

Royal Burgh of Crail Community Council Meeting

Monday 30th June 2025 in Crail Town Hall at 7:30pm

Welcome and Apologies

Present. Gerry O'Neill GO (Chair), Max Taylor MT, Andrew Purves AP, Colin Morrison CM, Linda Sneddon LS, Jacquie Salkeld JS, Fiona Budd FB, Catriona Mann CM, Dennis Gowans DG (Crail Partnership), Cllr. Fiona Corps FC + 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Jenni Brittain JB, Cllr. Sean Dillon, Cllr. Alycia Hayes

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th May 2025 approved.

Treasurer's Report – AP

One payment in June: £11.70 for tea/coffee/biscuits for meeting with Nethergate residents re Path.

Bank Balance as at 30th June 2025:

Unrestricted funds as at 31 st March 2025	£986.93
Restricted funds	<u>£4,500.00</u>
Total	£5,486.93

Crail Community Partnership Report - DG

- **CCG Funding Nr.1.**

Energy Saving projects for CCH, secondary glazing on the stained glass window and the installation of destratification fans. If successful primarily funded by Fife Rural Development Fund up to £15,000. FRDF requested that we sought co-funding to reach the full amount of the current estimates.

- **CCG Funding Nr 2.**

To fund a local initiative that will help home owners and business owners to identify energy saving opportunities, with the use of an infra-red camera. Requires the purchase of technical equipment, training of users and establishing a process for managing client information. West Lothian team are operating a best practice process and they are very willing to share this information.

- **Crail Church - Possible disposition of Crail Kirk building by CoS.**

Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) is an organisation set up to advise community trusts and charities. DTAS currently has 3 employees totally focused on helping community groups engage in the acquisition of church buildings. A group of CCP trustees is engaging with DTAS to learn what processes the community would have to follow if the Church of Scotland decides on disposition and the community would like to take ownership. The basic premise being the community should decide on future uses of Crail Kirk, not the Church of Scotland.

It has been a very busy season for wedding bookings at the Community Hall, bringing extra business to Crail.

An asset transfer stage 1 for the gas works is going forward to prevent anyone else acquiring the site. Plans being considered include a sauna, a “man shed” or a long-term retail development.

The health and safety issue concerning the fish shed at the harbour beach has been resolved, as it is now locked.

Chairman’s Report – GO.

Meeting with EDF Renewables Team on 21st May re the Community Benefit Fund. They stated that for the 5 East Neuk Communities there would be £54k (index linked) annually available. They presented 6 options of how the money could be spent and they encouraged the communities working together and ideally be aligned on how the money is spent. David and I met with 2 of the Anstruther Community Council and their preference is to fund a full-time Development Officer. No response so far from Elie, Pittenweem and St Monans. David has written to EDF asking how the fund size was arrived at and the rationale for the 20% allocation to Fife. In parallel CCP are progressing plans for a part-time development officer and Dennis has drafted a job spec. We have asked EDF to move with some pace on this. Follow-up meeting is being scheduled with all 5 communities. We have asked that this happens in July.

1. Opening of the play park. Looks amazing and a real delight to see the children having so much fun in it. Will be a real asset over the summer months as visitors arrive.
2. Scottish Government Draft Updated Sectoral Marine plan for Offshore Wind Energy - event in Pittenweem today. Cllr Corps was asked to follow up on the meeting at Pittenweem.
3. Fife Council Short Term let control area survey - online link if you want to respond. Open till first week in September.

Common Good Fund Application

See Report above submitted by Dennis Gowans.

Agenda Items

Fife Council Planning Process, new airfield planning application and airfield buildings activity.

A new airfield planning application has been made by GDL for a cafe, offices and a market in the old cinema building. The latest planning request has undergone a subtle change but is almost a mirror image of the application made last year. This could be an attempt to avoid a change of use application, however, this may be in the pipeline. There appears to be no deadline, but the market may be excluded from the normal 28-day deadline. It was suggested that a letter of objection should be sent to Scott Simpson. Sarah, Neil and Stuart were asked to draft an objection to FC Chief Executive. MT suggested that we give formal notice that we will be objecting. However, it must be made clear that we are willing, at the appropriate time, to sit down and talk to GDL. A sub-committee of Gerry, Neil, Sarah and Stuart was established and delegated to deal with this over the summer months

Coastal Path Survey

The meeting held on the 14th June in the Legion Hall was attended by 9 residents of Nethergate South and 7 representatives from relevant partnerships. We now need to reach out to residents who have not responded to the survey. A summary document will be created regarding the factoring of the footpath. An informal meeting was held on the 27th June to identify those residents who are not engaging. Another meeting is planned to maintain momentum.

Harbour Maintenance Works

Although some tidying up appears to have been carried out, there has been no real progress. Cllr. Corps is to investigate the restoration work on the crane. Dredging is to take place this year at some point. Fife Council have no plans to restore the barking shed, but are happy if the Preservation Society decides to take on this project.

Race Track Activity Monitoring

Following the request in Crail Matters for volunteers to monitor race track activity, there were 5 replies, only 3 of which were sensible. Nineteen events were advertised in the calendar year. If these events were part of the allowed number of 28 then no planning permission was required. Over 28 and planning permission is required. If they fail to seek planning permission they can be issued with stop notice and will have to cease all activities immediately till the start of the next calendar year.

Crail Church

See DG report above.

Inevitably, Crail Church will close. It is predicted that by 2043, all churches in Scotland could close. Discussions with Fife Presbytery continue. How could the church building in Crail be redeveloped into a multi-purpose venue - but the use of which would not conflict with other venues in Crail? A member of the public enquired whether the building could be used as a multi-faith worship centre. AP reported that

379 people attended the closing concert of the East Neuk Festival recently held at Crail Parish Church. The concert was recorded by the BBC.

Fife Councillors' Report - Cllr. Fiona Corps

Subject: Pavement Parking Concerns

Over recent weeks I have been receiving correspondence from residents expressing their concerns regarding the impending pavement parking ban, which is due to be implemented in September.

I completely understand how frustrating this issue can be for residents, and I know the area very well. I've taken note of the points you've raised and will be passing them on to the relevant officers at Fife Council, who are currently reviewing the situation across the affected streets. The feedback is an important part of that process, and I really appreciate everyone taking the time to share it.

I am hopeful that there will be further consultation on the current situation. Please bear in mind that this matter is governed by Scottish Government legislation, and Fife Council must adhere to the strict guidelines in place. However, I personally believe this legislation has not been properly considered in the context of areas like the East Neuk and is not fit for purpose as currently implemented.

Please be assured that I will continue to raise these concerns and advocate strongly on behalf of the local community.

Subject: Anstruther Care Village

In my last meeting with Fife Council, I raised the **Anstruther Care Village Project**. Here is the latest update:

- The new Anstruther Care Home will replace Ladywalk House as part of Phase Two of the Care Home Replacement Programme.
- The site chosen is the former Mayview flats location.
- The development will include 24 residential care beds and 16 one-bedroom flats, in partnership with Housing Services.
- **The project had been paused in April 2024** due to funding issues but is now moving forward after I managed to secure additional funds in negotiations with Fife Council Administration and the redesigning of the housing component has commenced!
- The planning application is targeted for submission by **July 2025, with approval expected by February 2026.**
- Procurement would follow, with construction starting around **August 2026** and completing by February 2028. After an 8-week fit-out, **the facility could open by April 2028.**
- Once operational, Ladywalk House and adjacent buildings will be demolished, and the land handed over to Housing Services.

Subject: Housing Issues

At a recent meeting, I raised the issue of housing allocations and asked whether we might ever return to a position where local houses were prioritised for local people. I highlighted a specific case of one of my constituents, who currently lives in Glenrothes but travels daily to the East Neuk so their children can continue attending school in the area.

In response, the housing officer advised that allocations must follow current legislation, with the primary priority being to secure suitable accommodation for applicants as quickly as possible. While applicants' area preferences are taken into account where feasible, changes in policy—particularly the abolition of Section 38—mean that applicants can now apply from anywhere. As a result, desirable areas like the East Neuk are in high demand. Homeless applicants, in particular, are encouraged to express as wide a preference as possible to improve their chances of being housed promptly.

I remain concerned about the ongoing challenges faced by local residents who wish to remain in their communities and will continue to advocate for policies that balance legislative requirements with the needs of the local population.

Subject: ASB - West End Beach in St Monans

It has been reported that there have been almost weekly Saturday night gatherings of around 20+ people at the West End Beach in St Monans. It starts early evening and goes on into the small hours. A very large bonfire is a constant feature. Concerns have been raised on the Community Facebook page about the fires and the fact that they are still burning the following morning, causing a hazard on very well used village beach. A number of residents have raised concern regarding the increase in size of the gatherings and the noise levels. The police and Safer Communities Team have been alerted to the issues raised.

Subject: Roads

Anstruther - Elizabeth Place, High Street West to Esplanade – **Scottish Water** Urgent Repair - Ends 07/07/25

Largoward – Cupar Road – Scottish Water – Urgent Repair – 26/06/25 – 3/07/25

Subject: Elie Harbour – Sewage Incident and Network Concerns

Following multiple complaints regarding an incident involving the escape of raw sewage at Elie Harbour and the Toft area, immediate action was taken to investigate the cause. Current data indicates that there have been previous minor breaches in this network, and there is growing concern that the Elie & Earlsferry sewage system is struggling under the pressure placed on its aging infrastructure.

In response to these developments, and in collaboration with the Elie Harbour Trust and the Elie & Earlsferry Community Council (E&ECC), I intend to arrange a site meeting with SEPA, Scottish Water, Fife Council, and our elected representatives – MP Wendy Chamberlain and MSP Willie Rennie – to identify a sustainable solution to these ongoing issues. Date to be confirmed.

Subject – Short Term Let Control Zones - Have Your Say!

Following the decision at the Cabinet meeting in April 2025 to approve the paper relating to **Short Term Let Control Areas**, it was agreed that further research to consider the principle of establishing a **short term let control area in Fife** would be progressed before a further report would be brought back to Cabinet later in the year.

The online consultation questionnaire went live on the **16th of June 2025**. The survey will be open for **12 weeks**; published online using the Fife Council public consultation platform **“Have Your Say”** [Fife Council - Citizen Space](#).

Thereafter, the information and responses received will be analysed and inform the subsequent report back to Cabinet in December 2025/January 2026. **Please take the survey and Have Your say!**

Subject – Increase in Parking Charges

There will be an increase to the level of Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) from 1 July 2025 from £60 to £100 (discounted to £50 if paid within 14 days).

Construction of Anstruther Lifeboat Station is about to commence. This is bound to cause disruption in Anstruther and may well impact visitor numbers in Crail.

Cllr. Corps requested that the Councillors' report should be placed earlier on the Agenda, as the Councillors have to attend more than one meeting in an evening. A member of the public questioned the sense of this.

AOCB.

- Crail Preservation Society have secured £20,000 from Fife Council towards the renovation of two more monuments in Crail Churchyard. The total cost of the work will be £110,000.
- There is still no progress with the work on the discharge pipe at the harbour beach.
- The issue of installing counter strips on the road to the airfield was again raised by CM.
- Scottish Water is to check the drains in Nethergate for sewage spillage.
- Several concerns were raised by FB on behalf of Crail residents. These are:
 - Obstruction of the path by the school.
 - The ongoing seagull problem.
 - Dogs in the new playpark. Could the signage there be amended.
 - Problematic car parking at the top of Shoregate and also Denburn Dip.
 - Is there any possibility of Crail getting a pedestrian crossing by the school in St Andrews Road?
Cllr. Corps to investigate.
- Fife Council were requested that the drains and pipes be cleaned before the winter, primarily in St Andrews Road and Denburn Narrows.

DONM - Monday, 25th August 2025 at 7:30pm in Crail Town Hall