllr. George Kay, Cllr Susan Leslie, John Mills

2) **Reason for the meeting**

The meeting was called to try and resolve problems that were occurring with travelling folk camped at Kinghorn Loch side.

The expressed problems were

- a) Problems for the public with the positioning of the camp straddling a Right of Way
- b) Intimidation by dogs roaming and barking.
- c) Hygiene and public health issues
- d) Destruction of trees on private property
- e) Cockling on Pettycur Bay, which is a designated site of scientific interest.

Council Officers, Pete Farrell, John Mills, the Dog Warden and Police had been in communication with the travelling folk. The meeting was called to give an update on information and to discuss possible solutions.

Lesley Coir gave a spirited description of her experience of working with travelling people, she also highlighted the lack of transition facilities offered by FC for transiting travelling people, and she agreed to convey concerns over poor communication to her counterpart in central area.

Constable Hay updated how the police had been dealing with the matter and how they had a pattern of regular visits which have highlighted no apparent problems, she also indicated some of the concerns might not be as presented initially and didn't present as a criminal act.

One individual on the Community Council expressed the view that these people were being "put on trial by the Community Council" The Chairman said that he should rephrase the statement as this was not the case. The statement was not withdrawn so the Chairman ruled the member out of order and moved on to next item.

Actions from the meeting

- a) Contact Fife Council to say that it was felt that issues could have been resolved more promptly if better communication had been in place and greater feedback from meetings with the travellers..
- b) The Community council take up the suggestion in an email from John Mills that they contact the owners of the land Wilson Graham to discuss prevention of folk camping at the loch side over a sustained period.
- c) One individual member of the Community Council said that he would visit the site that Saturday and talk to the folk. It was pointed out clearly that he could not do this as a representative of Kinghorn Community Council and members indicated their disagreement with him taking this action. It was pointed out that it was not the place of the Community

Council to negotiate but as a body they would be happy to host a meeting with the travellers if they requested it.

An update would be given at the next Community Council meeting.