

Westhill & Elrick Community Council 11th February 2021 Meeting - Key Points Report

Clearing/Gritting Side Roads – A correspondent, resident Mr. Hugh Spencer has queried how the council prioritises the work of the additional snow ploughs (mainly tractors) that are used to clear secondary/side roads across the town. On the face of it there is a perception that some roads maybe being cleared more frequently than others, with a particular concern about neglect of some of the steeper roads (e.g. Westwood Drive) that provide primary access to smaller roads.

A separate point was also made that in these financially straitened times with reduced revenues, the Council could be more explicit and helpful in identifying to residents, the scope of what is expected of local self-help groups. Local Councilors volunteered to check on how tractor clearing was prioritized and to also submit a request to the Shire Council, for them to communicate their expectations of self-help groups more clearly. It was also pointed out that the overriding priority is to keep the main/arterial routes open and if there are fresh snowfalls on these then drivers and tractors will be re-deployed to this task, with immediate implications for their ability to service side roads.

Lock Down Mental Stresses and Strains

The ongoing situation with COVID 19 has put a lot of mental stress and strain on individuals and families, leading to serious concerns about mental health. Alongside mental health there is currently a lot of emphasis on healthy living, particularly regarding exercise and diet. In response WECC have established a Health and Wellbeing Group to promote healthy living, primarily through articles in the Bulletin, the first of which is on Mental Health and is currently going to press.

Planning and Development

At the time of our meeting on 11th February, Application APP/2020/2249 – erection of 63 affordable dwelling at the old block works in Elrick, was as yet undecided. The full application, documentation and comments are available to view on <https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications>

Elsewhere in Westhill, there are no current Applications that appear to raise significant concerns or comments.

Antisocial behaviour – This month's Police Report highlights ongoing efforts by the Police to deal with the antisocial behaviour of some youths, although these have tended to be general nuisance behaviours (17) rather than breaches of Covid Restrictions (1); so maybe the message is getting through. Elsewhere four motorists have been caught driving under the influence of alcohol with another caught driving under the influence of drugs.

Walk and Cycle Orbital Trail – The wintry weather seriously curtailed our work on the Trail but with the thaw we are now planning to commence litter picking on the new stretch at Lawsondale.

Good news on the Carnie Woods part of the trail, where we have successfully completed negotiations with Aberdeen City Council on the detailed construction of two improved accesses to Carnie Woods; one behind the all-weather pitches and one adjacent to the Carnie car park at Mackie Place. We expect work to be completed by late spring/early summer

Litter Picking – Covid and severe weather have disrupted our schedule but we are planning to re-commence picks in March.

WECC Membership Vacancy - *Would you like to get involved in helping improve the quality of life in Westhill?*

The Westhill and Elrick Community Council (WECC) exists in large part to maintain and improve the quality of life in Westhill and we currently have vacancy for a co-opted Community Councillor. So we are now inviting self-nominations from interested parties subject to the conditions below.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved in being a Community Councillor please contact weccchair@gmail.com

Or if you would like to join us please nominate yourself to the WECC Secretary via email to weccsecretx@gmail.com.