

ARGUS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Our new Chair-person (PC) Joanne welcomed all those present and thanked Garry for presenting the Minutes. These were passed as correct and signed by Joanne.

TRAFFIC SURVEY

In the absence of Councillor Ellis, Garry read out excerpts of a letter from him in which he reported that he had met with Jeff Green of Angus Roads department on 1st November. Mr Green indicated that under the new guidelines on traffic speed it could be possible that the stretch of the B954 within what Angus Council refers to as "Auchterhouse Village" would be subject to a reduction of permitted speed. The Police would support such measures, and there is already speed recording installed on that stretch. A joint Traffic Co-ordination meeting is scheduled for 5 December in Forfar. Joanne is to find out whether it is open to a representative from the Community Council.

On the matter of extending 20 mph throughout the Kirkton from the stretch currently applied to the school, it was not possible to do this.

PLANNING MATTERS

Linda reported that there are three applications under consideration:

Braeside – alteration to plans for 2 of the new builds.

Braeside – outline consent for an additional house at No 1

Country Sports – erection of a bund. On checking with Auchterhouse Sports Ground management it was confirmed that it would be for increasing the height of the bund.

AUCHTERHOUSE WEBSITE

Bob reported that the website was now complete. It is accessible to anyone entering the URL (or website address) of www.auchterhouse.com.

As the new website is more flexible, Minutes and even 'one off' advertisements can be included.

ACTIVE

We apologise that the date of the FUNDRAISING event in the Hall was amended after the last issue was published.

CORE PATHS

A path from the old railway line to the south side of Dronley Wood has yet to be finished. This is now unlikely to be in Templeton farm at the boundary with Dronley farm. However, Euan Grewar of Dronley Farm is considering creating a path on his side of the boundary and also another from the field gate opposite the Dronley Wood car park, to run alongside the north edge of the field to the Old Railway line at North Dronley.

Garry will be discussing the use of the Old Railway line up to Burnhead with Hamish Brown, West Adamston, and the path from Sunnyblink to Bonnyton farm with Vicky Powell

Joanne will be finding out about funding for paths from Linda Caston.

SQUIRREL WATCH

Dronley Wood Survey

The autumn survey in Dronley Wood this year produced 39 sightings, all of red squirrels, which is wonderful for a wood of only 50 hectares.

Last year, at the same time, there were 28 sightings. It means we have a very healthy and active population of local red squirrels in Dronley and it is still a red squirrel haven. There are grey squirrel all round Auchterhouse and in all the nearby woods so why we don't see them in Dronley is a mystery but it's good news for the Dronley reds. The proposed felling of three areas of Dronley wood has now been shelved as our survey results have shown that the wood is such a good red squirrel habitat.

Two new surveyors joined us this time and we will be surveying again in February next year so if anyone else would like to join in, please get in touch.

In the meantime, would anyone seeing a grey squirrel in Dronley Wood, please let me, or one of the community woodland group, know. I'll be putting up a request poster at the gate to the wood as well. If the grey squirrels do begin to move in, we really want to know about it.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the surveys.

Linda Cockram

linda@lcockram.fsnet.co.uk tel; 01382 320254

POLICE MATTERS

Constable Gwen Loudon was unable to attend the meeting but sent a reminder that with the winter early darkness residents should make full use of timers to switch on lights and radios while the house is unoccupied.

Also the Safe as Houses scheme, whereby the crime prevention officer can call at your home to assess security, and make recommendations for improvements. Referral is sent to Angus Council and a joiner will supply and fit the necessary fitments, free of charge or for a donation.

The service is available to all, and anyone interested should phone Constable Loudon at 01370 302200.

LOCAL POST OFFICE

The Countryside Alliance has asked us to seek your support :- As you will know, rural services are the lifeblood of rural communities, especially in the more remote areas of the country. This is borne out by research which has shown that 91 % of people feel that Post

Offices play an important role in their communities. Facts like this are particularly poignant when set against the bleak reality of our times:

The Countryside Alliance is writing to you as active members of your local community. If you feel the same as we do about your local Post Office write urgently to Jim Fitzpatrick MP, the minister responsible for Post Offices, to let him know what your local Post Offices mean to you and what the loss would mean to your community. If Mr Fitzpatrick's postbag tells him how communities feel he will hopefully recognise the importance of this issue, and if every community in the countryside is displaying cards saying "love the Post Office, love the countryside", the message will be clearer still.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Children's Christmas Party

(Primary School ages)

To be held on Sunday 17th December

From 4pm to 6.30pm

Tickets £3 per child

DJ sponsored by the Community Council

Contact Joanne Elwin

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday

16th January 2007

At 7.30pm

In the Village Hall

All Welcome

Letters and comments to Bob Bruce
Inshriach, The Brae, DD3 0RE

Email; argus@auchterhouse.com