

MONDAY 9 January 2012

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in the Town Hall Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick, at 7.00pm

Members

Mr J Anderson
Mr S McMillan
Mr S Hay
Mr D Ristori
Mr W Spence

Miss K Fraser **left 7.40pm**
Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Henry
Mr E Knight
Mr L Angus

Ex-Officio Councillors

None Present

In Attendance

PS B Gray, Northern Constabulary
Mrs Gill Hession, Manager, CADSS
Mrs K Semple, Clerk to the Council

Chairman

Mr J Anderson, Chairman to the Council presided.

12/01/01

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

12/01/02

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Miller, Cllr J Henry, Cllr C Smith and Cllr A Wishart.

12/01/03

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2011 were approved by Mr L Angus and seconded by Mr E Knight.

12/01/04

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr M Peterson asked if it could be ensured that in the minutes, the lists of Community Council members, co-opted members and ex-officio members were kept separate.

11/12/06 – Feasibility Report-Proposed New Anderson High School

Mr L Angus hoped that there would be no further obstacles but advised that it would be politic for Lerwick Community Council to maintain vigilance.

11/12/07 Item 7.5 – Forthcoming By-Election

Mrs A Simpson asked if, when the vacant seats for Lerwick Community Council were advertised, consideration could be given to encourage younger people to take an interest.

The Clerk advised that she had received an email from Mrs A Cogle, SIC that day which stated that vacant positions would be advertised in the Shetland Times that Friday and a press release that same day. Details were also to be put on the SIC intranet and forms available on the internet.

Mrs A Simpson suggested SIBC may be the best place to advertise in order to reach out to youths.

The Chairman agreed and also suggested that a Notice of By-Election could be given to SYIS to display.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/01/05

Police Report

PS B Gray provided the following crime analysis for November 2011 compared with that of the same time last year.

Class 1 - Crimes against the person – Down from 22 to 17, of which 15 were detected
Class 2 - Crimes involving indecency – Up from 10 to 22, with 17 detections
Class 3 - Crimes of dishonesty – Down from 281 to 159, with 100 detections
Class 4 – Crimes of vandalism – Remained the same at 124, of which 56 were detected
Class 5 - General crimes – Down from 109 to 71, all detected
Class 6 - Miscellaneous crimes – Up from 252 to 381, with 347 detections
Class 7 - Traffic offences – Down from 398 to 296, with 285 detections

PS B Gray stated that traffic offences had taken a big drop. If less were reported it gave the force more time to concentrate class 6 and 7 crimes.

Mr W Spence enquired how effective CCTV was and if there would be any possibility of seeing it in action.

PS B Gray advised that it had proved to be very effective. The cameras had the ability to zoom in on any problem, both current and retrospective.

He suggested that should Lerwick Community Council wish to see CCTV in action they contact Sergeant Jason Beeston, Community Safety, Northern Constabulary with the request.

Mr D Ristori asked how the investigation was progressing with regard to the recent shop break-ins.

PS B Gray replied that they had positive results. Someone had been reported and would be up in court.

He stated that it was unlikely to pick up a break-in on CCTV as for the most part break-ins took place round the back of a property. However film footage could still be studied to see if anyone appeared to be acting suspicious around the time of the break-in.

PS B Gray reiterated that CCTV was a benefit, an extra pair of eyes and 'all positive, nothing in the negative'.

Mr D Ristori asked if it would be possible to extend CCTV coverage to include from C&J's to the Marlex.

PS B Gray responded that it would only be a good thing and a benefit.

Mr S Hay, a Lane's resident, raised concern that one consequence was that the Lane's became more attractive to revellers.

PS B Gray thought that the Lane's had always held an attraction to revellers. He assured Mr S Hay that when patrolling the street, Officers would always look up the Lane's and investigate further if they saw anything.

He asked Mr Hay to encourage his neighbours to call the Police if they had any concerns and added that he tried to get as much Police patrolling the street as possible.

The Chairman asked if any prosecutions could be directly attributed to the use of CCTV.

PS B Gray replied in the affirmative. He furthered that a crime caught on camera could not be argued with and it could be used for prosecution.

The Chairman asked if it would be suitable to incorporate the use of a mobile CCTV camera into the system.

PS B Gray responded that it was Sergeant Jason Beeston who knew more of the technicalities of the system and could give a more accurate response.

The Chairman stated that he was pleased to note a new Traffic Warden had been employed.

PS B Gray advised that the new Traffic Warden, an ex Police Officer, was settling in well. He had a good knowledge of legislation and would shortly be undertaking some training.

The presentation concluded at 7.25 but PS B Gray remained at the meeting to listen to the following presentation by Mrs G Hession, CADSS.

12/01/06

Alcohol & Drugs Services in Shetland – Mrs Gill Hession, Manager, CADSS

Mrs G Hession stated that in 2010/11 CADSS worked with over 2,100 individuals. Of that figure 249 were entrenched problematic drug and/or alcohol users and 91 individuals were family members affected by parents, siblings or a child's drug and alcohol use.

The focus was much more on drugs like Heroin and alcohol, a gateway to harder drugs.

1,200 of these individuals were under 18 and made contact or were contacted via schools, youth clubs or satellite services such as SYIS, Focussed Futures or Bridges Project.

The rest were contacted at awareness raising events including education and community events, or one off support sessions.

23,400 contacts were made with these 2,100 individuals.

Mrs G Hession advised that by far the largest majority of problem drug use was in the Lerwick, Bressay and Gulberwick area.

Alcohol remained to be the most misused substance, much the same as in 2009/10, but there was a rise in problem Cocaine use.

Of the 185 problem drinkers, 65 also reported Heroin use. Alcohol continues to be the main 'gateway drug' into problem drug use, for all ages.

Mrs G Hession stated that it was not all bad news. It appeared that statistics showed a clear increase in the percentage of Shetland S5 Pupils who reported that they had not consumed alcohol in the seven days prior to interview.

The bad news was that S5 pupils who had been drinking in the seven days prior to interview had drunk heavily.

Ms G Hession affirmed that early drug use could be directly correlated with early alcohol use.

She stated that in 2009/10 48 of 76 substance abusers, aged 24 or under were using Heroin and other drugs, with a high proportion injecting.

In 2010/2011 33 of 76 substance abusers were using Heroin, a big drop compared to the previous year.

In 2008/09 50% of all new drug users presenting to CADSS for help were under the age of 25. This had fallen to 39% In 2009/10 and by 2010/11 only 29% of new clients were under 25.

In 2010/11, for the first time in 4 years, no one under the age of 18 presented to CADSS for help around their use of Heroin.

Mrs G Hession stated that they would have to wait and see whether the trend continued but it did appear that young people were possibly using Cannabis instead.

She complimented the Police on doing a good job.

Mrs G Hession advised that 87 new problem drug users spent £1,760,000 between them on illegal drugs, mainly heroin. 105 new problem drinkers spent £343,315 on their alcohol consumption. The total amount new and existing problem drug users spent in a year was, therefore, around £4-5,000,000.

Considering that there are assumed to be as many again problem drug users in Shetland who are not using CADSS services, it can be concluded that approximately £9-10,000,000 is being spent on legal and illegal drugs used and misused in Shetland annually.

She advised that the figures were not 'plucked out of the air' but put together after sitting down and speaking to drug abusers.

Mrs G Hession stated that the amount of money spent on alcohol compared to drugs showed how cheap alcohol was in comparison but it still destroyed people and their families.

She again stated the clear correlation between alcohol and drugs and affirmed that if alcohol abuse went down so would drug abuse.

Ms K Fraser left the meeting – 7.40pm

Mr M Peterson noted that the figures given meant that the problem drug users spent an average of £19,000 each and the problem alcohol users £3,200 each.

Mrs G Hession advised that some users spent much more, 'that was what they spent their money on'.

The Chairman stated that it was 'impressive' that the problem drug users appeared to have so much disposable income.

Mrs G Hession replied that some have money and others don't, they acquire it.

Mr S MacMillan enquired where the drugs were coming in.

PS B Gray stated that drug users could think of a thousand ways to bring drugs into Shetland. Trying to stop it was like trying to swim up a waterfall.

He stated the Police were having a big push on intelligence and were keen to work together with the public.

Mr M Peterson asked, if possession of drugs is illegal, why users were not targeted more.

He thought that if the Police had spare time they should deal with drug users rather than traffic problems and stopping cars.

PS B Gray responded that drug users were targeted on every level, possession and supply. He stated it was not feasible to put every resource on drug seizures and not traffic.

He pointed out that Traffic, Northern Constabulary, were responsible for more drug seizures than any other department.

Mr M Peterson asked how many search warrants were issued each year.

PS B Gray replied that he did not have that information to hand but advised that a great deal of information was required before a search warrant could be issued.

Mr M Peterson stated that he was aware the Sheriff took a hard stance on drugs issues.

PS B Gray agreed that was the case and again spoke of the importance of community assistance, intelligence and the need for the community and Police to work together.

Mr E Knight advised that to him, organisations hoping to combat drug use, with knowledge of people using drugs, were 'aiding and abetting'.

PS B Gray stated that not every drug user was bad, a lot of people needed help and some were glad when raided. He would rather see someone get assistance from Ms G Hession rather than progress onto Crack Cocaine.

Ms G Hession added that recent gossip had led some to believe that CADSS were informers and this had led to a dramatic downturn in those seeking assistance.

Mr L Angus stated that he was aware that there was a significant subculture of drug abusers. Cannabis seemed to be getting stronger and more attractive to some users. Although schools tried to educate pupils it was difficult to get the message across, it had to be credible.

He agreed that the community had to be vigilant and help where they could.

Ms G Hession advised that people in Shetland were in a good position to see if education worked as it was so small.

Mr S Hay agreed with Mr L Angus' reflections.

With respect to recent and future financial cutbacks he sounded a word of caution. If recreational facilities for youngsters were lost or cutback his concern was that the drug problem could be exacerbated.

The presentation concluded at 7.55pm and both Ms G Hession and PS B Gray left the meeting.

12/01/07 **Lerwick Community Council Constitution – Section 8 Amendment – Paragraph 8.3**
Noted

12/01/08 **Correspondence**

8.1 Town Centre Parking Issues – PS Bruce Gray, Northern Constabulary, Lerwick
Mrs A Simpson hoped that the Traffic Warden would make a difference.

She agreed that some of the road markings and signage could be confusing and asked what could be done about it.

Mr A Henry suggested that Roads, SIC, could be asked to re-do the road markings where needed.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure, SIC with regard to the issue.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

8.2 Church Road Play Area 'Rocket' – Mr M Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC
Noted

8.3 Street Lighting Disrepair – Mr P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services, SIC
Noted

12/01/09 **Financial Report**

Noted

12/01/10 **Planning Applications**

10.1 2011/359/PPF – Erect detached dwellinghouse & garage, Sands of Sound – Mr M Anderson

Mr L Angus stated he had no objections provided the application stayed within restrictions for outlying planning permission.

No objections
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.2 2011/371/PPF – Erect new observatory & demolish existing on completion – Met Office

No objections.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.3 2011/378/PPF – Attachment of air condition units – Santander

No objections.
(Action: Clerk of the Council)

10.4 2011/379/LBC – Attach & install air condition units - Santander

No objections.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

12/01/11

Lerwick Applications December 2011

Noted

12/01/12

Any Other Business

Main Access Road – Anderson High School

Mr D Ristori enquired if it would be possible to widen the road at the Lovers Loan access to the Anderson High School in order to allow buses greater ease of turning.

The Chairman thought that there should be no problem if drivers were prohibited from parking their vehicles too close to the area.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mrs Valerie Nicolson, Head Teacher, Anderson High School and enquire if she was aware of any concern regarding access and egress problems.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Poor Drainage – Commercial Road

Mr D Ristori noted that the drainage could be quite poor on the road between Home Furnishings and JJ Taylor's.

The Chairman suggested that it might be a reinstatement problem.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Infrastructure Services, SIC.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Scottish Co-operative

Mr D Ristori advised that he had heard a rumour that the café in the Co-op was to close and the floor space given up to a clothing retailer.

Moray Council – Council Meeting Web Broadcasts

Mrs A Simpson advised that Moray Council recorded their meetings which were uploaded on their website could later be viewed by members of the public.

She added that the camera always focused on the speaker.

The Chairman thought the idea was very interesting and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr A Buchan, Chief Executive, SIC, with the suggestion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Christmas Lights

Mrs A Simpson enquired who was responsible for the Christmas lights.

There was uncertainty as to whether the Christmas lighting belonged to Shetland Islands Council or Lerwick Town Centre Association.

She suggested that they would benefit being updated and thought that now would be the time to look into the prospect.

Mrs A Simpson also suggested that 'more of an occasion' could be made when it came to the switching on of the Christmas lighting.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr H Jamieson, Chairman, Lerwick Town Centre Association and Neil Robertson, Roads, SIC with regard to the suggestion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Grit Bins

Mr S MacMillan enquired if a response had been received with regard to his request for grit bins at Sandwell and Tarland.

The Clerk advised that a response had been received that day. Mr D Coupe, Executive Manager, Infrastructure, SIC agreed to provide the bins as requested.

Dog Fouling

Mr L Angus asked for a public plea to dog owners to clear up their dogs mess.

He noted that the Knab and the Street were particularly bad.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Sands of Sound Access Road

Mr L Angus raised concern at the poor condition of the Sands of Sound road.

He thought that surface drainage was clearly a problem and was concerned that given the proposed new builds in the area the road would be more frequently used. In the recent past Lerwick Community Council had assisted in covering the costs of maintaining the road and he did not think that this should continue.

The Chairman advised that he would speak to the road owners and discuss the situation with them.

(Action: Chairman)

Bench Request

Mr E Knight suggested that it would be appreciated by walkers if benches could be placed on the Cunningham Way.

The Chairman agreed and asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr M Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer, SIC, with the suggestion.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Trebister Ness Walk

Mr E Knight noted that the walk around Trebister Ness was a beautiful one, but hard going. He mused that it would benefit from being made easier to walk on.

The Chairman advised that the Amenity Trust looked after walkways.

Mr E Knight advised that he would raise the suggestion at the next Amenity Trust meeting.

(Action: Mr E Knight)

Relief Ferry Costs

Mr E Knight expressed concern that the Scottish Government was expecting Shetland Islands Council to pay towards the costs of a relief ferry during the dry-docking period.

Members unanimously agreed that it was a lifeline service that Shetland should not have to bail out.

The Chairman asked the Clerk of the Council to write to the Convener and state that Lerwick Community Council deplores the idea of Shetland Islands Council paying any cost towards a relief ferry for what is a lifeline service to the islands.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

By-election

The Chairman introduced Amanda Westlake, who had been observing the meeting, and advised members that Amanda had expressed an interest in filling one of Lerwick Community Council's four vacant seats.

North Ness Parking

The Chairman raised concern that it appeared the new Council offices at North Ness was now expected to accommodate 250 members of staff, nearly twice more than the originally planned 130.

He reminded members that Lerwick Community Council had expressed concern that parking provision at North Ness was inadequate and had sought confirmation, in September 2009, that a minimum of 122 parking spaces would be provided for the proposed new SIC offices, which was then to accommodate 130 members of staff.

He questioned what parking provision would be made to accommodate the proposed substantial increase in Council staff.

He asked the Clerk of the Council to write to Mr R Sinclair, Executive Manager, Capital programmes, SIC.

(Action: Clerk of the Council)

Mr L Angus agreed that if the proposal to accommodate 250 staff members in the new Council offices went ahead, it would create serious parking issues.

He noted with regret that a former proposal to provide two-story parking provision in the area had been rejected due to costs.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Minute ends.

MR J ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman..... **Date**.....