

Westhill & Elrick Community Council 8th April 2021 Meeting - Key Points Report

The Westhill Orbital Trail – is now completed in that we now have a continuous trail of some 12.5 km (7.5 mls) in length that goes all the way around Westhill. Why not try it in whole or on part? – early reports estimate that it takes about 2.5 hrs at a steady pace to cover the whole circuit, and on your way you’ll experience varied terrain and enjoy some spectacular views. All permitted signage is in place. Look out for tall “fingerboard” signs or more commonly, shorter waymakers with the white disks with directional arrows, with the legend Westhill Orbital Trail. Maps will soon be available and for those who are tech-savvy, a digital version of the trail route can be found on Strava etc.

A few residents on route are concerned about their privacy, litter and control of dogs so we ask that during your walk, while enjoying your legal “right of responsible access”, a right which applies all the way around the Trail; you follow the requirements of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code which are:

- Taking responsibility for your own actions
- Respecting people’s privacy and peace of mind
- Helping land managers [farmers largely in this context] to work safely and effectively, especially when fields are in crop or have animals in them
- Caring for the environment and especially taking your litter home.
- Keeping dogs under proper control and cleaning up after them.

“Spending A Penny” – You can spend £s in many outlets in the town centre but finding a loo to Spend A Penny can be more of a challenge. Currently visitors and shoppers are expected to use facilities in shops and cafes, but not everyone is aware of their locations and users often feel embarrassed to leave without purchasing something. WECC are currently liaising with Town Centre Management to see how we might collaborate in providing additional public facilities.

Projects – In the past year and up to the current date, WECC have, in collaboration with Aberdeenshire Council and other organisations, completed three significant projects- namely, finishing work at the Gateway Sculpture; the Phoenix project to celebrate NHS and key workers; and the Westhill Orbital Trail.

We are now considering possible projects for the next financial year – subject of course, to a supporting proposal, permissions and grant funding.

If you have an idea for a project that will improve the quality of life for residents of Westhill and/or Elrick, please write, with outline details and an indication of the benefits it will provide to the WECC Secretary - weccsecretx@gmail.com

Planting Scheme - After a largely fallow year in 2020, due to the Covid pandemic when very few flowers were planted in Westhill and Elrick, WECC are planning to resume planting this year with a modified approach. Currently we are planning to put up a reduced number of hanging baskets on Old Skene Road and in Elrick (32

in total). We are also planning to place 12 whiskey barrel planters around the town centre roundabout at the Holiday Inn (8), at the Boar Sculpture (2) and at the entrance to the Gateway Sculpture (2).

We are also working with Town Centre Management to improve the floral display on the “green wall” at the Holiday Inn Roundabout.

Volunteering In Westhill - To help sustain the upsurge of differing forms of volunteering in Westhill that has occurred during the ongoing Covid lock-downs, WECC are planning to publish a list of organisations in the Westhill and Elrick area that rely on volunteer support, along with a summary of the type of work involved and contact details for those who are interested in finding out more. The list will be published in the Summer issue of the Westhill Bulletin and on our Facebook Page. If you are currently involved with such an organisation and would like it listed please contact the WECC Secretary - weccsecretx@gmail.com

X 17 Bus Service Changes - from 19th April

From 19th April 2021, Service X17 connecting Aberdeen city with Prime4 Business Park, Kingswells P&R and Westhill will be replaced with services 4, 5 and 6. This change formed part of the public consultation held by Stagecoach in February 2020, but the introduction of the revised service was postponed due to the impact of the pandemic.

To access the new timetable, copy this link to a browser session

<https://tiscon-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/North%20Scotland/Bluebird/Westhill%20Kingswells%2019th%20April%202021.pdf>

Service 4 is the Countesswells bus. Services 5 & 6 are the Westhill buses

Membership Update – Following our April Meeting, Mr. Justin Reid and Mrs. Audrey Findlay have both been co-opted as WECC members. This brings us up to our full complement of members and WECC welcomes them both along with Mr. Ben Horsborough, Town Centre Manager for MAPP, who has been appointed as an Associate Member.