



**Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday 8th July 2020 – Skype Video Conference**  
**MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT 2**

**1) ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES**

**Present:**

Community Councillors:

- Peter Renwick – Chair & Crathes rep.
- Chris Charnley – Secretary & Crathes rep.
- Mark Ansell – Treasurer & Durris rep.
- Lynn Coull – Drumoak rep. (PT)
- Anne Shearer – Drumoak rep.
- Joyce Scott – Durris rep.
- David Morrish – Crathes rep.

Councillors:

Banchory & Mid-Deeside - Marr Area, Ward 16:

- Cllr Ann Ross

Stonehaven & Lower Deeside – K&M Area, Ward 18:

- Cllr Sarah Dickinson
- Cllr Wendy Agnew (PT)

CDDCC Representatives:

- Marion McNeil – KDP rep.

Residents

- John Agnew (Item 6a only)

*(PT) reflects attendees whose attendance was partial due to a persistent SKYPE fault)*

**Apologies:**

- Cllr Rosemary Bruce
- Cllr Dennis Robertson
- Cllr Eileen Durno
- Emma Storey, ASC Committee Officer
- Cllr Sandy Wallace
- Philippa Jensen – Crathes rep. (could not connect due to Skype fault)

- 25<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Ann Ross: Covid-19 Update
- 18<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Ann Ross: Covid-19 Support Update, including support grant for B&B's.
- 16<sup>th</sup> June, Lesley Robertson, K&M Community Planning Officer: Local Community Planning Groups Meeting Notes
- 12<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Ann Ross: Covid-19 Update

Meeting Discussion

Joyce Scott advised of her progress in setting up a community support hub in Durris Kirkton Hall. She envisaged the hub would be orientated to help people in the community come together, and that a dry foods larder would be available. She is considering running an outdoor community event at the Hall to gauge local opinion, but will wait until it is deemed safe to do so given the ongoing threat from Covid-19. Chris Charnley and Cllr Ann Ross recommended her contacting Jean Henretty at No. 1 Community Matters in Banchory, which has built up a depth of experience and wealth of knowledge in this area.

**3) CDDCC RESILIENCE SUB-GROUP – (Lead: Peter Renwick)**

- a. Peter Renwick issued the Final Draft of the CDDCC Resilience Plan on 7<sup>th</sup> June. The CDDCC approved it for final issue, and subsequently the Resilience Sub-group was closed as its task is complete.

**4) DRUMOAK GLEBE**  
**Messages Received:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> July. Email from Natalie Shand, resident of Toll House, next to Park Bridge, Drumoak. Natalie, and her partner Tim Snape, have had their lives disrupted by the goings on at the Glebe and Park Bridge over the last few months, as recorded here by Natalie:
  - a. People have been using our area as a toilet.
  - b. Lots of litter has been left.
  - c. The unsafe parking on a live road up to 57+ cars on Drumoak side and 37+ cars on the south side of the bridge.
  - d. People walking through our garden to put their rubbish in our buckets and in our garden.
  - e. Locals cannot access their own area due to the inundation of people.

**2) COVID-19**

**Messages Received:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Emma Storey, K& M Committee Officer: Public toilets opening around Aberdeenshire.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July. MAP: Inspiring Scotland - Creative Communities programme. Funding for communities to develop cultural activities.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Lesley Robertson, ASC Community Planning Officer: AVA Community Spirit Award for those who have provided a brilliant service during the pandemic.
- 1<sup>st</sup> July. Cllr Rosemary Bruce: Banchory High Street parking and speed limit.



f. Campers camping in the Glebe and burning the grass, putting their BBQ in the woods still lit and refusing to move for police. *(Post Meeting Note: Councillors please note that this is a serious fire hazard in a wooded area that extends to Toll House, and which can become very dry at times throughout the year)*

g. BBQ's being left next to wooded areas and still burning next to bins. I and my partner had to go and put out these out on more than one occasion.

h. People removing the barriers on the road closer and parking over the only fire hydrant at the north side of Park Bridge.

i. Our lovely wildflowers on the verges are being damaged as people are parking over them.

j. The road is being torn up with people turning at unsafe points. This will soon create potholes that we will have to deal with.

k. Fishermen are unable to access the fishing areas, which they pay a lot of money for, due to the volume of people.

l. Someone is going to end up being seriously hurt or killed down here if something is not done.

m. Large groups of teenagers are drinking and then getting in vehicles and driving home.

n. We have witnessed drug dealing outside our homes

- 24th June. Marion McNeil. Overnight staying on the Glebe is thought to be precluded under the terms of agreement the Church of Scotland (owner) has with Aberdeenshire Council.

#### Meeting Discussion

- Lynn Coull reported that she had seen lots of people at the Glebe. It appears that a lot of people have discovered the Glebe and nearby area, and it may continue attracting more people.
- Cllr Sarah Dickinson contacted the Outdoor Access Officer who advises ASC on outdoor access. He advised that wild camping is legal at the Glebe. However, wild camping is defined as walking to the wild camping site. If driving to the camp site, it is not technically wild camping and is illegal.
- Campers must take their rubbish with them. It was noted that campers of two tents packed up their rubbish and left it by the council bins.
- Lynn Coull suggested erecting friendly signs requesting that visitors keep the place tidy. The ASC roads department will erect the sign, however the CDDCC will need to pay half and the

K&M Committee would then pay the other half. The CDDCC agreed to support this. **ACTION LYNN COULL.**

- Cllr Wendy Agnew agreed to take up the issue of anti-social behaviour with the Police and the bins with ASC. **ACTION CLLR WENDY AGNEW**
- Cllr Sarah Dickinson advised that road signage and markings on a country road such as the Park Bridge road, is not possible. **ACTION CLLR SARAH DICKINSON** to arrange meeting with the ASC Roads department to discuss what is possible. She advised that at the K&M meeting last week, the K&M Police Inspector was asked if the antisocial behaviour in the Glebe was coming through on his statistics. He advised that it was not demonstrated in the statistics. He advised that he had the capacity to respond to this antisocial behaviour. He also advised that he was not sure that campers can be stopped from camping on the Glebe, despite it being Church land.
- Bert, a local farmer, had advised that before the COVID-19 lockdown it was common to see about 8 cars parking on a normal day and about 12 on a nice day.
- Marion McNeil advised that the Church owned the land and was leasing it to ASC under a 20-25year lease. She explained that a complaint was made to her about camping on the Glebe. She also noted that campers with 2x6 people tents had arrived by car, not on foot. Anne Shearer advised that 3 cars were parked at the Glebe when only the campers were present.
- Peter Renwick advised that there is a lot more cycling on the Deeside Way bringing in more people to, and right past, the Glebe.
- Chris Charnley noted that with Park Bridge now closed, the two roads either side of the bridge provide significant parking capacity, which will attract more people.
- Cllr Ann Ross noted that lots of people were out and about due to the COVID-19 lockdown.
- **ACTION LYNN COULL:** Convey what has been discussed to the residents.

**Post Meeting Notes:** Refer to the Scottish Wild Camping code. <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all/camping>

## 5) TRANSPORT

- a) **Park Bridge** – (Lead: Anne Shearer)



**Messages received:** The Park Bridge Action Group's Mr Hugh Fraser wrote a detailed letter regarding its view on the ASC Engineers report.

#### Meeting Discussion

- A decision meeting was held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July that agreed the wording for a reply to Donald Macpherson with comments on the report he sent for review. Peter Renwick advised that the response would point out that the community responses to ASC and a CDDCC survey gave overwhelming support for the continued use of the bridge for light vehicles, and this is the option the CDDCC therefore supports.

**ACTION PETER RENWICK:** Email response to Donald Macpherson

- Anne Shearer made the following comments: Following the meeting with ASC in March when CDDCC requested a report on the condition of Park Bridge from ASC, a report was issued by it on 5th June. She felt that this report did not adequately address the engineering issues with the bridge, specifically its condition and instead attributed closure to its design. She believes that the condition of the bridge is the issue as it has carried traffic for decades without problems and she considers that there is a policy of not carrying out maintenance on bridges on U and C class roads within ASC, which has led to the deterioration of Park Bridge. Meanwhile, Park Bridge Action Group submitted a letter to ASC requesting that work was carried out to determine the condition of Park Bridge. This was to determine the need for closure and the extent of work required to re-instate the bridge and the letter included a detailed scope of the work required. ASC has written back saying that there is no funding available and the scope referred to will not be carried out by ASC although it would take notice of a report should the scope be carried out by an independent qualified organisation. Park Bridge Action Group is reluctant to raise funding for this as there is no guarantee of ASC re-opening the bridge.

The minutes from the meeting held between ASC and the CDDCC in March to discuss the closure of Park Bridge are provided in Attachment 1 for reference.

#### **b) Stagecoach Bus**

- 25<sup>th</sup> June: Madelyne Simpson, ASC Transport Officer. Revised Stagecoach bus timetable.

## **6) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **a. LDP**

#### **Messages Received:**

- Email 25<sup>th</sup> June from ASC Policy Team. Aberdeenshire LDP 2021 is on the internet from 25th May for 10 weeks (previously 8) ending now on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- Email trail 11-14th June, Anne Shearer, Alison Hogg-ASC Policy Planner, Cllr Sarah Dickinson: Industrial Facilities and LDP.

#### **Meeting Discussion**

Clarification that the on-line maps covers the whole area had been received after discussion on concerns that LDP does not include some significant developments.

Hugh Craigie, CHAP MD, advised in the IBA consultation meeting, on the morning of 8th July, that CHAP intends to appeal the decision made to exclude the proposed CHAP development of the 1,500 house Kilcluny Village, as part of the LDP consultation.

This was discussed and John Agnew advised that the LDP has not yet been formalised and therefore cannot be appealed. CHAP's proposal was 'not preferred'. CHAP could now put in a submission for a finalised plan. The Reporter will review unresolved applications and will establish if it will be included in the final LDP. CHAP could then appeal on a point of law if this review was not in its favour.

Lynn Coull had a phone call with Alison Hogg, ASC Policy Planner, who advised that the LDP would be delayed by around 6 months if changes were made to it. So ASC would work to prevent delays.

**ACTION PETER RENWICK:** Submit an official LDP response supporting ASC's position for giving this 'not preferred' status and that it must continue to be rejected. The Reporter will see this and take account of it. AND write a letter to the planning department reiterating the CDDCC objection to it and supporting the Planning Department's decision to reject it.



- David Morrish has submitted the LDP submissions for Crathes. **ACTION MARK ANSELL AND ANNE SHEARER:** Complete and submit the LDP submissions for Durris and Drumoak respectively promptly.

## b. Planning Applications:

- K&M Weekly List 29<sup>th</sup> June: Monthamock, Durris. Formation of Access Track & Erection of Fence & Gate (retrospective)

Ref Number	Site Address/Applicant Name	Proposal Location Grid Reference	Case Officer (if applicable)
APP/2020/1148	Site Address: Site At Monthamock, Durris, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6JB Date Validated 22 June 2020 Applicant: Mr Sandy Brown c/o A B Roger & Young Ltd, 9 Macgregor Street, Brechin, Angus, DD9 6AB	Full Planning Permission for Formation of Access Track and Erection of Fence and Gate (Retrospective) E:379331 N.794754	Jenny Ash
Ward	Community Council	Public Comment Expiry Date	
W18 - Stonehaven And Lower Deeside	18 - Crathes, Drumoak & Durris	23 July 2020	

CDDCC has no objection

- K&M Weekly List 29<sup>th</sup> June: 4 Woodlands Park, Durris. Prior approval for erection of Agricultural Building in relation to prior notification.

Ref Number	Site Address/Applicant Name	Proposal Location Grid Reference	Case Officer (if applicable)
APP/2020/1191	Site Address: Meadowside, 4 Woodlands Park, Durris, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6BF Date Validated 22 June 2020 Applicant: Mr Aaron Ellington c/o Andrew Keir Chartered Architect, Bloomfield, Finzean, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6LY	Prior Approval for Prior Approval for Erection of Agricultural Building in Relation to Prior Notification Reference APP/2020/1035 E:379414 N.795878	Jan Regulski
Ward	Community Council	Public Comment Expiry Date	
W18 - Stonehaven And Lower Deeside	18 - Crathes, Drumoak & Durris	Not applicable for this type of application.	

12x18m steel shed

CDDCC has no objection

- K&M Weekly List 22nd June: Land North of Hillview, Crathes: Full Planning Permission for Erection of Dwelling house and Installation of Air Source Heat Pump and Erection of Garage

Ref Number	Site Address/Applicant Name	Proposal Location Grid Reference	Case Officer (if applicable)
APP/2020/1118	Site Address: Land To North Of, Hillview, Crathes, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6DJ Date Validated 16 June 2020 Applicant: Mr Robert Clark c/o Gary Black, Inspired Design & Development Ltd, 27 Evan Street, Stonehaven, AB39 2EQ	Full Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Installation of Air Source Heat Pump and Erection of Garage E:375092 N.795465	Louise Smith
Ward	Community Council	Public Comment Expiry Date	
W18 - Stonehaven And Lower Deeside	18 - Crathes, Drumoak & Durris	16 July 2020	

CDDCC has no objection

- K&M Weekly List 22nd June: 6 Lochton Cottages, Durris. Full Planning Permission for Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse

Ref Number	Site Address/Applicant Name	Proposal Location Grid Reference	Case Officer (if applicable)
APP/2020/1128	Site Address: 6 Lochton Cottages, Durris, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6DJ Date Validated 18 June 2020 Applicant: Mr Jeff Rowe c/o Katrina Denholm Architect, 8 Scotsmill Avenue, Blackburn, Aberdeen, AB21 0HR	Full Planning Permission for Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse E:375914 N.792457	Stephanie McMillan
Ward	Community Council	Public Comment Expiry Date	
W18 - Stonehaven And Lower Deeside	18 - Crathes, Drumoak & Durris	9 July 2020	

CDDCC has no objection

- K&M Weekly List 6th July: West Balbridie, Crathes. Full planning permission for erection of

## Garage.

Ref Number	Site Address/Applicant Name	Proposal Location Grid Reference	Case Officer (if applicable)
APP/2020/1211	Site Address: West Balbridie, Crathes, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6JB Date Validated 2 July 2020 Applicant: Mrs Joanna Prystupa c/o MAC Architects, 24 Oldmeldrum Road, Newmachar, AB21 0PJ	Full Planning Permission for Erection of Garage E:374869 N.795652	Louise Smith
Ward	Community Council	Public Comment Expiry Date	
W18 - Stonehaven And Lower Deeside	18 - Crathes, Drumoak & Durris	22 July 2020	

CDDCC has no objection

## c. Chap Park Quarry Planning Liaison Process Messages Received:

- Email 1<sup>st</sup> July. From David Morrish to Cllr Robertson regarding follow-up of lack of Planning Department enforcement of planning conditions associated with Park Quarry.
- Email from Aude Chaiban, ASC Planner: Amendment of MOM from meeting with CDDCC and Chap.

## Meeting Discussion:

David Morrish advised that the CDDCC has now agreed that it will issue a complaint to ASC about its Planning Departments' failure to meet its responsibilities in respect of the original Park Quarry planning consent. For example, the Planning Department has not planned a further liaison meeting between CHAP, the CDDCC and itself, as the ASC Planners have said they will not attend.

Sarah Dickinson advised that this complaint, which is about the service ASC provides, should be addressed to the ASC Feedback service.

David Morrish advised that he plans to phone Hugh Craigie, CHAP MD, to arrange a site meeting to go review and clarify the reinstatement plan and what has been achieved to date. If this is not satisfactory, a complaint will be made about the level of reinstatement progress.

Sarah Dickinson advised that this complaint should be made to the ASC Planning Service using the central complaint function.

**ACTION CLLR SARAH DICKINSON** to send a link.

**ACTION DAVID MORRISH /PETER RENWICK** to follow up on above.

All CDDCC members gave their support to submit the above complaints.



**d. Planning Procedures and COVID-19**

Email-16<sup>th</sup> June from Alison Mcleod, Marr Area Committee Officer: Issue of Planning Procedural changes relating to COVID-19.

**7) INCINERATOR BOTTOMS ASH (IBA) PROCESSING PLANT – (Lead: Anne Shearer)**

**Messages Received:**

- Email from/to Daniel Verhamme, Aberdeen South rep. for Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Greens. Request for contact of local group against IBA.
- Email 1<sup>st</sup> July from Sarah Graham, HFM. IBA consultation Zoom Conference Call planned for 1030hrs Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> July.
- Email 19<sup>th</sup> June. Peter Renwick feedback on Zoom call with HFM with respect to environmental toxicity of the process for storing IBA at Park.
- Emails 11<sup>th</sup> June. Paul Williamson, ASC, Senior Planner. HFM-IBA consultation process
- Email 10<sup>th</sup> June. Residents objection to IBA plant

**Meeting Discussion:**

HFM, the developer RockSolid's consultation consultant ran an online consultation a few weeks back. 18-20 residents had participated. It was. However, a poor show and gave little time to the residents to express their view collectively, or with the support of the CDDCC. The residents had only been given 30minutes. There was a similar issue with Aberdeen City.

There was a special consultation meeting with HFM Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 1030 to 1200hrs, which was a fairly robust discussion. The CDDCC had presented a list of 39 questions to HFM, RockSolid's consultation consultant, the previous week, and had received written responses back prior to the meeting. This gave the meeting the opportunity to focus on important areas of concern. A separate minute to the special consultation meeting is being prepared and will be published by the CDDCC. Concerns were recognised by Mark Wetherall, RockSolid's Operation's Manager. He acknowledged the sensitivity of what is an Integrated Industrial Development between RockSolid and CHAP, as they are dependent upon each other.

- CHAP was represented by its MD Hugh Craigie, who acknowledged that CHAP needed planning consent for continuation of the concrete plant to support the IBAA plant justification at Park Quarry.

The collective view of the CDDCC so far is that the consultation process has been inadequate.

Cllr Sarah Dickinson advised that ASC had given feedback to HFM and had not approved the process. The CDDCC needs to express its unhappiness with the consultation process in its response.

**ACTION: PETER RENWICK:** Follow-up with a note to ASC now and again in the response.

**8) ENVIRONMENT / GREEN TOPICS**

**Messages Received:**

- Email 1<sup>st</sup> July. Ailsa Cunningham, ASC Landscape Services Officer – Marr. Bedding plants available.
- Email 19<sup>th</sup> June. Mark Gracey, K&M Community Waste Officer: Location proposed for Glass recycling bins near Durris Kirkton Hall.

**Meeting Discussion**

Joyce Scott advised that specific location proposed for the glass recycling collection points is not acceptable. **ACTION JOYCE SCOTT:** to arrange meeting with Mark Gracey and the Hall Committee to agree the best location.

**9) HEALTH**

**Messages Received:**

- Email 10<sup>th</sup> June. Lesley Robertson, ASC Community Planning Officer: K&M Mental Health & Wellbeing E Bulletin #2 June Focus on support for families and young people.

Worth a look if you have children or know those in the community that have children, or their parents/guardian, who may need help.

**10) FINANCE**

**Messages Received:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Email from Emma Story: K&M Committee Officer. News Release for ASC Mid Term Financial Strategy. Budget shortfall could reach £30m by end of financial year, with a potential shortfall of up to £60m by March 2022. The mid-term financial strategy will be recast and a new budget will be set for the period up to March 2022.

**Meeting Discussion:**

- Cllr Sarah Dickinson noted that ASC was under tremendous budgetary pressure and that the shortfall given in the statement and recorded above is a serious money for ASC and there will be great



difficulty managing spending. She explained that serious funding cuts hitting expenditure and services should be expected.

- Cllr Anne Ross agreed with Cllr Sarah Dickinson and added that everything was under review.
- Cllr Wendy Agnew agreed with Cllr Anne Ross. She added that every service is under review. She also pointed out that the way ASC has done things in the past is not the way they will be done in the future. A lot of changes are on the way.
- Drumoak and Durris Community Group requested £106 for a COVID-19 leaflet drop. David Renwick recommended this be paid and was approved by the members.
- Peter Renwick proposed writing a letter to the NTS to encourage it to keep the ranger service, and to note that the CDDCC has access to funding for specific projects that this service could draw upon. All members agreed. **ACTION PETER RENWICK.**

11) The current bank account total is £5,074. The annual grant was received.

## 12) POLICE REPORTS

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## 13) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The previous minutes were approved by David Morrish and seconded by Mark Ansell.

### Outstanding Actions from the Previous Minutes:

- none

## 14) AOB

- Future Meeting Dates
  - **NEXT MEETING: 1930HRS ON WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST BY SKYPE VIDEO CONFERENCE**
  - September, Thu. 10<sup>th</sup>: Crathes Hall
  - October, Wed. 14<sup>th</sup>: Drumoak School
  - November, Wed. 11<sup>th</sup>: Durris Kirkton Hall
  - December, Wed. 9<sup>th</sup>: Crathes Hall

- Mark Ansell suggested a paid CDDCC Secretary should be recruited. This would be permitted under the CDDCC constitution and could be combined with the role of Treasurer. See Attachment 2 for a copy of the relevant section of the Constitution. **ACTION EVERYONE:** Does anybody know anyone suitable (a person with professional skills who could perform this role with a minimum of guidance from the Chair. Expect to attend each CDDCC meeting with an additional 4 to 6 days a month in preparation, minute writing and research)

- The meeting closed at 21.20hrs

### MOM DISTRIBUTION:

#### By email

- CDDCC Website: Peter Renwick
- CDDCC Members: email
- Councillors: email
- Police Liaison – Marr (Banchory): email 'BanchoryMidDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk'
- Police Liaison – K&M (Stonehaven): email to Donna Kelly
- Area Committee – Marr: email to Alison McLeod – Committee Officer Marr
- Area Committee – K&M: email to Emma Storey – Committee Officer K&M
- KDP Liaison: email to Marion McNeil
- DDCG Website: Anne Shearer

#### Hard Copy: -

- Crathes Hall – Notice Board: Chris Charnley: CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19
- Durris Kirkton Hall – Notice Board: Mark Ansell: CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19
- Drumoak Church Hall – Notice Board: via Marion McNeil: CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19
- Drumoak Post Office: Notice Board: via Marion McNeil
- Drumoak – Park Shop: ??
- Banchory Library – Author: CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

**Attachment 1: Minutes of Meeting held with the ASC Bridges Department March 2020 to Establish the Reason for the Closure of Park Bridge**

Next page.....



**Crathes Drumoak and Durris Community Council and Aberdeenshire Council (ASC)**

**Park Bridge Meeting**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 – ASC Office Viewmount, Stonehaven**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1) Attendees**

**Present:**

- Bruce Stewart – ASC Area Manager - Kincardine and Mearns
- Donald MacPherson – ASC Bridges and Structures Manager
- Gillian Cunningham – ASC Principal Engineer – Structures
- Peter Renwick – CDDCC Chair
- Chris Charnley – CDDCC Secretary
- Lynn Coull – CDDCC Member

**2) Park Bridge Consultation Responses**

The Park Bridge Public Consultation was held in November 2019. Donald stated that 85% of the responses were in favour of a utilitarian crossing (vehicular access), and 15% in favour of a new bridge. He said that the 'A' listed issue was not mentioned, however he said that no questions were specifically asked about this in the questionnaire. Lynn stated that many residents did recognise the aesthetic nature and value of the bridge as important, but we generally agreed that the bridge functionality – vehicular access - was the primary concern and requirement for residents. A new bridge is considered too expensive.

**3) A-Listed Status**

Donald stated that ASC is committed to maintain the historical and aesthetic aspects of the bridge as required by Historic Environment Scotland to satisfy its A listing.

**4) Risk**

Donald then moved on to talk about risk. He stated that the primary risks were the issues related to it being an old cast iron bridge, and that his department's conclusion is that it has come to the end of its functional life in its present service. Continued operation with the live loads of vehicular service would put users at risk, as failure could be quick. He and Gillian referenced other cast iron bridges and asserted that Park Bridge was only one, of two or so, similar bridges remaining in normal service in the UK, the others having been reduced to non-vehicular service or closed. Donald said that his team had the expertise to understand the issues around cast iron and structural analysis, and as such, there was no need to appoint additional metallurgy/corrosion or structural specialists.

**5) Expert Resources**

He advised that study work to perform analysis to evaluate the bridge strength would involve cost that they were not willing to spend on a bridge of its age and ranking amongst Aberdeenshire bridges. Chris agreed that the uncertainties of modelling the bridge would reduce the accuracy of the result. The uncertainties discussed included:

- the cast quality during manufacture, such as inclusions and fatigue tolerance
- the known loading profile over life – Donald stated that shaking of the bridge substructure at times during vehicle crossing had been observed
- the state of the cast iron under the paint – corrosion and other defects have been ground out and filled over time
- the state of the joints



## 6) Conclusion

In conclusion Donald stated that the bridge was closed to vehicles as the wooden deck, in its current state, was unsafe for vehicular access. He said that, whilst this would be replaced for pedestrian and cycling service, the bridge would not be reopened for vehicular access as it was considered that the bridge has come to the end of its useful life carrying live vehicular loads.

## 7) Park Bridge Closure Justification Report

Chris stated that the reason given for closing the bridge to vehicles was not evident in the consultation or subsequent communications with the council and requested that a 'Park Bridge Closure Justification Report' be prepared and circulated. Donald agreed to produce this based upon his departments evaluation of the historical precedence related to the closure of other cast iron bridges in the UK. Whilst analytical data maybe sparse for this review, it was agreed that a qualitative approach, supported by quantifiable data, where available and, stating the concerns etc., should be adequate. Chris requested that the report be independently peer reviewed by engineers with cast iron bridge expertise. Donald agreed to ensure this was done. He noted that it would take time to compile the information and produce the report, and therefore inclusion of the Park Bridge Closure decision in the K&M Area Committee meeting planned for March would be postponed to a later date.

## 8) Community Impact Mitigation

Donald and Bruce stated that actions could be put in place to mitigate the loss of the bridge amenity to the communities affected. The CDDCC was very much in favour of this, and it was agreed that a consultation with Durris and Drumoak residents to collect ideas would be required. Lynn noted that one Durris family had already moved out of the area due to the increased journey time to Drumoak school, where an after school club is offered. It was suggested that a pre and after school club for Durris school maybe welcomed by residents. Donald suggest a doorstep bus service.

End

## Post Meeting Note

This post meeting note results from a telephone call between Chris Charnley and Donald MacPherson on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Chris enquired what plan will now be put in place to progress the decision on the future of Park Bridge. The following plan outline, was discussed:

1. The ASC Bridges and Structures department will complete a Park Bridge Decision Note, which will be kept live until the final decision on the bridge's future is confirmed. (It was agreed that this would meet the requirements stated above under item 7) Park Bridge Closure Justification Report)
2. Donald advised that funding would have to be approved for the plan to maintain long term pedestrian and cyclist access to the bridge, with regard particularly to the replacement of the wooden deck. Donald advised that the funding would have to be identified and agreed internally and that it was not certain that this would be approved.
3. Ongoing plan to achieve funding approval:
  - a. The plan (which has a level of uncertainty, and for which some of the activities are concurrent) is as follows:
    - i. Complete and agree the Park Bridge Decision Note, with recognition that it will remain 'in progress' until funding is approved
    - ii. Obtain approval for funding from Historic Environment Scotland (HES).
      1. ASC Bridges Department has a site meeting with HES next week, and 'Approval in Principle' can be given quite quickly, say 1 week.
      2. The full process typically takes 3 – 6 months for firm HES funding approval.
  - b. A bridge inspection will be made in September 2020 to ascertain if the traffic limitation would be extended to continue the vehicle ban, whilst maintaining pedestrians and cyclist access. This would be 18 months from the initial closure notice in March 2019.
  - c. An ASC funding decision would not be approved by September 2020, as the funding process would take longer. The funding request would need to be made to the ASC Capital Plan Group and would require approval of a full council meeting. The funds would then be available typically 12 months from the date the full council approval.



## 6. OFFICERS OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### 6.1.

- a. The Community Council, at its first meeting after the initial and subsequent elections, shall elect one of its members to be Chairperson and may elect one of its members to be Vice-

Chairperson. The Chairman may serve two continuous terms only, and must stand down for at least one term thereafter.

- b. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall continue in office until their respective successors are elected.
- c. The Community Council shall appoint and shall have power to dismiss a **Secretary** and a Treasurer whether or not from among its Community Councillors. The offices of **Secretary** and Treasurer, but no other office-bearers may be combined.
- d. The office of Chairperson shall not be combined with any other nor shall one person hold more than two positions.
- e. The Community Council or Community Councillors of the Community Council appointed as **Secretary** or Treasurer or **Secretary/Treasurer** shall not be entitled to remuneration but the Community Council may, at its discretion, award honoraria to such Community Councillors together with expenses actually incurred and supported by receipts or vouchers. The Community Council may pay appropriate remuneration to a **Secretary** and Treasurer or **Secretary/Treasurer** appointed out with its own membership.
- f. The Community Council shall appoint a representative(s) to the local forum or equivalent who shall be entitled to vote in respect of any matters raised at a meeting of the forum or equivalent. Area based forums will facilitate engagement on local community planning issues.

