



## Minutes

7.00pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Townhill Community Centre

### In Attendance:-

#### Community Council

Chair Ronnie Cowan, Treasurer Niall Reid, Secretary Linda Cowan, Bill Hunter, Hazel Ferrier, Sharon Connon

<b>Nominated Members of TCC</b>	Karen Woodhouse – School / Parent Council Maria Smeaton – TCC Project Funding Representative
<b>Co-opted member</b>	Yvonne Haddow - Fundraising / Saturday Market
<b>Fife Councillors</b>	Councillor Gavin Ellis
<b>Guest Speaker</b>	Ruth McCabe (Fife Council) Dementia Friendly

### Townhill Residents

1. **Ronnie welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year**
2. **Apologies** Councillor Ian Ferguson, Councillor Helen Law, Vice Chair Adrian Turk , Community Police Officers Kirsty Kay & Davie Haffey
3. **Agree November minutes Agreed** Bill Hunter                      **Seconded** Niall Reid
4. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**
  - a) **Website – Update** – Ronnie Cowan  
Ronnie advised that all reports, presentations were also available for download on our community website along with all community information. The website is updated continuously whenever new information is received or changes occur. The Roads Update as sent out by Fife Council has now changed to include the whole of Fife so in future we will only upload information pertinent to this area rather than the whole report. The website has been updated with details of the new community council. Ronnie invited anyone who would like anything placed on the website to get in touch. [www.townhillcommunity.co.uk](http://www.townhillcommunity.co.uk)
  - b) **Facebook** –Niall Reid  
We have a Townhill Community Council Page Townhill Community Council - 1,374 Likes  
We have a Townhill Dunfermline Page for less formal matters - 1,109 Likes  
Since our “Townhill Dunfermline” was converted to a page and our friends to “likes” we don’t get the same information through, therefore we invite Townhill folk to post any relevant information on our pages or PM us either on the Townhill Dunfermline page, the Townhill Community Council page or the Townhill Mining Heritage Garden page.
  - c) **Twitter –Sharon Connon**  
We now have 367 followers and are following 339
  - d) **Dunfermline Press Community news** – Ronnie Cowan update  
Ronnie advised that the weekly report for the Dunfermline Press and Courier is written and submitted first thing on a Sunday morning and reminded everyone that if anyone has any news item or significant event etc. that they would like included in the report to send it to Ronnie by Saturday evening.

**e) Suggestion Box – Hazel Ferrier**

The suggestion box was empty.

**f) Community Police Report – Linda Cowan on behalf of Kirsty Kay / Davie Haffey**

Ronnie asked everyone to remember that in a community council meeting for legal reasons we cannot discuss or name specific individuals in connection with any issues or crimes or specify addresses at a public meeting, nor can a Community Council discuss this type of information on social media.

**g) Councillor Gavin Ellis updates**

**Vehicle Restrictions in park**

In light of Cllr Law's absence and because Cllr Gavin Ellis was also involved in the meetings with Peter Duncan (Fife Council Allotment officer) it fell to Cllr Ellis to respond to the requirement as per the agenda for an update on discussions with Peter Duncan (FC Allotment Officer) which started in June 2018.

Cllr Ellis responded that no further meetings had been held but it was his intention to arrange these as soon as practically possible.

At this point a delegation from the allotment association interjected wishing to be heard, although their attendance was not anticipated and did not feature under the appropriate business section of the agenda the Chairman allowed this at his discretion given it was topic associated. Two of the group read from pre prepared scripts which were quickly recognised as not representative of the information exchange provided at previous meetings with Peter Duncan. A map of the allotments produced by one of the group was not recognised by TCC's Chairman as the official drawing used by FC at the planning application stage and was apparently devoid of salient information describing the limitations imposed with regards to parking by allotment holders. This along with other claims made by the group also suggested a misunderstanding of the facts surrounding TCC's historical involvement with the original management of the site by TAG .

When the situation became quite disruptive the Chairman asked the spokesperson for the allotments to stop, when it became clear that this was not going to happen the Chairman under paragraph 2.0 (conduct) sub para 2.1 (c) asked the spokesperson to leave the meeting. Cllr Gavin Ellis escorted a small number of the allotment representatives out of the hall to continue their heated discussion in private.

Upon re-entering the meeting later it was calmly concluded by each of the parties that the exchange of information between the allotment group and FC's Allotment Officer differed from that being exchanged with the Community Council and that a meeting of all parties would best serve towards reaching a resolution. Cllr Ellis to arrange.

**\*\*Excerpt from TCC Minutes October 2018 - Helen advised that both herself and Gavin had met with Fife Council's allotment officer Peter Duncan and had strongly insisted that vehicle movements in the park be restricted as per the original planning application and information given to TCC. Peter Duncan has contacted Fife Council's solicitor Andrew Ferguson re this matter, Cllr. Helen Law has already met Andrew to discuss this and TCC had supplied copies of the original plans.**

*Ronnie asked why it has taken so long for this matter to be resolved considering that the meeting with Peter Duncan was in June. TCC were extremely shocked that Peter Duncan's only offered solution was to fence off parts of the park and it has been made clear to Peter Duncan that this will not happen. . The obvious solution would be to remember that the allotments are sited in a CHILDREN'S PARK and SPORTS FACILITY, (which were in the park long before the allotments were even thought of) where children and dogs can run free so vehicle movements should be severely restricted on health and safety grounds before someone is injured.*

**\*\*Excerpt from TCC Minutes June 2018 re a meeting - Townhill Allotments - Cllr. Helen Law, Cllr. Gavin Ellis and Ronnie met with Joe McGuiness Fife Council's Area Services Manager (Dunfermline) and Peter Duncan Fife Council's Allotment Officer to discuss ongoing issues with the allotments. The original documentation for the allotment planning application that was sent to TCC clearly showed the car park area North East of the pavilion as being the area that allotment users would use to park their vehicles. A hardstanding area beside the allotments is shown as "for deliveries only". However allotment users persist in driving through a children's park and sports facility and parking at the allotments rather than walk from the car park. It was requested**

*that for safety reasons allotment users adhere to the original planning documentation and use the car park. This was all agreed at the meeting in addition to TCC retaining their current allotment, which is really just a strip at the bottom of the allotment compound. Our allotment will be available for any children's community group etc. to work on. Peter Duncan was to contact allotment users to advise them not to drive through the park. However the minutes which were sent through after the meeting did not reflect the decision re car parking and Mr Duncan's record was found to be incorrect by Ronnie, Helen and Gavin and also omitted the promise made by Peter that "TAG would assist with future community projects"*

## 5. Treasurer's report –Niall Reid

### Income

Market Income £260.00 ( Christmas Market mainly paid in advance)

### Major expenditure this month

Market Expenditure £98.00 (Hall Hire)

Donation to Book Bug for Books - £84.48

Total Expenditure for Christmas Santa Events :- £756.56

Total Income from Christmas Event :- Raffle £481.20 (Tickets :- £212.00 – donated to Townhill Primary School)

Cost of all Christmas Santa events = £756.56 less £481.20 = £275.36

Christmas Event Expenditure :- Hall Hire £30.60 – Magician £125.00 Catering & Hampers for raffle £133.91

*(Plus accounted for in November - Children's Grotto Gifts £207.13 - Children's sweets for event £161.92 )*

### Account Balances

Budget Account Balance =£1,302.37 Petty Cash Balance = £738.46

RBS Account Balance = £134.09 Market Account Balance = £1,497.45

## 6. Guest Speaker :- Ruth McCabe (Fife Council) Dementia Friendly

**Ruth took the floor and explained that** Scotland's National Dementia Strategy aims to improve services and outcomes for people affected by dementia. This strategy highlights the need to support the rights of people living with dementia and their carers to be able to play an active role in their local communities. To meet this aim, the development of community-led Dementia Friendly Communities has been identified as a priority in this strategy.

Over the past 2 years, the partnership between Fife Council, Fife's Health and Social Care Partnership and Alzheimer Scotland has helped to start work that supports local people in Glenrothes who are affected by dementia to remain a valued and active part of their community.

Ruth is now expanding this project into the wider community and would like Townhill people to become involved. Townhill has a large percentage of elderly residents in the community and statistically one in three of us will develop some form of dementia.

A dementia friendly community is made up of the whole community - shop assistants, public service workers, faith groups, businesses, police, fire and ambulance staff, bus drivers, school pupils, clubs and societies and community leaders. These are people who are committed to working together and helping people with dementia to remain a part of their community.

Ruth can provide a link where you can become a Dementia Friend online or can do this with you face to face in an hour or so, where you can learn how to look out for and lend a hand to those in our community affected by dementia.

Yvonne of The Junket Tearoom has very kindly offered to host this in the tearoom which could take about twenty people so if you are interested in becoming a Dementia Friend, please get in touch with TCC.

Dave McDonald said that he will also pass this on the minister and the women's guild.

Ronnie thanked Ruth for her presentation.

## 7. Parks department/ FC updates – Ronnie Cowan

### a) Application for poly tunnel funnel for TCC allotment submitted

Further to agreement with Peter Duncan on the siting of a covered structure we have submitted a funding application for poly tunnel funding. This will be sited on the TCC allotment so that TCC's allotment custodians and the primary school groups now formed can make use of this poly structure to propagate their plants.

### b) PVG & First Aid courses option for all TCC members? - Ronnie Cowan

Ronnie is organising PVG for the community councillors so that we will be covered when running any events or activities involving children. As a community council is a voluntary organisation we are eligible to apply through Volunteer Scotland at no cost to the CC.

The community councillors so far who have agreed to apply are Ronnie Cowan, Sharon Connon, Linda Cowan, Hazel Ferrier, Niall Reid and Bill Hunter.

Ronnie has also been in contact with Fife Council re the community council being offered first aid courses.

## 8. Townhill Activity Report

### a) Book Lending Service – Ronnie Cowan

The book lending service continues to thrive; the book room is a comfortable, cosy space for residents to relax in. We now have a DVD lending section in the Book lending room. Any donations of DVDs would be welcome and much appreciated, especially children's DVDs. The Book Bug Group for pre-school age children is run by Townhill's Sarah Aitchison, every Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm in the Book Lending Room. We have given the Book Bug Group a grant to purchase 48 books which Sarah has ordered and they will be added one by one to the Book Lending Room once the group has read them.

### b) Planning updates –Linda

#### i. Temporary Classrooms at Townhill Primary School

It is apparent from today's Press that Fife Council intend to site four temporary hut classrooms at Townhill Primary School for a period of five years to accommodate children from the proposed 1400 units in the Taylor Wimpey development at Kingseat and Halbeath down to Whitefield Road development. This is completely at odds with the information given by the Education Department in July 2017. Please see excerpt from our minutes of July 2017 below.

*\*\*Excerpt from TCC Minutes July 2017 - Councillor Ian Ferguson informed the meeting that the Taylor Wimpey development consisting of 340 houses in the Whitefield Road to Kingseat Area did have Townhill Primary School listed as being the potential catchment area for this development.*

***The Education Department has however now confirmed that there is no capacity at Townhill Primary School and that NO children from this development will attend Townhill Primary School therefore Townhill will not be affected by this development.***

*There has also been a review of High School capacity - once again this will have no effect on Townhill or the secondary school age children from the village.*

Teacher Karen Woodhouse advised that an architect had now visited the school and has said that they already have planning permission to site the temporary classrooms at Townhill Primary School; however this is at odds with the information we have in that this has not been decided or formalised yet.

The architects wanted to site the huts in the bottom of the playground, reducing the area left for the children to play and taking away their football pitch. Next option was to remove the school play park next to the car park. Neither of these options is acceptable or viable. The next is to sit a hut on the grass behind the school –

(even though this has services and water pipes below ground), and three huts down the side of the school building.... if this will even fit.

Residents expressed justifiable concerns re any increase in the usual serious traffic flow and parking problem in the streets surrounding the school in the morning and in the lead up to 3.00pm. *In 2014, the request for a 'one way drop off' system through the car park exiting onto a roundel at the Green St junction was dismissed due to underground services -- yet this was the main entrance/exit to this area previously (the car park area used be a church and before that it was a coal merchants shed & garage.*

Concerns were also expressed re the children's safety in the huts. In previous years when there were temporary huts sited at the school, before the play park was built, in the case of a fire alarm going off, someone would have to run from the school to each hut to warn them. With recent instances of vandalism and break-ins at school property there would also be concerns over the security situation with the huts.

As the huts are to include toilet facilities, with the drainage/sewer system in Townhill previously deemed to be at full capacity, concerns were expressed as to the effect this additional stress on the system would cause. There have been issues of flooding and raw sewage in residents' gardens in the past.

**ii. Proposed development for field north of Kent St – Reference 18/03293/FULL**

Alternative Reference	100143725-001
Application Received	Thu 15 Nov 2018
Application Validated	Fri 16 Nov 2018
Address	Land To North Of Kent Street Dunfermline Fife
Proposal	Construction of 92 residential units, access, landscaping and associated development
Status	Registered
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	

**TOWNHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMENTS AND OBJECTIONS**

The planning application Ref. 18/03293/FULL for the development at site DUN 038 by McTaggart & Mickel will impact on Townhill village as well as the residents in Kent Street and north Townhill Road. Townhill Community Council would like to submit the following comments and objections to this application.

**1. LACK OF PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION**

With 92 units proposed in this planning application, including 1 x 5 bedroomed unit, 17 x 4 bedroom units, 40 x 3 bedroom units and 34 x 2, we believe that this site could generate in excess of 150 children of primary school age requiring school places.

Townhill Primary School currently have only two school places available and will already be running at full or almost full capacity for the foreseeable future; therefore this school has no room to accommodate the children from this site, nor is there any land available to extend the school. The current Townhill Primary School was opened on 7th November 1876 and has already been extended as much as is physically possible over the years.

- **Unless definitive, alternative plans are confirmed, verified and in place for the education of the children from this site, this proposed development would create “a critical infrastructure capacity issue, particularly in terms of the primary school” and in this instance, where critical capacity is an issue, we would ask our Fife Councillors to refuse this application.**

## 2. INCREASED NUMBER AND PLACEMENT OF UNITS

The FifePlan Reporter's decision on this site DUN 038 was to restrict the number of units to 80 and recommended that as Townhill Road is a bus route and an important local distributor road, no houses should front onto Townhill Road in order that a free flow of traffic and residential amenity are not impaired and this part of the site should be landscaped to provide screening from Townhill Road. By not having houses that front directly onto Townhill Road, the possibility arises of having some form of landscaped strip along the frontage.

McTaggart & Mickel has increased the number of units for this development to 92; this includes 8 properties with direct access fronting onto Townhill Road and therefore no screening.

When questioned about this at the first consultation, the representatives from McTaggart & Mickel merely said that they wanted this increased number of units and that as it was "now a different Reporter, the previous Reporter's decision was no longer relevant".

- **We ask our Fife Councillors to ensure that McTaggart & Mickel can justify their increase of 12 units, taking the total to 92, from that of the 80 units advised by the Reporter and that they can give a definitive answer as to the percentage of affordable housing which is included in this development.**

## 3. PROPOSED DIRECT ACCESS FOR EIGHT PROPERTIES FRONTING ONTO TOWNHILL ROAD

We have serious concerns regarding the proposed eight units fronting onto Townhill Road and put this point to McTaggart & Mickel at the consultation in May.

A further eight access points, some at the brow of a hill, onto an extremely busy classified road, (which is the only through road for Townhill village), would seriously impede the flow of traffic. We understand that the standard requirement for any dropped kerb access onto a classified road is that the turning provision for a car must be provided within the private property and this turning space appears to be lacking in the plan for these units. The vehicle should be able to enter and leave the property in a forward gear.

- **In the interests of road safety, and as Townhill Road is a classified road and a main bus route, we ask that our Fife Councillors refuse permission for the units fronting onto Townhill Road and their proposed direct access in the interests of safety and reinstate the screening as recommended by the Reporter.**

## 4. ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION – ROADS

The plans submitted for alterations to Townhill Road for the benefit of a direct access road into this development include narrowing the only through road into our village and installing speed bumps. This would cause major disruption to Townhill residents and compromise traffic flow. It is also noted that an access road for this site via any future Chamberfield development is indicated.

In 2014 Townhill Community Council worked with Fife Council and our community to successfully address the issue of speeding vehicles without disrupting traffic flow.

**The effective and successful solution agreed with all parties** was to install cross-hatching and islands and re-site the flashing electronic speed indicator sign to the South of the Bridge.

Townhill Community Council have since also successfully applied for funding and added flashing smiley electronic speed indicator signs before the north and south exits to Townhill reminding drivers to be aware of their speed.

All these measures were introduced proactively to make drivers aware of their speed, prevent accidents and are extremely effective traffic-calming measures as was proven in a recent police speeding check, our community police officer commented that "Townhill now had the least instances of speeding vehicles" in their survey.

### **The Objections to road narrowing/ chicanes**

- i. Road narrowing and chicanes should not be used on roads or junctions with any heavy goods vehicle traffic**  
This is a main bus route and is extensively used by heavy good vehicles.
- ii. Managing water drainage could be complex and costly**  
There is already an issue with flooding in the adjacent fields and roadway in this area where storm drains are not coping with any heavy rainfall all year round nor the melting snow in winter.
- iii. Road narrowing can be dangerous for drivers**  
When roads are especially narrow then drivers have to "negotiate" and gingerly interact with one another thus increasing the likelihood of accidents. The narrowing of roads can create danger zones where cyclists and motorised traffic are actively brought into each other's paths, bringing cyclists and drivers in active conflict with each other.

### **The Objections to Speed Humps**

- i. Speed bumps in Townhill Road were discounted in 2014** when Fife Council and Townhill Community Council and the community agreed to and installed effective traffic calming measures which did not impede the flow of traffic.
- ii. Discrimination against disabled people**  
Speed bumps/humps can exacerbate pain for anyone with spinal issues, recent abdominal surgery or other disabilities travelling over them in buses, cars etc. therefore the use of speed bumps/humps is a form of discrimination against disabled people.
- iii. They are not wanted by the community**
- iv. Delayed Emergency vehicle response rate**  
This archaic form of traffic calming also slows down the response time of emergency vehicles. In the case of heart attacks, even a small delay increases the death rate enormously. For example 90% of victims survive if treated within 2 minutes, but it falls to 10% if treatment is delayed for 6 minutes.
- v. Danger to vehicles**  
There is a real danger to motor bikes and other vehicles (including emergency vehicles) in the winter when any proposed speed bump/hump would not be visible in the snow as was the case in March 2018 when the speed hump in Green Street in Townhill was not visible due to deep snow.
- vi. Damage to Vehicles**  
There is local concern over the known damage these installations can cause to vehicle suspension, tyres and, in low vehicles, the damage to exhaust systems and the floor pan of the vehicles caused by grounding.
- vii. Increase in fuel consumption**  
We would also wish to express our concerns re the increase in fuel consumption caused by vehicles slowing down for speed bumps and then speeding up once they are over them, this can pump up fuel consumption by 46.9% when installed on 30 mph roads. These are the figures as listed by the AA.  
*30mph speed humps petrol car consumption differences :Add speed humps to a 30 mph zone: increases fuel consumption by 27.3 miles per gallon, or 46.9 per cent.*
- viii. Increase in vehicle emissions and fuel consumption**  
The Transport Research Laboratory (TRL), a research agency of the Department of Transportation in the United Kingdom, conducted emissions tests in 1997 on streets with road humps and found the following



results as reported in TRL Report 307: *“Schemes with a 75 metre hump spacing . . . showed increases in CO and HC of around 70 – 80% and 70 – 100% respectively, and an increase in CO2 of around 50-60%. Nox emissions were predicted to be about 0-20% lower after calming.”*

To calculate the possible effect of smoother driving after the installation of humps (without braking and acceleration) the TRL measured the change in emissions associated with moving from a constant speed of 30 mph to a constant speed of 20 mph and found the following results: *CO and HC increased by 40 – 80%, CO2 by 30 – 40% and NOx by 20 – 30 %.*

A more recent study by the TRL, Report 482 in 2001, registered increases in all emission pollutants after traffic calming: *For petrol catalyst vehicles: CO 59%, HC 54%, NO2 8%, CO2 26%. The study states that speed humps created the largest increase in pollutants of all calming devices tested.*

**ix. Subsidence and damage to property**

As the area of Townhill Road is, like the rest of this area, built on top of old mine workings, there may always some risk of subsidence and we are concerned that speed bumps/humps may exacerbate this issue. We note that in extreme cases heavy vehicles riding over speed bumps/humps can create subsidence of the road and buildings alongside due to the ground pressure waves that are created. This seems to occur mainly on particular types of soils. Speed humps create additional road maintenance costs because the road surface before and after a hump tends to develop potholes or subsidence after a couple of years. This results in much heavier maintenance costs than normal. In addition to fully resurface the road it is often necessary to remove and replace the speed humps, which also adds to the cost. These costs are rarely taken into account, and indeed there is little information on this subject available.

- **Rather than have yet another exit onto such a short section of Townhill Road, we ask our Fife Councillors to consider refusing this extraneous access road and instead consider bringing out an internal access road at the north of the development joining onto the exiting water ski entrance road and installing a roundel on Townhill Road to control traffic flow. There is ample room for this. Should the Northern Link Road go ahead in the future, this single exit onto Townhill Road could accommodate the Loch Road, DUN 038 access road and the NLR.**
- **The lack of local knowledge in this application is apparent. We ask that when our Fife Councillors are making a decision on the proposed alterations to Townhill Road they take into account the following points and consider refusing both the narrowing of Townhill Road and the installation of speed bumps/humps :-**
  - I. **The fact that Townhill is approximately 453 - 459 feet above sea level and in previous winters Townhill has had periods of prolonged, deep snow, often when Dunfermline and the surrounds have minimal snowfall, thus causing enough disruption without adding to it by narrowing the road and adding speed bumps/humps. Speed bumps/ humps would cause major difficulties for any snow clearance vehicles.**
  - II. **Speed humps have already been removed from Woodmill Road in Dunfermline and our community already agreed with Fife Council Transportation in 2014 that installing speed bumps/humps was not a viable option for Townhill Road.**
  - III. **Any narrowing of the only road into and out of Townhill from the south would not only have an adverse effect on traffic flow, taking into consideration the extremely busy junction with Kingseat Road, Chamberfield Road and the south part of Townhill Road, again at the top of a hill, with two lanes exiting the junction south, we consider any narrowing of this classified road to be dangerous to drivers and their vehicles. This poor junction layout of the junction south Townhill Road at the top of the hill must be addressed before adding more traffic into the mix.**



- IV. **Townhill Road is a main bus route and as we also have a busy skip hire/waste management company to the north of the village at Killiebone Road just off Cairncubie Road, there are many large vehicles using this road regularly throughout each day.**

#### **4. LACK OF BALANCE AT “CONSULTATION”**

At the first consultation held in May 2018, representatives of Fife Council were present to give a balanced viewpoint although McTaggart & Nickel gave very few definitive answers to our questions. They were not happy to allow attendees to take photographs of their plan.

When we explained that there was no capacity at Townhill Primary School, their reply was that there “could be approximately 35 children from this development who would require to be educated at Townhill School.” As the new plan for the 92 properties being built include 1 x 5 bedroom unit, 17 x 4 bedroom units, 40 x 3 bedroom units and 34 x 2 bedroom units, this will attract families with multiple children, therefore we believe Fife Council’s usual calculation for estimating the number of school age children that a development will generate to be unsuitable in this instance and we consider this figure put forward by McTaggart & Mickel to be a gross and misleading underestimate of the number of children from this development who will require to be provided with education by Fife Council.

At the second consultation held in September, Fife Council was not represented. A McTaggart & Mickel planning consultant initially led us to believe that he represented Fife Council and stated that Fife Council had already agreed to the access road, the access from their proposed properties fronting onto Townhill Road, the narrowing of Townhill Road and the installation of speed bumps. It was not until pushed that he admitted he worked for McTaggart & Mickel.

We felt that this was not a true community consultation. The McTaggart & Mickel representatives made it very clear at both consultations that they had no interest in negotiation and that they would press ahead with this application regardless. McTaggart & Mickel are aware that this development will impact on both Townhill and Bellyeoman community council areas and also that both Townhill Community Council and Bellyeoman Community Council attended both presentations and discussed this with their representatives, yet both our community councils have been excluded and have not received copies of the plans as promised by the developers at the consultation in May.

We note that in the document “Pre-Application Consultation Report” in “Modifications Made Due to Pre-Application Consultation” the following information is listed :-

6.1 The following modifications were made to the planning application as a direct result of the pre-application consultation events –

- reduction in housing numbers to 92 units

*Yet the plan at the original consultation on 31st May showed only 92 units not 94 and this remains the same.*

- remix of housing types to remove smaller units

*There is no change in the number of 34 x 2 bed roomed units from original plan on display on 31st May.*

*3 bed units changed from 3 bed semi-detached from 14 to 24, 3 bed terraced villa from 25 to 13, 3 x 3 bed roomed wheel chair access bungalows changed to 3 x 3 bed roomed wheelchair access ground floor flats. Therefore there is only a reduction of 2 units in 3 bed roomed units.*

*Increase in 4 bed roomed units from 16 to 17.*

*Addition of 1 x 5 bed roomed unit.*

- **We would ask our Fife Councillors to establish whether McTaggart & Mickel do indeed have permission from Fife Council to effect the changes to Townhill Road to facilitate their version of the access to their**

**development regardless of the adverse effect this will have on our community and if so, why was this agreed before this application was even submitted for discussion and approval.**

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**c) Monthly market day for Townhill - Yvonne Mairs**

Yvonne advised that the Christmas Market had been a huge success and that Santa and Santa's Grotto were fabulous.

Our next market will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and we have had requests for application forms from another seven new stallholders.

Our licence will be due April/May so we will have to apply for a renewal.

**Ronnie thanked Yvonne for her report.**

**d) Christmas Events Report – Linda Cowan**

**i. Children's Christmas Fun Friday 30th Nov**

- This year the School were responsible for ticket sales with 100% of ticket sales money going to the school, £212.00 in total.
- Our Fife Councillors Helen Law and Gavin Ellis joined us all for the evening.
- The Loch Café provided soup and hot dogs free of charge – thank you to Marie Hendy and her staff.
- TCC provided free hot and cold drinks, cookies etc. and crisps. Thank you to Elizabeth, Rosemary, Alice, Arlene, Molly, Chloe and Jacob for looking after the catering.
- Thank you to the school dance group for a fabulous performance.
- Mrs Berrie's P2 class were amazing singing Christmas songs followed by a visit from Santa (who brought bags of sweets for the children which were given out at the end of the event) and his elves Karen Woodhouse and Finn Aitchison. The magician then performed some magic tricks. Thank you to P2 and Mrs Berrie, thank you Santa, Karen and Finn and thank you Tyrone for taking care of the PA system.
- Thank you to Sharon and Hazel who helped make up the hampers for the raffle which was drawn at the Christmas Market on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- Thank you to Carol Brown and Scott Smith at the community centre for all their hard work and support.

**ii. Santa's Grotto 1<sup>st</sup> December – Townhill Market**

- Our 12ft x 12ft inflatable Santa's grotto was set up in the front room on Christmas Market Day offering free visits to Santa and free gifts and sweets for all the children.
- Thank you once again to Santa and his elf Karen Woodhouse and to Molly, Tyrone and Chloe for all their help. Special thanks to Rosemary who made an excellent roller for expelling the air from the grotto on take down.
- Thank you to all of our community councillors who participated.

**iii. Santa's Grotto 14<sup>th</sup> December – Townhill Primary School**

- Santa's grotto was set up in the dining hall and each class visited the grotto in turn receiving gifts and sweets from Santa. Thank you to Santa and his helpers- Summer, Katie, Murdo, Zak, Harrison, Damian, Teigan and Amy.
- One wee boy didn't want anything for himself from Santa; he just wanted Santa to make his friend well again and for nice things to happen to his friend. The Alhambra Theatre gave us tickets for their pantomime Sleeping Beauty and Santa wrote to the wee boy and gave him tickets to take his own family and his friend's family to the pantomime. Thank you to Claire and Bill Fletcher of The Alhambra Theatre for their kindness and generosity.

**iv. Santa Visit to Book Bug 20<sup>th</sup> December – Townhill Community Centre**

- Santa visited Townhill Book Bug Group with gifts for all the children

## 9. Community Issues Reported prior since last meeting - Ronnie Cowan

### a) Damage to coal figure/cairn

Yet again the Townhill Miners memorial has been vandalised. The large piece of coal on the top of the wee pit shaft with the coal miner figure in the cairn has been prised off and thrown against the memorial.

### b) Youths in woods – burning bins

There is an issue with youths stealing bins from the village and burning them in the wood. This is now a weekly occurrence and needs to be addressed.

### c) Bin for Muir Road

A resident enquired as to why the lamppost bin was removed when the lighting was upgraded in Muir Road and for dog walkers and people with litter it means that the first bin they come to is the one by the letterbox next to Pagan Ink. Fife Council responded it was unsuitable to fit bins on lampposts anymore, thus helping to prevent the possibility of the run off contaminating the area where the lighting engineer will be working inside the column base. However Fife Council have now responded to TCC's request and sited a new bin in Muir Road close to the previous site.

### d) Dead deer in Green Street Garden

We received a report of a dead deer lying in a garden in Green Street. It had been attacked by something and had injuries to its throat. Ronnie immediately removed the deer from the garden before the schoolchildren saw it and arranged for Fife Council to collect it. Fife Council responded within the hour and arrived to dispose of the carcass.

### e) Thank you to Fife Council

We would like to thank Fife Council for their speedy response in successfully resolving any issues that come up in the village and park areas.

An e-mail from TCC paying tribute to this excellent service has been sent to FC management.

## 10. New Business

### a) Bench /wildflower area – memorial bench proposal

A resident has requested to adopt and care for the wildflower garden and the bench at the entrance to the loch road in return for siting a memorial plaque on the bench.

A vote was taken on the and unanimously agreed to go ahead.

**ACTION – Ronnie will liaise with the family concerned.**

## 11. Any Other Business

a) A resident enquired as to whether Fife Council would fence off the path at the side of her property in Wilson Street. Ronnie explained that Fife Council was unlikely to do this and that community payback does not now dig holes for safety reasons (in case of underground services).

### b) Community Gala and Events Committee

Karen Henderson reported that the Townhill Gala Committee has now changed their name to "Community Gala & Events Committee" in order to promote community inclusion.

Events coming up are :-

### i. 2pm-4pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Chocolate Party



Community Gala & Events Committee

# Chocolate Party

Sunday 10th February  
2-4pm  
Townhill Bowling Club

You're invited to come along to a fun filled afternoon.  
Fun and games for all the family  
plus lots of yummy treats included.  
Bring your pennies & try your luck on the Tombola  
Tuck shop available to purchase drinks/sweets

Chocolate  
themed games  
Prizes  
Disco  
Chocolate  
fountain

Arts & Crafts

Prices  
£3 per person  
£10 per family of 4



- ii. 11am – 3pm Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Tombola Stall at Townhill Local Market
- iii. Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Race Night

Karen will also meet with Linda from TCC to arrange the Easter event for Saturday 20th April.

## 12. Correspondence

### a) Reply from Linda Neave NHS Fife re Townhill Pharmacy

16.01.19 TCC - in response to the many enquiries from residents asking about the pharmacy, Secretary Linda had written to Linda Neave (NHS) to ask for an update on the progress of Townhill's new pharmacy as we had not heard anything since the 18<sup>th</sup> October when this was to go to a solicitor.

16.01.19 Linda Neave's reply was:-

"We have received a response from the Appeals Panel but are currently taking legal advice on his response. I would hope to be able to get back to you before your meeting tomorrow night."

Unfortunately Linda was unable to get back to us before the meeting with a definitive reply but we will publish the decision on Social media as soon as we have it.

*\*\* Excerpt from TCC Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 :- a) Pharmacy – TCC meeting with NHS on 6th Sept- Outcome Ronnie and Mo Ameen, our pharmacist, attended a full day NHS hearing at Cameron Hospital in Leven, both giving presentations in favour of Townhill having a Pharmacy. The opposition to this came from the other pharmacies in Dunfermline who were represented at this hearing. Ronnie said that these pharmacies were like a cartel protecting their pockets and were not concerned for the health and welfare of the people of Townhill. The board found in favour of Townhill and agreed that we can have a pharmacy. The objectors had until 5pm on the 18th October to appeal although grounds for appeal are very limited. As of 4pm today three appeals had been lodged. This will now go to a solicitor who will read through the minutes etc. of the hearing and they will make the legal based decision as to whether we can have our pharmacy.*

### b) Letter from Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP re Fireworks Regulation

Shirley-Anne forwarded a letter from Ash Denham MSP to say that he will be launching a consultation on the use and regulation of fireworks early in 2019 to better understand the impact of fireworks on communities. This consultation will inform any actions that the Scottish Government could take to reduce the negative impact of fireworks. This could include, for example, increased restrictions on where and when Fireworks can be used, improved access to advice and support to reduce the antisocial impact of fireworks, and new national guidance to support local partner agencies.

It is an offence under Section 80 of the Explosives Act 1875 to let fireworks off in any public place including parks and streets.

Both the UK Parliament, who are responsible for the fireworks act, and the Scottish Parliament, who can only implement the times of use and increases in education changes, are both investigating the overwhelming evidence tendered in support of radical change to the situation.

## 12. Any Councillors Reports

Gavin is actively supporting a change in firework regulation. He voiced his concerns in a Police meeting whilst also commenting on the lack of any community officers on duty covering Dunfermline North over the entire Guy Fawkes period.

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING WILL BE 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019

## 14. Close of Meeting 8.30pm and Ronnie thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home