

Community Council			
Name	Position	Present	
Shona Collins	Chairperson	✓	
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓	
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	✓	
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓	
(vacant)	Minutes Secretary	X	
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓	
Alan Eastell	Member	✓	
David Ewen	Member	✓	
Bill Loudon	Member	✓	
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓	
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓	
Nara Morrison	Member	✓	
Tim Yeomans	Member	✓	
Gurudeo Saluja	Member	✓	
Diane Reid	Member	X	
Heather Brock	Member	X	
John Long	Member	✓	
Dawn Anderson	Member (co-opted tonight)	✓	
Alistair McKelvie	Member (co-opted tonight)	✓	
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X	
Cllr Amanda Allan	Ward 13 Councillor	✓	
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓	
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓	

Members of Public/Invited Guests			
Freda Imrie	PC Kieran Russel 412	Angela Allan	
Aileen Swaffield	Heather Cook	Joe McAdie	
Patricia Saluja	Diane Priestley		

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks	
	Shona Collins opened the meeting, welcoming everyone.	
2	Apologies	
	Heather Brock, Cllr David Aitchison, Diane Reid	
3	Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 13/10/16	
	Proposed: David Ritchie	
	Seconded: Alan Eastell	
	The minutes were approved by the meeting.	
4	Matters Arising	
	Shopping Centre Issues – Becky emailed Marc Mills today, and received a very	
	prompt reply, indicating that he hoped to fit in a meeting when next in the area. In	
	this reply, it was also stated that the project manager had recently stated all	
	snagging works had been completed, however this was noted to be untrue.	
	Communications will continue until satisfactory changes are made.	
	Mervyn raised an issue regarding the positioning of the pedestrian walkway at the	Becky
	entrance to the actual car park, right next to the sharp corners. We will note this in	Ferguson
	our response to MJ Mapp.	



5 Police Report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. PC Kieran Russell attended the meeting, explaining that there are now 5 Police Officers in Westhill, which is an increase on previous numbers. The report was read out to the meeting. The continued reminder to lock the doors of cars and houses was made. The floor was opened to questions. Audrey asked if there had been any feedback

The floor was opened to questions. Audrey asked if there had been any feedback regarding Bonfire Night, and PC Russell explained that there were no more reports than expected. It was then questioned if in future years there could be a partnership between the Police and Veterinary Practices to provide information for pet owners that we could also publish on our website.

Mervyn asked if there were any analysis of trends regarding the crime figures in Westhill. PC Russell explained that they don't do the analysis themselves, however others do analyse the trends. An end of year report was suggested. John Long asked if there had been any static speed checks on Hays Way. It was answered that there had been many speed checks around the area, and members did note that there had been checks along Hays Way and specifically around the schools. Alistair noted that Westhill Drive, heading up and down from the road to Blackburn is an ongoing concern. PC Russell noted that there are general speed checks conducted regularly, however these are often short projects. Cllr McKail noted that the speed check device bought by the Community Safety Group is available for use, to which PC Russell explained he had taken note of this and would pass it on for use in the areas noted tonight. Unmarked cars are often used around the area.

Audrey raised concern over the Wogle Road (over to the A96), as it is continually a dangerous road with many larger vehicles using the road. There is a national speed limit in place, which encourages driving that is often dangerous. PC Russell explained that they do stop people regularly on this road and also throughout the area in general. There are too many accidents and fatalities in the area, and the Police are working to educate the community.

It was also noted that there will be a free winter car check available this Saturday, at Morrisons, Inverurie.

6 Update on Kingsford Stadium Development

Feedback from Public Meeting – Shona explained that the notes taken by Becky on the evening will be uploaded to the website as soon as possible. There will also be a Feedback to the Consultation event on November 24th, held at Pittodrie. It was noted that there may be a possible extension on the commenting period once the application is submitted since it is expected to be over the Festive period. Audrey also explained that herself and Shona had met with the Office Bearers of Kingswells Community Council, ensuring we are working closely together. Mervyn noted an expression of thanks to Doug Milne. It was questioned if AFC had personally invited anyone to their Feedback event (24th November), and answered that yes, we have been invited to have two CC representatives at a preview on the 23rd – time TBC.

Amanda explained that if it is the same comments from one household then it may be counted as one, however if the comments are different they will be counted separately.

David Ritchie asked when we were going to send any unanswered questions from the Public Meeting to AFC, and it was concluded that Becky will collate these questions and send them as soon as possible.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of asbestos waste being in the landfill which is now the proposed site. It was questioned if there had been any information from the people who drilled the bore holes regarding the content of the ground. It was commented that any details would be part of the planning application. It was noted that when the annexes at Woodend (now Tesco) were demolished, the asbestos waste was believed to be buried at the site, along with similar waste from other demolished sites. The bore holes all seem to be around

Becky Ferguson



the outside rather than in the middle. There seems to be a lack of information regarding the location of the asbestos and if there are records for this. Could potentially have been removed from the site. Dates of when these buildings were demolished is unknown, and believed to have been throughout the 90-00's. Legislation may have changed regarding the recording of asbestos. To be investigated.

The issue of parking restrictions around Westhill on match days was raised – however at this point it is unclear what this will look like. Do residents just have to sit back and let this happen? Audrey explained once more that we are discretionary consultees, and don't have as much of a say as we would have liked. It was questioned whether parking permits would have to be paid for? There would have to be consultation for this - unknown outcomes as we have not faced this before.

Concern that No Kingsford Stadium group expressed the view of opposing the application for extra parking, as this would impact the community even more so if the application were to receive permission. At Loriston, it is believed that half the spaces were allocated to corporate, players, officials etc. If this was to be the same at Kingsford, there could be less than 1000 spaces for the public attending matches. These issues are all points that will be clarified in the planning application once it goes live, and are the points that we will be able to comment on when we write our letter of representation.

The difficulty of the location of the site was discussed, as it is right on the boundary between two areas, and it was therefore questioned whether it can be called to the Scottish Government for a third party to decide on the application. It was explained that if this were to happen, all control is lost over the site as it would be decided by the Reporter, who would not be familiar with the area.

One resident questioned if the application was granted, then can objectors appeal? The answer to this is no, only the applicants have the right to appeal.

Concerns regarding the potential of development all along the A944 were raised, as were worries regarding the increased traffic due to the 3000 new houses being built over at Countesswells. We must protect the boundaries between the City and Shire.

It was clarified that at this point, the action which can be taken is writing to Aberdeen Football Club, and once the planning application goes live, anybody can write a letter of representation to express their onions on the proposal. Major points must be based on planning issues. It was also noted that letters to AFC do not count as official representation, and letters must be submitted to Aberdeen City Council once the application is live. David Ewen clarified that this information is on our website.

Heather Cook explained that the No Kingsford Group are planning on circulating a pro forma letter to all households.

Alistair questioned whether AFC would reply to letters received, as many letters were submitted at the public consultation events and no responses received so far. It is believed that responses to these letters will be explained at the Feedback event on November 24th.

What is the role of our local councillors? This was questioned following the public meeting last week. As local councillors, Cllr Walker explained that they cannot represent either side, as the Garioch Area Committee will take a perspective and express this to the City Councillors. Cllr Allan also explained that there have been



a lot of opinions expressed to her from both sides and it is difficult to represent everybody fairly. She also explained that as an individual she has just as much right to submit representation as any other member of the public. Cllr McKail added that he has not wanted to compromise his position before it is discussed at Garioch Area Committee, but is listening to all views expressed by the local community.

Mervyn questioned if anyone commented for or against, would they be disqualified from commenting at GAC? It is unknown, as this is a situation which has not happened before. Mervyn asked if councillors are letting people down if they are not expressing the opinions of people. There is difficulty in how many people have expressed opinions to the councillors, with many differing campaigns. Once the councillors are sitting down at the meeting of Garioch Area Committee, they have the ability to express opinions then. At this meeting there will be councillors present from other areas of Garioch, who may have other opinions. The local councillors are keeping it safe by not commenting, to ensure that they are not breaking any rules that may stop them from making representation at GAC.

As a Community Council, we are here to represent the views of the whole of Westhill & Elrick, and this consists of two varying opinions regarding the proposal. The Councillors are in the same position that they will be receiving comments from both sides of the argument.

Cllr Walker asked if it would be clearer if the councillors requested advice from the legal department as to how councillors should be handling this. Amanda explained that she believed it would be up to the individual, however her opinion is to not express an opinion as she is receiving representation from both sides of opinion. Cllr Walker will seek advice from Legal.

7 Planning Watch

APP/2016/2829 & APP/2016/2830 – Listed Building Consent for Alterations to Building to Form 17 no. Flats & Full Planning Permission for Conversion of Care Home to Form 17 no. Residential Flats – This is a listed building, which is currently Kirkton House. The application is to convert the building into flats, of a mixture of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom properties. Mervyn questioned if we should comment on the need for affordable housing. Cllr Walker noted that she believed it would be a sum given to the Council rather than affordable housing built into the development. Alistair also echoed this point, as affordable housing is a great necessity. It was concluded that our local Councillors could question this possibility, and if the developers would contribute towards affordable housing anywhere else. It was also questioned what would happen regarding the ownership of the walled garden, which was investigated previously as for possible community use.

Office bearers

8 Update on Gateway Art Feature

As of the last ten days or so, most people will have seen the question mark in place. It will feature on the front page of the next edition of the Bulletin. There have been many different thoughts as to what it is about all around the community, with thoughts of the Alpha course, something to do with the Kingsford Stadium etc. The Evening Express contacted Audrey and Cllr McKail, and an article was published explaining that it was a project by the Community Council and that it would be explained in the next Bulletin article.

It is believed that £10,000 was allocated to the Gateway Art Feature at the last Garioch Area Committee meeting. The final costs are as of yet vastly unknown, however this is a great encouragement to our project. Our town of Westhill is home to so many and not just a location of Subsea Engineering.

There will be consultations with many in the area, especially with the schools. Further meetings will be held with Aberdeenshire Council to work on this project.



	It was questioned whether any themes had been suggested. A brief consultation was held at the Gala, where a number of ideas were raised. A community theme, something to explain the heritage of the area, moving from agricultural to where we are today, family life, etc. were suggested.	
9	Events Christmas Event – Plans are in place for the Christmas Event, generally the same as last year. This week, we have met with Robertson Construction (who are building the new hotel in Elrick) who will help put up the Christmas Tree and lights, in addition to helping with putting up the Christmas Lights around the area. We do not yet have someone to turn the lights on, and need to decide this soon. The suggestion of asking someone from SensationALL was made. They could also help in judging the best Christmas Window Display. This year the tree will also be decorated with baubles. The event is on December 10 th , 4.30-5.30pm. It was noted that it does clash with the Inverurie Panto trip for the Guides & Brownies. All W&ECC members are invited to be there to help out on the day, as many hands are needed to help.	Becky Ferguson Kate Lumsden
	Kate will make a poster to use for advertising the event.	

10 Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates

Cllr David Aitchison

No update received

Clir Amanda Allan

No update received

CIIr Ron McKail





1. Westhill Tennis Court Pavilion.

This venue is being used by YPs to consume alcohol. Local police inspector has been aware of this and will investigate. Also followed up on a request for the Council's roads sweeper to get rid of the mountain of leaves in the tennis court area.

2. Meadowlands Estate.

In addition to my previous report regarding the ownership of public areas on this development being sold by Greenbelt to Rubislaw Estates a new concern for some householders has been reported to me. House owners who may have unknowingly regarded part of their front garden as in their ownership have received notice from Rubislaw Estates that they own the land and plan to sell it. Thus in one example they advised the householder that they now plan to erect a fence on their property. Pressure is being put on this particular householder to purchase the plot of land. Council are aware of this situation but as this is a private matter are unable to help. There has also been a problem with fences being put up around areas of land and the company then putting pressure on the families to buy the land.

3. Kinmundy Estate.

In my earlier report mentioned that the Council planners were charging a fee of £2500 for change of use of field to a garden area (trees/shrubs /plants). I followed this up and the fee has now been reduced considerably. Audrey questioned the reduction in this fee, as this could set a precedent for other development. Ron explained that he simply had written a letter expressing the opinion that it was a large fee. It could have been a mistake.

4. Emergency Contact Discs for Cars



To encourage take up of this initiative provided photographs in Westhill library which has resulted in more library users taking the holder and the forms. Very encouraging.

5. Zebra Crossings.

There have been a number of concerns raised regarding cars not stopping at the zebra crossings around Westhill. It is also disappointing that the shopping centre management would not put up a barrier at the crossing before the hotel. Mervyn noted that crossings in other areas have had new lights installed which are extremely bright LEDs. The crossing outside the hotel is very dangerous, and cars often do not stop. There are many lights in the area, which can be confusing, but perhaps different lighting needs to be put in place. Something definitely needs to be done.

Cllr Iris Walker

AWPR – at a councillor briefing last week, we heard that the AWPR is on schedule and will open in winter 2017. No date yet as the exact completion date is weather-dependant. The workforce has dropped from 2000 to 1500 as a seasonal reduction. We also heard that the AWPR has excavated more rock than was dug out of Rubislaw quarry over 200 years! The temporary bridge over the A944 should be removed in December. I have asked if we can have a pop-up display with visuals of the completed section affecting the A944 for the Westhill Library. **Garioch Area Committee** – Committee meets on Tuesday 9th November. Planners are recommending to grant permission of an application to amend the design of dwellinghouse and double garage at land at the rear of 5 Cairnie View, Westhill. We are also being asked to agree the recommendations to allocate £10,000 as match funding for the Westhill Art project from the Garioch Area Committee Budget.

AFC Stadium – I have had residents who could not make the Public Meeting on 1st November asking if the community council will be publishing notes from that meeting. *These notes will be published on the website soon.*

Hillside steps – work has been completed although final inspection has not been carried out. Residents have come back with some further comments re barriers etc. These issues have been passed to Roads and they will carry out a survey of the path network around Hillside (including hand rails), as agreed by Garioch Area Committee some months ago, and agree a programme of works. We do hope that these steps will be completed to a satisfactory standard, as this is a great example of Councillors working together with the Community Council to save these steps which are a main route for pedestrians. W&ECC will write to the Council to express thanks once this work is completed appropriately. Alistair McKelvie noted that the main pathway down Westhill Drive is in bad condition and requires repair. Mervyn Barr noted thanks to Audrey for her hard work in persisting in getting these steps repaired. Audrey explained that it was not just herself, but also the work by local councillors, the extensive report by John Imrie and input from Mr Thomasson that contributed to the success. It was also noted that the Aberdeenshire Council website has an option for reporting any issues such as pathways, broken streetlights etc. Also an app 'Fix my Street' which is linked to the Council website. Meadowlands sale of public open space – since initial enquiries from residents back in October, I have spoken to both the new owner of these spaces and the previous owner. The sale went through the proper legal process. Aberdeenshire Council have clarified their position on their Public Open Space policy, i.e. there is presumption against permission to build on them. I asked the new owner for reassurance that maintenance of these spaces would continue to be done by any new owner and he could only assure me that this would continue to be done whilst in his ownership.

Elrick Primary – the yellow lines around the school have now been refreshed.

Dog poo campaign – the three primary schools have agreed that some of their



11	laminated posters designed by the children for our previous campaign can be used around Westhill in "hot spots" e.g Carnie Woods, Denman Park or anywhere else where a poster can be attached securely. Additional crossing on Old Skene Road (West) – a survey was carried out and the criteria for an additional crossing met. Officers are working on the next stage, i.e. to find the appropriate funding. It was questioned how the process in choosing a location works, and if there would be any consultation etc. Arnhall phase 3/Kingshill Commercial Park – following enquiries from residents regarding the unsightly unfinished development, planners responded to say that the landscape issues have been delayed as the landscape conditions were tied to the actual plots being finished and there has been lack of demand for the individual plots. The main public area of landscaping along the A944 corridor will be carried out in Spring 2017. Website Report/Communications Group Nothing to report.	
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12	Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates Treasurer's Report: The November round of donation requests have been reviewed by myself, Shona and Audrey. I proposed that the total we can easily afford to donate in this financial year is £4000, which will be approx. 50% of the expected Bulletin surplus. The proposed donations total £2100, which leaves £1900 for the May 2017 round. The details of the proposed amounts were circulated to members prior to the meeting and are shown at foot of Financial summary on last page. — David Ritchie The proposed donations were agreed by those present. Cllr Ron McKail asked about the Westhill Community Church Foodbank, and was surprised at the need for one. Becky explained the background to discovering the need for one, and the many difficulties that people are facing in Westhill. He also asked about how people could donate etc. Becky explained that this is a very new project, however it will be advertised further as the project develops. Audrey added that she had been at a training day with the Citizens Advice Bureau, and attended a number of workshops where the depth of advice given to those in financial trouble is higher than most would imagine. He also asked about the Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust purchase of a defibrillator, and where it was to be located. There is no known register of defibrillators in Scotland. It was questioned whether we should be looking into a publicly located defibrillator, however the maintenance and upkeep of these is often complicated. The possibility of the Red Cross maintaining one could be an option.	
	Bulletin Report: The Bulletin printer sent me first draft set of proofs on evening of Sat 5 th November so that enabled me to do all the checking etc. at the weekend, and it was finalised for going to print by early on Monday morning, which is more than 2 days earlier than normal. This means that delivery to me should happen on Wednesday 16 th November and I will advise distributors they can be picked up from me from that date. – David Ritchie	
13	Sub-group Reports Litter:	
	As we were to be away, we arranged for Mrs Crane to manage our regular	

October Litter Pick.



- In the event, the weather forecast predicted heavy rain and Mrs Crane decided to cancel the pick. She arranged for Shona to alert volunteers of the cancellation on the WECC Facebook page.
- Our next Litter Pick will take place on 19th November.
- It was also noted that there is a regular problem with bottles around the Tennis Courts, so following on from Cllr McKails report it is hopeful that an increased police presence should reduce the problem.
 - Raymond & Aileen Swaffield

Christmas Lights:

The electrical testing of the street lights that the Council requires us to do annually was done at Broomfold on 4th November with assistance from a couple of Men Shed guys who are qualified to do the testing. Robertson Construction who are building the new hotel at Elrick have offered to help us erect them and will be providing a scissor-lift machine with operator. Timing of when they will be put up is not yet agreed but is likely to be the week beginning 21st November. It may be done over a few evenings as the roads are quieter then. I will be requiring assistance from one or two members to help collect the lights from Broomfold and put them out ready for erection.

The Christmas tree at Shopping Centre is likely to be getting installed on Friday 2nd December. Again Robertson Construction will help us with putting lights on top half of the tree. I will be putting lights on the live growing Christmas tree on raised bed on Westhill Drive during weekend of 26/27 November and will put a note out asking for assistance to help with this. – David Ritchie

Bulbs and Baskets:

Nothing to report. - John Imrie

Art Project:

10am, December 8th the snowflakes will be put up around the Shopping Centre for the Christmas Event. The portrait project will be launched in the New Year. - *Kate Lumsden*

14 Correspondence

- Review of dispensing GP practices Skene Medical Group covers a wide area, larger than just Westhill & Elrick, and many collect their prescriptions from GP practices. Consultation event on November 24th, 9-12.30pm, Westhill Community Church. It was asked if anyone had any comments. None were stated. Cllr Walker explained that she had had no feedback, which was unexpected as she had expected some from more rural residents.
- Linzi Catto from Robertson Construction, building the Hampton by Hilton Hotel in Elrick contacted us to help out with anything within the community. As previously discussed, they will help with putting up the Christmas Lights, and we will meet again in the future to discuss any future possibilities. They are also holding a 'coffee morning' on Saturday 12th November, 10.30-12.30pm in their office on site on Straik Road. It was noted that there are often individuals within companies encouraged in helping out within their local communities. Tesco help with litter picks etc. Perhaps we should attempt to reconnect with our Tesco Liaison Officer.
- Aberdeen Cross City Transport Connections Study This is a study regarding transport between planned residential and employment



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	development sites regarding all modes of transport. The link was	
	circulated to all members and will be uploaded on the website.	
15	AOCB Membership – Dawn Anderson and Alistair McKelvie were co-opted onto WECC, this was agreed unanimously by the meeting. Angela Allan announced that this would be her last Community Council meeting, as on December 1st she is moving jobs on to 'Getting It Right For Every Child, working all across Aberdeenshire. Someone should be filling her current role, so we may meet a new face. Shona thanked Angela for all her hard work and contribution to WECC over many years. It was questioned who had previously run Bonfire Night events in the area, to which it was believed to have been the Golf Club.	
	Dawn also asked if Westhill had ever thought of 'twinning' with another town? This	
	was answered that this had been suggested before but not pursued	
	Date of next meeting	
	Thursday 8 th December 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.	

Becky Ferguson Secretary



	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR Winter 2016 ISSUE	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 13/10/16	22286.81	4574.00	3972.62	763.21	31596.64
Receipts in period 14/10/16 to 10/11/16					
Scaffold tower hires	65				65.00
Payments in period 14/10/16 to 10/11/16					
Westhill Men's Shed- for making wooden ?	-150.00				-150.00
Donations to Community Groups (see list below)	-2100.00				-2100.00
Osprey Housing- Westhill in Bloom trophies	-365.76				-365.76
FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/11/16	19736.05	4574.00	3972.62	763.21	29045.88
Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% interest					



DONATIONS APPROVED

	Donation	
Group & Purpose of Donation	Approved	Previous Donations
Westhill Buddies - towards ongoing running costs	£200	£300 May 2012
Skene Primary School - to purchase reading books	£300	£300 May 2013, £300 May 2015
Westhill Community Church- to help set up new Foodbank for Westhill	£300	none
Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust- to contribute towards purchase of defibrillator	£400	£800 in 2012
Westhill Scouts - purchase of laptop	£250	£300 May 2014, £200 Nov 2015
Kirkton of Skene Playgroup - to replenish resources and toys	£250	£300 in Nov 2012, £200 in May 2015
Citizens Advice Bureau - General Running Costs	£400	£1000 in 2011, £500 in 2012, 2013 & 2014, £400 in 2015
	£2,100	<u>_</u>



WESTHILL AND ELRICK

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING ON

10 November 2016

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

2

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

21 crimes and or offences have been reported to Police since the last meeting on 6 October 2016:

There have been 3 Assaults reported, of which 2 have been detected.

There has been 4 Vandalisms reported, which are all meantime undetected. However there are positive lines of enquiry ongoing to detect these crimes.

There have been 5 Thefts reported, which are all meantime undetected. One of the Thefts that occurred was a sneak-in Theft whereby the perpetrators stole a set of car keys from a dwelling and thereafter stole a motor car from the driveway of the house. The other Thefts relate to insecure bicycles being stolen.

The other incidents reported relate to Threatening Behaviour, Road Traffic matters and Drugs offences.

2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/A

 DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/a

4. ONGOING LOCAL / FORCE-WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

3

Plain clothes patrols were carried out in Westhill during the weekend before Halloween. As a result alcohol was seized from underage persons and a driver was dealt with in relation to Anti-social driving.

Static Speed checks and high visibility patrols have been carried out at identified areas and also at local schools in an effort to deal with parking issues and anti -social driving.

As always, all local residents are reminded to secure all vehicles parked in driveways and garages, maintain their house security and keep all keys in a safe place in an effort to prevent house and vehicle owners becoming a target of thieves.