

Draft PREF Minutes

9th June 2008, 7.00pm in YMCA, Cupar

1. Apologies

Received from David May, chairman, presently away on business.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of the PREF Meeting on 12th May 2008

These minutes were accepted as correct and approved.

3. Finalised Fife Structure Plan

Letter written to G. Marsh, Scottish Executive, about the weight of the Finalised Draft Local Plan as weight went to the decision makers, and was guidance for the planners. The recent statement by Fife Council said that reasonable weight was given. Local Plans are being used for planning, which is more favourable to developers.

4. Landscape Assessment

This was completed in April, and since no information, Graham will endeavour to find latest situation. Philip Graham, head, has left the consultants. It was noted that the public was being left short on reports on the outcome of consultations. Representation should be made.

5. Ceres

Unlikely departure meeting will now take place before end of the month, perhaps during June. Administration difficulties in finding suitable sized venue. As Ceres is dependant on Draft Local Plan, development should be strongly objected. Letters from Fife Council should be received by objectors, detailing outline of meeting. Consideration was being given to have an architect, a Mr Tibble, represent an objecting body. It was considered advisable that his report should be circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Graham is to contact David to discuss if PREF should object.

6. Leuchars

As SEPA withdrew their objection to the travellers' site, and Councillor Arbuckle did a U-turn, the traveller's site was approved in spite of the travellers ignoring orders from the Sheriff and Fife Council to halt work. Conditions were imposed and they will be monitored.

Glendale developers will meet with the Community Council but they still hope to start building 125 houses in May 2009. Maximum sound level is 72 decibels so triple glazing will have to be used. It is hoped that the Planning Gain from this project, if it goes ahead, can be used to insulate the primary school against the noise level but already the authorities are hesitating to agree.

7. Balmerino

No report

8. Largo Area

No report

9. Dundee and Edinburgh City Region Strategic Development Plans

This had been decided on some time previously although, for example, it had been reported that Glenrothes was still to decide which authority they would want. Likely Fife would be split in two although a third alternative remains, the middle section would remain.

10. Scottish Government “Planning Modernisation - Consultations and Electronic Publication Strategy”

Apparently this document could not be found on the web. Fife Council believes that all papers are on their web site, Penny raised doubts as to whether this is true. This subject is to be pursued at the next meeting.

11. Graham Lang’s e-mail (circulated 19/05/08)

Regrettably this was not available for discussion, and so will be left to the next meeting, if still pertinent.

12. Report on APRS AGM

Graham and Penny attended with a further 20. Guest speaker was the new Prof of Accounting who spoke about global warming, which is theoretical not scientific. All members were encouraged to join APRS.

13. Ted Brocklebank and David Liddell’s responses

As little feedback is given on consultations it was felt that the responses were unacceptable. Penny will draft a reply to these letters and liaise with David.

14. AOCB

Gathercauld Windfarm. The determination meeting of this proposal will now not be 25th June, but in August. It is felt that the proposal should go through for 5 turbines 80 metres high and the RAF objection will stand. However under a recent proposal the height of the masts are to be reduced so they will not interfere with the radar from Leuchars. This could influence the planners and such a significant change should be left for appeal. The MOD is to do more tests with helicopters.

Developments' around St Andrews. Penny distributed a paper for information about St Andrews developments and any comments may be directed direct to her.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7.00 pm on the 14th of July 2008 in the YMCA Cupar.