



Westhill & Elrick  
Community Council

## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Heather Brock	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Suspended	Secretary	
David Ritchie	Treasurer	x
Clare Davidson	Minutes Secretary	✓
Heather Coull	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Dawn Anderson	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	x
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
John Long	Member	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	✓
Daniel Hay	Member	✓
Mandy Duggan	Member	✓
Stuart Bews	Member	✓
Brian Colvin	Member	✓
Chika Edeh	Member	x
John Imrie	Co-opted Member	✓
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	x

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Mike Forbes	Heather Cook	PC Samuel Cockburn
Aileen Swaffield	Linda Lawson	PC Helen Johnston
Audrey Finlay	J. Mchugh	

	<u>Item</u>
1	<p><b><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u></b> Vice Chair Heather Brock (HB) opened the meeting and welcomed all members, residents and councillors.</p>
2	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b> David Ritchie, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Mckelvie, Kate Lumsden, PC Steve Middleton, Chika Edeh</p>
3	<p><b><u>Review and Approval of the draft Minutes of Meetings</u></b> <b>Monthly WECC meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018</b> Duplicate name on attendee list removed, change 'infrastructure committee' to 'planning and legal' within Cllr Walkers report. Proposed : Ken Stewart Second: Raymond Swaffield</p>
4	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> <b>Vacant Chair position</b> HB advised the position of Chair continues to be vacant. The position will be advertised in advance of an EGM in June where nominations will be taken.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b> PC Steve Middleton submitted the police report in advance of the meeting. This was distributed to CC members. The meeting was satisfied for the report not to be read out loud. Linda Lawson requested she is added to the distribution list to receive these correspondences in advance of the meeting.</p>



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6	<p><b><u>Presentation from Cala Homes</u></b></p> <p>Ross McLennan and Lynne Bell introduced themselves to the meeting as part of the Land Department within CALA (City of Aberdeen Land Association) Homes. Their purpose of attending the meeting is to present their bid for land at Soutarhill Farm in Westhill. A large scale plan and master plan document was available at the meeting and was circulated to members. Ross gave a bit of history and background on CALA. Meadowlands, Blacklaws Brae and Hilltop were built by CALA. CALA are looking to promote the development at Soutarhill Farm through the next Local Development Plan (LDP). The development itself is made up of 3 Phases. Phase 1 is approx. 70 houses (25% affordable housing circa 18 units), Phase 2 is allocated for a community open space with play park and for Phase 3 CALA is working with the Westhill Golf Club to include a golf practice space. The location is a small scale section of infill land on the north border of Westhill which CALA feel would finish the edge of Westhill. In 2002 it was recommended for inclusion to a Local Plan and in 2005 there was an application made which was recommended for approval but it was subsequently not included in the Local Plan. There were concerns with the plans, such as landscape impact and current housing allocation in the area. However, CALA feel the demand has increased again and Westhill could benefit from the development. For this development CALA have taken on-board the visual impact and transport concerns previously raised. CALA have carried out a transport assessment which is showing the impact to be minimal. Education assessment is showing that currently there is capacity. To reduce the visual impact, buffers have been included for neighbouring properties. Ross and Lynne then took questions.</p> <p>The issue of the bus service was raised as there is no 220 service anymore so closest service would be Hays Way.</p> <p>Clarification on the location of the affordable housing was it will be at the front of the site and main access will be Via Blacklaws Brae.</p> <p>Concerns were raised on the housing market and economic conditions as it is noted there a lot of houses up for sale in Westhill with minimal turnover. CALA believe they can provide a good mix of properties in areas where the demand exists.</p> <p>The LDP bid for sites was noted to contain a significant number of bids for Westhill and 4500+ housing proposed. One of the bids proposed is adjacent to CALAs proposal for a larger scale development. CALA promote the community benefit of this site and the inclusion of the open park space.</p> <p>The issue was raised as to the lack of shopping facilities. There is no shop proposed in this development.</p> <p>The previous development of Hilltop consists of large detached homes but the houses are in close proximity to one another. Ross advised that the aim on this site, and across the current CALA sites, is to provide spacious plots with separation of 3-4m between homes. Ross can provide photos of current developments to get an idea of the look and feel CALA are looking to achieve at Soutarhill Farm. Land ownership was discussed for the golf practice area. The farmer currently owns the land and will provide it to the golf club at minimal grass rent.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Update on Kingsford Stadium Development</u></b></p> <p>Clare Davidson (CD) and Heather Brock (HB) declared an interest in this item and will not contribute comment.</p> <p>HB read out loud a statement from WECC Treasurer David Ritchie (DR) <i>"AFC have now got full planning permission to commence first phase of the project. This comprises the training pavilion, groundsman's accommodation, 3 training pitches, 2 3G pitches &amp; a full-size grass pitch. Work is expected to start in June, though we think there is additional conditions to be met before they can do that"</i></p> <p>Cllr Walker advised as part of her report that the situation with the planning conditions that are part of the granting of planning permission for construction of the stadium is very complex. The planning conditions relate to a safe means to cross the A944 and the implementation of a controlled parking zone in Westhill. At this time, Aberdeenshire Council is still assessing how to proceed and there are still formal decisions to be made. In the meantime, it is appreciated that there are strong feelings about the project on both sides. Aberdeenshire Council has no formal connection with any organisations or groups that have been campaigning for or against the development. The football club is expected to notify Aberdeen City Council shortly of the date work on phase 1 is to begin. Cllr Walker apologises if she is yet to respond to the huge amount of emails and letters received asking</p>

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	<p>councillors to reject any future applications related to the stadium. No decisions are being asked of Cllrs at this time; it could be the case that there is no further input required.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b><u>Strategic Development &amp; Local Development Plans Reviews</u></b>  For information the list of the current bids for Garioch Area can found at <a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2021/?area=Garioch#list">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2021/?area=Garioch#list</a></p> <p>It was noted there is a large number of bids included. Audrey Finlay asked if there were plans to have a larger separate meeting to present the plans. In the past WECC have held such events and invited along Aberdeenshire Council Local Development Planners to present. This could be difficult to manage due to the large number of bids, however, it was agreed to be a good way forward to communicate them to residents.</p> <p>Cllr Walker advised WECC will be invited to a Garioch Area Meeting in June to discuss the bids; those discussions will form the pre Main Issues Report. WECC must compile the views before 12<sup>th</sup> June to feed back into the Garioch Area Committee. When looking at the bids it's important to consider the Strategic plan, which is the overarching plan for the region, and consider the questions asked as part of the main issue report feedback (feedback on this by 21<sup>st</sup> May)</p> <p>The Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) note that Westhill and Banchory continue to be attractive to developers, evident by the number of bids. However, there are significant transport and education challenges which we should bear in mind when reviewing bids. Regarding the AWPR; the SDPA is noting that until the AWPR is completed we should not be looking at further development to the West of Aberdeen. The plan discusses junctions and ensuring the AWPR junctions are protected and to avoid growth in these areas.</p> <p>WECC must have a consensus to feed into the Garioch Area committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, which is before the next monthly meeting.</p> <p>Bids are speculative and developers will have the right of appeal if their bid is not included.</p> <p>Diane Priestly and David Ritchie are looking for volunteers to assist with the review of the SDP Main Issues Report and feedback on 21<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Agreement was reached that we require a separate meeting on this item, and we will share as much information on the website as we can.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b><u>Planning Watch</u></b>  1 domestic and 2 industrial proposals live at the moment – WECC have no objections or comments to make</p> <p>Objections still current:  APP/2017/3131 – Site at Westdyke Drive, Construction of new house. Awaiting decision by Aberdeenshire Council</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports</u></b>  <b><u>Cllr. Iris Walker</u></b>  <b>Hilltop lamp-posts</b> Garioch Area Manager to bring report to area committee for funding. Estimated cost to renovate the lamps in most need - £5-7k.</p> <p><b>Westhill Academy</b> Further to Mrs Alison Reid, Westhill Academy Head Teacher's presentation to WECC's March meeting, a report back on "muck up" day was given at a recent Parent Council meeting. Police Scotland were a huge support to school staff, having a presence from first thing in the morning and periodically throughout the day. Senior teachers remained on site at the shopping centre over the lunch period and this did have a positive effect. Early interventions of removing vinegar, pistols, flour etc. paid off but it was emphasised that it was a major operation and diverted staff time away from core teaching duties for other pupils. Rumours spread on the day that an incident at the Community Centre where a lady fell and was attended to by the ambulance service was caused by rioting pupils was unfounded, thankfully.</p> <p>Further to discussions with Alison about litter, the following update was received;  <i>"Further to our previous conversation about litter within the community, I'm delighted to inform you that an enterprising group of pupils – our Eco-club – wish to take this forward. The group has independently identified issues such as too few bins between school and the shops and indeed at the shops and no bin liners in the bins around the playing fields as being part of the issue. They had lots of ideas for how to improve things. They're keen on organising a litter pick, too. I attended a great</i></p>



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*presentation which they gave today on this topic, and I've asked them to repeat this at assemblies for other pupils.*

*Going forward, they're going to invite Norman Wright (Waste Services, Aberdeenshire Council) to visit and discuss this with them to see what might be possible".*

**Campaign for defibrillator at shopping centre.** Westhill and Kingswells First Responders have been given permission to install a defib at the shopping centre and are currently looking into other locations. Please check out their Just Giving page on Facebook if you want to donate. They are trying to raise £750 in the first instance. The page is under the name of Amanda McClean. They are also working with the community and local businesses to promote awareness and emphasise the importance of bystander CPR.

Residents and members discussed the importance of First aid and defibs inc training.

**Brighter Futures Fair** This event is on Sunday 13th May in Holiday Inn. Organised by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership in response to local need, the event will include advice on jobs, training, debt, pensions, money-saving ideas, health and wellbeing and local interest groups.

**Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC)** Committee met today with the meeting being the first of the policy committees to be webcast to the public. The committee agreed to work up a policy around banning dogs from school playgrounds. This was a member-promoted issue raised after many complaints about dogs on school grounds. Please note at this time there is no policy to ban dogs. An options paper will go round Area committees before going back to ISC for a decision. It was agreed to extend the scope to include cemeteries as well. Committee also discussed the Winter maintenance review. Officers accept that better communication is needed for the travelling public in winter conditions and will look at how to get more information out to community councils about self-help. During the last spell of bad weather, some grit bins were stolen and others were filled up promptly but emptied again so it appeared as if the council were not actioning requests.

### Cllr. David Aitchison

No Report Submitted

### Cllr. Ron McKail

Cllr Ron McKail was not present at the meeting however, HB presented his submitted report as follows;

**Bus Service** (Inaccurate reported item in P and J).

An item in the P and J stated that the X17 bus service was being withdrawn. Cllr McKail received several phone calls and emails concerning this. A response received from Stagecoach confirmed the inaccuracy and a retraction was printed the following day. For WECC councillors the response received is:

*"The P&J incorrectly published today that the X17 Service is being withdrawn. That is wholly incorrect and I can assure you that the X17 will continue to operate. We have been in touch with the P&J today and I understand that they have now corrected their online article, although clearly printed versions have continued to cause some confusion today. There are some adjustments to timings of services on the X17 in the evenings Monday to Saturday. The tender that existed for Sunday evenings has been cancelled so we have adjusted the timings of Sunday evening journeys that remain to provide a better spread of departures that Stagecoach are retaining. The 220 Service was wholly tendered by Aberdeenshire Council and this has been withdrawn. The Westhill A2B Service can be called upon however to continue offering journey options where our remaining services do not provide a journey option. Links to the ARI can of course still be made through use of our wider network of services within Aberdeen. >>>website where details of changes to all our services from next Monday can be found: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/service-updates/serviceupdatesarticle?SituationId=ID-18/04/2018-10:36:42:122>"*

Cllr Walker advised this caused a bit of panic and Aberdeenshire Council contacted the press and released a correction on Social Media.

**Ashdale Hall.** The Ashdale Hall Committee is desperately in need of members and in particularly a chair and treasurer. The current incumbents of both these positions have indicated they are resigning.



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Aberdeenshire council are following up on this situation; there is an article in the summer edition of the Bulletin. The appeal to WECC is to circulate the request for committee members.

**Veterans Champion.** As the Council's Veterans Champion Cllr McKail attended a seminar in Angus (Arbroath) where their policies, practices and support for ex-military was the focus of the meeting. Along with other councils Aberdeenshire has signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant. This is a promise that for those who are/or have served and for their families that they will be treated favourably. The presentations from the Angus council and Health representatives implied they were proactive in supporting veterans particularly with medical /housing/employment/ schooling for their children/etc. A difference between Aberdeenshire and other authorities is that we don't have a military base in our area (which often influences where ex services take up residence when they are discharged). Hence we appear to have fewer veterans in our area. Currently Cllr McKail is preparing a report for fellow councillors on the Angus meeting. However, a request, if WECC members are aware of veterans who need support please let me know.

**Community Safety.** An update on the contactless card protective holders and Park Safe banners mentioned in the report at the previous WECC meeting is that Cllr McKail is waiting for the Council communications team to issue a press release that 9000 holders have been distributed to all Shire libraries. Second there will be a press launch for the Park Safe campaign during May (parents dropping off their children outside schools and causing safety issues). Third in regard to the Pass Plus driving course, the budget for this which was previously £1000 has been stopped. This budget allowed us to fund young drivers who had recently passed their driving course to undertake a further 6 hours driving instruction. The feedback from many of these young drivers reinforced the value it had in boosting confidence, opportunity to carry out motorway driving, night driving. Most of the comments made reference to how they felt they were a better driver.

Cllr McKail has requested WECC to consider providing funding for Pass Plus. The criteria, if agreed, is that you would want this spent on Westhill based young drivers. The grant would be for £100 per young driver. Cost of Pass Plus varies but is in the region of £180.00. This was agreed at the meeting as a worthwhile cause to pursue.

**Cllr. Alistair McKelvie**

No Report Submitted

**11 Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates - David Ritchie**

DR was not present at the meeting however he has provided the following report which was presented by CD.

**Treasurer**

Below is list of the donation requests received in last 6 months and the proposed donation amounts. If anyone has any queries about them please contact David within next few days.

DONATION REQUESTS FOR MAY 2018 DONATIONS			
Group	Purpose of Donation	Donation Proposed	Previous Donations
Westhill and Kingswells First Responders	for training costs	£400	none
1st Westhill Scout Group	update climbing safety equipment	£250	£850 between 2012 & 2016
Duke of Edinburgh Award Group	First Aid Training for Gold DoE students	£250	£1200 between 2012 & 2016
Westhill Mens Shed	to help fund extension	£600	£1000 in 2011, £250 in 2015
Denman Playgroup	to improve facilities for the children	£200	£1450 between 2012 and 2017
Grampian District Pipes & Drums (based in Westhill)	to help with start-up costs for recruits	£300	£500 in May 2017
total		£2,000	
Total Donated at November 2017		£2,300	
Total for current financial year		£4,300	this represents less than 50% of expected surplus from Bulletin

It was agreed at the meeting a sub group should be formed to agree the donations and their amounts. The subgroup will consist of David Ritchie, Bill Loudon and Daniel Hay.



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	<p>Mike Forbes advised the Sandpiper trust is keen to get involved in the community and they could be of help to the First Responders. MF will provide contact details for passing on.</p> <p><b>Bulletin</b></p> <p>Printer should be delivering Summer issue on Friday 25th May.</p> <p>I received a request from a resident to publish the times when the 2 mobile banks are in Westhill. I have put that in as a notice that will be in each issue and included a note of the banking services that the Post Office in Co-op can provide and a list of ATM locations in Westhill &amp; Elrick.</p>
12	<p><b>Sub-group Reports</b></p> <p><b>Litter - Raymond Swaffield</b></p> <p>The April Litter Pick went ahead as planned, on the 21st April. Despite glorious sunshine, there was a very poor turn out of volunteers. Perhaps they decided to enjoy the nice weather with barbies and picnics. The next Litter Pick will take place on 19th of May. We are expecting to run another Rainbows group litter pick later in May.</p> <p><b>Gateway Art Project – Kate Lumsden</b></p> <p>Kate was not present at the meeting however she has submitted the following report, which was presented by CD.</p> <p>Our Artist Holger Lonze is intending to be on the WECC stall at the Gala on 9th June. He will bring drawings of designs and probably a model. As Kate cannot be there she is looking for support on the stall. She has been spending a lot of time researching funding for landscaping around the sculpture. Stuart Bews (SB) has offered to help with this, but until we have a clearer idea of the design it is difficult to know costs. I hope we can get on to this soon. Hoping for paths and seating as well as landscaping.</p> <p>The Group working on the project has depleted and Kate, Audrey and Becky Ferguson would be grateful of some additional support. There is a Skype Call with Holger on 21<sup>st</sup> May and Audrey has been in touch with the Rotary to enquire about funding support and being involved. She has also been in touch with Bert McIntosh about building a mound to increase the height, which he has agreed to do. Mike Forbes suggested contacting the local businesses around about to help fund the project as they may have budget for that, he can assist by providing contacts if required.</p> <p><b>Westhill Art Project – Kate Lumsden</b></p> <p>Kate was not present at the meeting however she has submitted the following report, which was presented by CD.</p> <p>The Scarecrow Trail will take place on Sunday 3rd June from 10am- 4pm. The trail starts from outside the Co-op, where entry forms and maps can be collected. Any help, even for an hour, would be most appreciated. Also as I'm away on Gala Day could you help anyone who brings along their scarecrow and help attach it to the fence. Myra should be there for most of the morning.</p> <p><b>Hanging Baskets – John Imrie (Co-opted member)</b></p> <p>This is conducted in conjunction with the Rotary club. Plants are paid for by Aberdeenshire Council and we normally try to get the baskets hung up before the Gala day but it might be slightly later this year. If anyone is interested in being involved please contact John.</p> <p><b>Festive Light Consultation – David Ritchie</b></p> <p>David was not present at the meeting however he has submitted the following report, which was presented by CD</p> <p>I attended a meeting recently of the festive lights co-ordinators from across Aberdeenshire to review the latest proposals on what lights are acceptable etc. The consultation document issued last October has been revised so that there is no size restriction now, but the 10kg weight and 50 watts power usage limits are still in place. This would rule out around 10 out of 40 of the current Westhill lights, mainly the Tesco roundabout ones, but it is likely that a transition period will be given so that we could be allowed to use them for a few more years. The earliest date we can put them up has been brought forward from 1st December to 15th November, as requested. Aberdeenshire Council intention to start charging for the power used has been put back to only start in 2021. Estimate for Westhill is £245 per annum. The Council are now considering the points raised at the meeting before issuing the new guidelines.</p> <p><b>New WECC Constitution – John Imrie (Co-opted member)</b></p>



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	<p>We are awaiting information back from Aberdeenshire Council around the standing orders and model constitution. John Imrie will follow this up.</p>
13	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b> <b>Year of Young People</b> HB read out the email received about 'Year of Young People'. They are enquiring if WECC can publicise and support any awards. The consensus was that WECC should be involved. Brian Colvin suggested a green/ environmental award, thinking about the schools litter pick. Audrey asked if WECC could make contact with the school to get pupils involved in the community and give them a slot in the agenda. This is seen as a good idea and WECC will follow up.</p>
14	<p><b><u>AOCB</u></b> <b>Westhill Gala 9th June</b> A request for Volunteers for Gala day was made and the following offered assistance; Daniel Hay, Ken Stewart and Heather Brock. Iris suggested displaying information on the LDP, could have a suggestion box or an ideas list. Heather Coull (HC) suggested including information on the Year of Young People.</p> <p><b>June Meeting</b> HB advised Margaret-Jane Cardno will attend our June meeting.</p> <p><b>SensationALL</b> The SensationALL chairman Bob McCracken has requested to come along and speak at a WECC meeting. This was agreed and a suitable slot will be allocated.</p> <p>SB advised there is an event 19<sup>th</sup> May at the Scout Hut for a Tippsy Tea Party. WECC can publicise this on social media. HC has offered to assist with the Facebook page, while those who normally update the page are on holiday. This was supported.</p> <p><b>Zebra Crossing</b> Alan Eastell raised the issue of a having a crossing between Tesco and the Broadstraik. Cllr Walker will bring this up with the roads department.</p>
	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b> Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive</p>

Clare Davidson  
Minutes Secretary



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<b>TREASURER FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2018</b>	<b>LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/04/18	22429.48	14464.00	739.27	37632.75
<b>Receipts in period 13/04/18 to 10/05/18</b>				
Bulletin advertisers-Spring issue	407.48			407.48
Bulletin advertisers-Summer issue	210.00			210.00
<b>Payments in period 13/04/18 to 10/05/18</b>				
Sundry admin Expenses	-35.00			-35.00
Donations to Community Groups (see list in May minutes)	-2000.00			-2000.00
<b>FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/05/18</b>	<b>21011.96</b>	<b>14464.00</b>	<b>739.27</b>	<b>36215.23</b>

Funds in bank include £18,493.3 in Santander Business bond at 0.50% interest





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**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

## **Community Council May 2018 Report**

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Westhill Community Council area during the period 12/04/2018 to 10/05/2018.

The report aims to highlight emerging issues in your area, and to provide crime prevention advice and guidance to Community Council members and residents you represent. Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, help create safer communities and respond effectively to local concerns.

### **Community Policing Priorities**

#### **Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder:**

There has been a decrease in the amount of Antisocial Behaviour calls within Westhill

There have been 6 reports of antisocial behaviour during this period, 4 of which are detected for crimes including a breach of the peace, a vandalism to a windscreen of a car and operating without a pedlar's certificate. The other incidents, although have been recorded are not relevant to community policing.

This is down from the last meeting where there were 13 reports of antisocial behaviour.

#### **Acquisitive Crime:**

There have been 9 Thefts in the Westhill area. This is an increase since the last report. Three are 3 detected, this includes a theft by shoplifting from Tesco, Westhill, and 2 theft by shoplifting from Costco. The remaining have ongoing enquiries

These include petrol drive offs from Tesco, Westhill occurring on 29/04/2018 where £13.17 of fuel was stolen and 02/05/2018 where £17.49 of fuel was stolen and BP Garage in Elrick, occurring on 16/04/2018 where £12.51 of fuel was stolen. From enquiries it would appear to be the same suspects responsible.

Enquires are still ongoing for 2 thefts of motorcycles. 1 there is a suspect identified and will become detected once he is traced, the other involves a £12000 motorbike, whereby the complainer parked this opposite the public toilets in Echt. After using the facilities, the complainer went outside to find his motorbike had gone but he was still in possession of the true key.

There has been 1 Housebreaking in the Westhill area which occurred on 24/04/2018. 2 bicycles were taken from two properties, totalling £2200.00. A male has been charged and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

#### **Road Safety & road crime:**

Since your last report there have been 5 reports of Road Traffic Offences. A male has been charged for driving with no licence, insurance and attempting to take and drive away a vehicle. The other 4 reports include a fail to stop, careless driving and fail to report after an accident. Enquiries are still ongoing for these.

## **Community Engagement & Reassurance**

As members will be aware, there has been problems in the area recently involving people attending at resident's addresses attempting to sell household items whilst not holding the required Peddler's certificate.

Several males have been arrested, charged and have appeared in court in connection with this.

Local Community Police Officer Steve Middleton has highlighted this in his Police report to the Westhill Bulletin which will be distributed to residents soon.

In the meantime residents should be assured that both he and his colleagues are carrying out extra patrols in the area to detect anyone else going door to door in such a manner and residents are requested to contact Police immediately should they see such activity.

### **Rural Watch Scotland**

'Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and endorsed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and is aimed specifically at the rural communities of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to all rural communities irrespective of location, size or demographics.

Rural watch is an online community for any member of the public where appeals, crime prevention tips and safety alerts can be posted by those who subscribe which can be viewed by all members. Subscription is free and the sharing of information on the forum is a great example of real time crime prevention in action.

The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland are to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time.
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community.
- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'.
- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather.

The experience of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Scotland and elsewhere across the world is that members of Rural Watch Scotland will be less likely than non-members in the rural community to be a victim of crime.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping members informed about crime and other threats in specific



areas, Rural Watch Scotland can help prevent crime, keep communities and residents safe, and member's responses to these alerts can help catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to communities. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply:

Log onto [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)

Click the green JOIN button at the top of the page.

Follow the on screen instructions.

## Contact Us

Please also remember you can communicate with us using any of the following:

- ' 101 – Non emergency;
- ; Email - [\\*\\*\\*\\*CPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:****CPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)
- ; Twitter - @NorthEPolice
- ; Facebook – [www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision](http://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)
- ; Web – [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)
- ' 999 – Emergency;
- ' 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers;

Inspector Carrigan

Inverurie Community Policing Team

Date: 09/05/2018

