

# Crail Community Partnership SCO 49189

## Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 1st October 2024, 19:30, Community Hall

**Attendees:** David Jerdan, Sarah Morrison, Dennis Gowans, Will Cresswell, Manuela Calchini, John Freeth, Neil McKay, Colin Morrison, Mark Rogerson

**Apologies:** Max Taylor, Aleks Scholz, Karen Vaughan

**Minutes of meeting held on September 3rd:** approved (minutes provided by AS)

**1) Finances (DJ):** Updated financial notes circulated by KV. All in order. Reserves figure and reserves policy details need a final confirmation (action item for SM, DG, KV), followed by approval (DJ). See minutes from September meeting on this topic. Brief discussion of options for auditing.

### **2) CCP policies and procedures (SM)**

Governance issues: Policies agreed in September are now in place and available. More policies are now under discussion, may be available at the next meeting.

Notes from the DTAS presentation by SM are attached. Highlighted here are the need for a policy on inclusivity and diversity, the need for monitoring progress and risk assessment, as well as future proofing of all activities.

Action plan: We agreed to circulate a clean copy of the 2019 action items for distribution, as a base to develop a CCP action plan, and to monitor progress. This will be a point of further discussion; some items have already been debated in the context of the LPP.

### **3) Community Hall (DJ, JF):**

Prices for 2025 have been adjusted compared to the latest discussed version, in particular the cost for the small hall has been reduced to be more reasonable.

JF reports from a meeting with the environmental surveyor from BES, report is pending, with expected advice on possible improvements to reduce emissions and recommendations on funding. Airlocks are mentioned as having potential for major savings. Discussion of a roadmap for step-by-step improvements. Airlock installation is underway, funding available, but work has not started yet.

DG reports that currently there are relatively few bookings for weddings in 2025, the reason for that is not yet clear. Discussion on potential additional uses of the hall, perhaps for conferences.

**4) Harbour (CM):** No significant news to report. A hole in the slipway has been marked up. No formal feedback yet from the Director of Transport.

## **5) CCP land**

Kilminning (WC): No significant news, should be taken off the agenda for the foreseeable future. Risk assessment is in progress.

Tree planting: WC presents a new plan named 'Ten-thousand trees for Crail', which should happen in three periods, March 2025, September 2025, March 2026. The cost would be about 15-25K, could be partially raised by crowdfunding. Supportive feedback from the Community Tree Planting Officer. We agreed to buy trees now from residual funding for Kilminning etc. Anticipated places for trees would be Bow Butts and Kilminning, but open for community input. This may be an opportunity and an encouragement to create wooded corridors towards the east of Crail, including on private land - discussions with land owners may be following.

Grass cutting in West Braes and Bow Butts (WC): Still no resolution for the cutting of the wild meadows. The agreement with the university is in place, but their Estates department seem to have reneged on their obligations. Nature Scotland has provided support for our position.

Land acquisition (NM): The application for the car park at the Community Hall is ready to go, one bit extending into Common Good land is still under debate, resolution expected soon. The application for St Andrews Road is also ready. For both of them the finances are not in place yet. In particular, the St Andrews Road property may need a feasibility study. DG mentions Falkland as a possible case study for this.

**6) Tourism (MC):** See attached notes.

## **7) Community**

- Discussion of public Wifi in Crail (JF), feasibility research underway.
- Update on the coastal path (DJ) after the report about mitigation measures. Consensus is that such measures would be prohibitively expensive and also futile in the long term. Discussions will continue with all stakeholders.
- Update on the airfield development (DJ): We are waiting for a possible appeal by the developer. The community may be in need of expertise on transportation, but funding is an open question. Agreement to ask transport consultant for a quote. Discussion on long-term aspirations - the current debate is about access, it does not oppose the development itself, which may raise the need for consultation down the road.

**8) Sustainability workshops (JF):** Two events confirmed, no further planned until exit surveys are in.

**9) Publicity (MR):** Discussion of possible statement on the airfield development. A positive constructive statement about the direction of the airfield would be preferred, but there are different views on that. A holistic view for the airfield is needed, while the appeal is only focusing on a small part of it. Agreement to hold off with a statement and handle the appeal first. Future publicity on Wifi and tree planting was discussed as well.

**Next meeting planned for Tuesday, November 5th, 7pm, Legion Hall.**

## DTAS Government and people training session – 19 September 2024

Note on points arising of relevance to CCP (provided by SM)

### **Inclusivity and Diversity:**

Does our membership fee put anyone off joining? Should it be nil or £1?

Information for new members including Board members.

Produce a handbook, an easy read guide for the constitution, a Mission Statement (and action plan?).

### **Actions:**

Monitor progress, for all activities.

Include Risk as an agenda item.

Keep a schedule of delegated tasks (who is responsible for what).

Recruitment drive, skills audit (useful for funding bids).

### **Legacy and Future Proofing:**

Do we make provision for passing on of assets if we cease to operate? Check constitution.

Checks on finance procedures to make sure they are relevant and fit for purpose as the assets and financial activity grow.

Need to build up funds for the future. Need to balance community needs with the need to earn funds.

Consider attracting younger people.

Manage Fife Council (get help but don't hand over power).

## East Neuk Tourism Update, Sep 2024

**Z Fold maps** – down to the last 8 boxes. Will need to consider any changes to the map before reprint. QR code stats 413 links to website from QR Code and 92 from Foodie QR code. Analytics from Welcome to Fife indicates total number of users looking specifically at the destination page for East Neuk over the past 12 months. Good steady increase and spikes of people looking specifically at the destination page.

Issues raised around **connectivity for visitors** to the East Neuk - lack of mobile signal and no community wifi-provision. Improvements would provide greater opportunities for the use of QR codes and links in information and marketing material.

**Visit Scotland update:** New CEO Vikki Miller as of 01/10/2024. There is a strong focus on a “digital-first” approach. The gradual closure of VisitScotland iCentres has now started and St Andrews iCentre will close at the end of January 2025. (Fife Council is looking to support potential informal info hubs through training and branding.) VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme has also been cancelled.

Pro-active support for businesses remains a bit unclear with further changes on the card, and a new Business Support Hub will launch in 2025.

In terms of **visitor numbers**, international numbers are up by 15% compared with bumper year 2019, but domestic numbers are down by 8% with some of this being due to “Cost of Living” issues.

**Transient Visitor Levy (aka Tourist Tax):** Currently Fife Council have no plans for the introduction of this levy on visitors, but all eyes are on Edinburgh, as the city is moving forward with the introduction of the levy, which could bring as much as £ 40 – 50 million revenue per year. The monies raised are ringfenced and can only be spent on tourism related projects.

**New Project** - Deadline to apply for next grant of £ 4000 is 31 October

**Public Toilets** in Crail and the wider East Neuk: Public toilets often close early during the “tourism season” and are shut over winter. Toilets are either provided by Fife Council or by Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. Not a good service provision for visitors and also sometimes difficult for local businesses.