



Westhill & Elrick Community Council 12th August 2021 Meeting Key Points Report

Development/Planning

There were no significant Planning Applications highlighted for further consideration.

Westhill and Elrick *Community Action Planning

Our Planning Co-ordinator has contacted the relevant Council Officials to commence the CAP process for Westhill. We expect a formal start date in Sept (details tbc). Derivation of the CAP will be our major project for the next year.

**Community Action Planning brings together local communities over a period of time, using locally employed people to gather information on the issues and concerns in the locality. These Plans are developed by communities following a community engagement exercise, where communities are consulted on what they would like to see in their community. The outcome of this process is a Community Action Plan that details that particular communities' priorities for the years ahead.*

For more information click here <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/your-area/marr/community-planning-in-action/>

Policing

There have been numerous ongoing concerns expressed about anti-social behaviour, vandalism and harassment of certain individuals and residents. These events seem to involve the same teenage culprits who appear to act with a sense of impunity. WECC will seek a meeting with a Senior Police Representative to get a better understanding of current policing policy and of what further measures can be taken to deal with the specific problems we have to endure at Westhill and Elrick.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)

From the official website "This is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."** Various species of trees will be provided in batches as young saplings, free of charge.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girl guiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

WECC are considering how best to take this forward probably in conjunction with Landscape Services and other voluntary groups.

Want to know more or get involved as a volunteer with WECC, then check out the link below and/or contact our Secretary at weccsecretx@gmail.com

Once you have read the website and have an understanding of the types and quantities of trees available, if you have ideas of what areas might be planted please share them with us.

<https://www.royal.uk/queens-green-canopy>

Westhill Orbital Trail (WOT)

WOT is now completed and the related map/guidance have been published.

See the Westhill Orbital Trail section at www.westhillelrick.org. The map and route description can be downloaded from there.

The Meeting received its final update from the Project. Numerous contributors were thanked for all their support and effort. Gordon Prentice, Project Team Leader was presented with a thank-you gift in recognition of his leadership and all the hard work he put into creating this legacy asset, which will serve current and future generations of residents.

Membership

It is with sadness great sadness that we received news recently about the death of our friend and valued Member Hillary Benson. In memory of Hilary and in accord with her wishes Members agreed to make donations to her chosen Charities.

Phoenix Fund

After the success of the 1st Phase of the Phoenix Project (celebrating the efforts of NHS and other Key Workers) full consideration has been given to the second phase. Accordingly the residual £1600 of the fund will be spent on providing three further benches for location in the town centre; either by the shops or in Denman park. Exact location to be confirmed. These benches, made from recycled plastics will be low maintenance and have a service life of 20+ years. They have been chosen to provide a legacy contribution from the Phoenix Project to serve those who have mobility problems or just want to rest their legs for ten minutes. They will be placed in the fourth quarter.

Planting Scheme

The planting of baskets and planters at the Holiday Inn roundabout/Green Wall has been very well received. The watering system has worked well and reliably; the baskets watered via an automated system and the planters watered manually, mainly by WECC Member Ken Stewart. Our thanks to Ken for his sterling efforts.

We have had some suggestions for additional planting next year in the town centre car park area and will be examining the feasibility of this with Centre Management.

Elsewhere we have provisional plans to work with Rotary and other volunteers to plant bulbs at various points/stretches along the route of the Orbital Trail.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the bulb planting please get in touch at weccsecretx@gmail.com