

ELIE HERALD

AUTUMN EDITION - OCTOBER 2016



Elie & Earlsferry Beach Project



At a recent meeting of the Council David Bell (*of Ecos Countryside Services LLP*) the consultant engaged to advise has now submitted his report. Broadly here are some of his recommendations. It is likely that the cessation of beach cleaning has been a significant factor in promoting dune growth at the west end of Earlsferry beach. Mechanical sand removal at the bottom of Fountain Road is unlikely to make a significant difference. There is no co-ordinated dune management but local intervention, such as tree and shrub planting and dune grass mowing does not promote dune sustainability in the longer term. Wind borne sand transport has been a long term issue. Within the older parts of the dune, there are lines of erosion connecting to the foreshore and these are caused by public access. There is a total of 1.46km of pathways through the dunes. These are potentially weak points, vulnerable to gales and sea erosion. Car parking is associated with adjacent properties, and some of it is formal with gravel parking areas, or better still, flexible geotextiles that allow grasses to grow through. Overall the impact is acceptable compared to the adverse impacts of gardening, however parking could be more attractively designed and managed. On busy beach days The Toft and The Granary cannot cope with the demand for parking space. Much of the original fixed back dune has been gardened, with a reduction in the area of dune supporting dune grasses to grow and consequently less protection for the stability of the dunes.

Now of course with many beach side proprietors having ownership of the area from their wall to the high water mark is almost impossible to impose any regulation in this area but it is to be hoped that a voluntary code might be agreed to safeguard the future of the beach and dunes. To that end the Beach Group will be addressing along with the Community Council the promulgation of protocols to advise beach side proprietors as to best conservation practises, to regulate so far as possible the erection of beach huts so as not to damage the environment and to consider planting of grasses in the area between the current end of the dunes and Telfer Wynd ex adverso Little Court. The Beach group plan to meet to discuss the findings and decide what to do and the group is keen to have the views of beach side proprietors so please if you are interested email Angela who is coordinating - angela_as_anderson@btinternet.com and join the group - the draft report can be accessed via a dropbox link <https://www.dropbox.com/s/cxc1q7mlx7yswme/pdf?de=oELIE%20DUNE%20STUDY%20V1%2014.9.2015%20FIRST%20DRAFT%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0>

New members of the Community Council . . .

We have welcomed Sandy Bingham and Lynda Rennie as co-opted meantime members of Community Council – they are available for moans and ideas.

Fife Development Plan goes public . . .

The Fife Plan about which there was much huffing and puffing this time last year is due to be made public within the next few weeks and the process then will start to finalise it. Gear up !

High Street repainting

The parking bays and High Street signage will apparently be renewed once the work on the Deli has finished. Oh and we are also trying to get the Council to blackout the bus stops in Earlsferry – frequently people are seen waiting forlornly for a bus that never comes.....



Beach Parties . . .

There were a number of beach parties during this summer. Most behaved responsibly but some left a trail of litter, broken glass, plastics etc on the beach. This is not a very public spirited way of enjoying yourself. Please pick up this dangerous litter and take it away or pop it in the bins provided.....and while we are at it Guy Fawkes night looms. Great - have your firework display if you must (The Ship Inn are doing a public one this year – thank you - the Bucknalls) but please have respect for neighbours and particularly the animals and pets around. And of course,.... clean up afterwards....but if your Aldi rocket lands on Mars you are exempt !



**We are also now on Facebook – visit us and see what's going on at:-
"Elie and Royal Burgh of Earlsferry Community Council"**



EARLSFERRY TOWN HALL TOILETS

It looks very much as if we are not going to be able to provide toilet facilities at Earlsferry Town Hall. Fife Council insist that we either buy or lease the whole town hall – seems a little pointless even assuming we could afford it.. But we are thinking that visitors to Earlsferry Beach in the summer will either have to make their way to Stenton toilets or use the ones in the Pavilion. The thought is that most users of Earlsferry beach by virtue of the impossible parking will have access to a house for “convenience”. There may not be a need. Thus it may be that our efforts to establish an Earlsferry toilet will be in vain and ultimately unnecessary..



**READYSET
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Rather like a crossword clue – do you know what a charrette is ? Well it's the buzz word in Fife (and maybe elsewhere – borrowed the logo from South Dakota- who want to spell it with one “r”) at the moment the definition per dictionary is “charrette - a public meeting or workshop devoted to a concerted effort to solve a problem or plan the design of something”. Apparently these are much in vogue for Fife communities (q.v. Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy town centre etc.) who want to have a say in their area in relation to community facilities. We had thought it was just a consultation exercise but it's much more than that as soon as you give it a French (?) name even although its origins come from USA.

Anyway is there any enthusiasm for a week end in which the people who live in Elie/Earlsferry have a drop in session somewhere with white boards, post-its etc and brainstorm what they would like to see in their community ? More shops ?, leisure facilities ? more parking ? more of anything ? perhaps even less of something else ! It is not a cheap exercise but grants are available for communities who want to embark upon this and this is much what ENCAP had been trying to do a year or so ago. Wonder whatever happened to that ? If you think it's a brill idea please let us know.

Football pitch at Wadeslea

We are ever optimistic that the goal posts will be replaced but the ones which were there did not meet Fife Council's rigorous standard for goal posts so were removed.... we are trying to find out what these standards are !



LAMP STANDARDS

There will during the autumn be work in progress to replace the lamp standards and fittings on Bank Street, South Street and various other places. The anticipated design will be the standard Fife design rather than anything ornate which was the first view. Probably financial constraints led to the abandonment of the ornate lamps in favour of the - dare we say it - mundane.

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS AND WINDOW BOXES

The competitions this year have been won by Mr. & Mrs. Hare of Breakwater House for the window boxes and Mr & Mrs. J. Hardie of Iona House for the beautifully kept front garden on Glovers Wynd.

Thank you so much to these residents for adding to the pleasure of those visiting Elie and Earlsferry. The trophies will presented at the next Council meeting on Monday 7th November at 7 pm in Sailing club. It would be nice for a small gathering to recognise their efforts.

POLICE MATTERS



This summer has not been without its share of misdemeanours. Thefts from Harbour Galley, minor vandalism of turning over flower posts and planters. Irritating of course but hardly worth the emergency services but we have been advised that notwithstanding the unlikelihood of capturing the culprits the incidents should still be reported via 101 to the police so that if nothing else you become a statisticbut we're used to that now ! and if you think you can identify the culprits they are most likely renters – advise the landlord !

IT'S SILVER GILT AGAIN!

We are delighted to announce that Elie & Earlsferry obtained a Silver Gilt Award in the Beautiful Fife competition again this year. We strive and strive to the upper echelons of gold – we are getting closer apparently. Well done to all members of the Environmental Action Group and all those from around the village who were involved.



FROM THE PAST

A correspondent from France has contacted the History Society with this question “Whereabouts were the windmills in Elie which were used to grind indigo ?” This refers to a passage in the Practical Mechanic’s Journal of 1863 (you will have a copy on the coffee table of course) in the following terms:

“Several windmills of the horizontal construction were in use in the town of Eli (sic) in the litigious (ditto) kingdom of Fife at the end of the last century [1790s] and were employed in grinding indigo but have long since been removed.”

We have no record of anything remotely akin to this but here is some speculation. Indigo was a much sought after dye (purpleish of course) in 18th Century.

It can be obtained from dog whelks (remember them) of which there was likely to have been an abundance on Elie Beach. We can assume that the mills used to grind them must have been relatively close to the beach. The flax mill (water powered by the Loch Run)



at the Toft was probably started roundabout this time so we speculate that these mills

(there seems to have been more than one) might well have been at or around Ruby Bay or South Street although from the maps we have managed to research there is no mention of their existence, but even more intriguing is the use of the word “litigious” when referring to Fife. The article was written by one J.S in 1862/3 so there must have been some topical reference to the “litigious kingdom of Fife”. There is a remote reference to Peter Peebles who is a character in “Redgauntlet” (W.Scott) modelled apparently on one Andrew Nicol who although a native of Kinross (then part of Fife) “...where thirty years ago it was considered disgraceful not to have a law suit or two on ones hands”. Nicol died in Cupar Jail in 1817 Redgauntlet was written in 1824 – the article is dated 1863 so if that is the topical reference it had stood the test of time....a mystery both about the windmills and the litigious kingdom of fife answers on a postcard... no prizes....



SHIP INN WINS AA'S SCOTTISH PUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

AA's Scottish Pub of the Year for 2016-17
Many congratulations to the Bucknalls for the award of AA Scottish Pub of the Year for the Ship Inn. It has we suspect not been without its trials and tribulations since they took over from the Philips and the award will go a long way to reward the whole outfit for their work. It is we think significant that not only are the Bucknalls operating a commercial enterprise but they have shown considerable sensitivity to the village and promoted various funtions , e.g. the beach rugby tournament, the cricket club obviously the hosting of the Royal Company of Archers and a firework display. We wish them continued success and our support.



WAR MEMORIAL ILLUMINATION

Having been talked about since last year, at last the war memorial in Elie has been illuminated in the evenings. This has been a project undertaken by Elie & Earlsferry Environmental Action Group and funded by Elie & Earlsferry Community Council.

The power is supplied through the generosity of Elie Parish Church to the two LED lamps that light the monument. This will cost around 10p per day - but has a stunning effect in the evenings. It is hoped that this will again go to enhancing the look of our village to all who pass the monument.

The supply wiring was fitted by Danny Ward and the connections by Sparkright Electrical Services, who also installed the lights in the new bus shelter.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this a special feature in our village.

Campervans/ Caravans at lighthouse car park –

This continues to frustrate but we are trying to reach some solution. Various suggestions have been put forward from turning it into an actual camper van park with marked bays to repositioning the yellow rusty barrier to prevent high vehicles from getting access and even having a locked gate at the end of the road closed each night and opened in the morning. This is apparently a problem throughout the country and the most effective solution appears to be to manage the visitors by regulating the number of vans and charging appropriately. It seems whatever is to be done a complete ban on such vehicles in that car park is both problematic and likely to be unenforceable. It may indeed be better to make use of the revenue that a regulated number of vans could provide and use it for the benefit of the community. Discussions continue and we welcome views.

LITTER BINS

Another perennial matter

During the summer Fife Council were not in a position (cut backs etc) to empty the public waste bins at week ends although Fife Coast Trust seem to manage the ones they control - the result was that on a number of occasions the High Street was strewn with litter which had not managed to remain in the bins. Of course there are a number of reasons for this:-

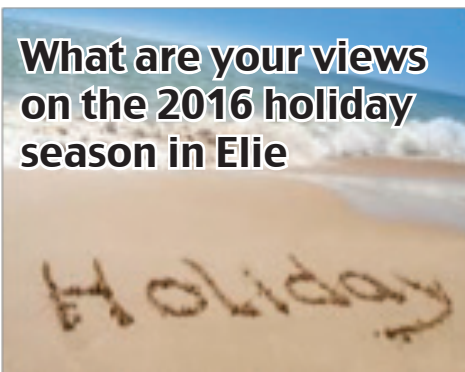
1. Renters leaving on Friday/Saturday and who do not have wheelie bin access have to put out their rubbish earlier than the collection so often just park it beside one of the big bins – a magnet for seagulls.
2. there is no land fill recycling skip anywhere in the area; you have to go to Pittenweem for that -
3. Maybe the caravans and camper vans use the bins to leave their rubbish because some of the contents suggest domestic detritus. The recycling area behind the church was a major disgrace with glass bottles just carelessly thrown into the compound.



Thanks to Laburnum Landscapes chappies who tried to make it safe. Let's ask your tenants to show some responsibility.

There is a bottle deposit at lighthouse car park too if the one in the church is full. Perhaps a note left in your house asking for your tenants co-operation.

What are your views on the 2016 holiday season in Elie



Did you get the impression that the number of renters this year has reduced. The Herald did some investigation and the reports from the renting agencies was that business has held up well this year but there is a tendency towards late bookings and short breaks which puts a strain on the agencies but it seems that people are often waiting until the last minute before booking – hoping for an Easyjet type deal perhaps.

UPDATE ON BROADBAND

Those of us not privileged to get superfast fibre broadband from BT may be able to get an alternative supply if the COINEF tender goes ahead. It is a long and seemingly painful process to get a provider on board but there is a degree of optimism now that in about a year's time those either not able to get any broadband or just a trickle will get an improved service.

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Accident at Bus shelter

Towards the end of August a lady fell and was injured at the bus shelter in High Street beside the bicycle racks. It is not clear exactly what happened but meantime as a precaution the cycle racks are out of use.



History Society autumn and winter programme

The winter programme starts on 13th October with "The Mars Boys" – you will be enthralled by the story of this Mars training ship whose occupants visited Elie every summer and held concerts and soirees. On 10th November it is our Annual General Meeting followed by evening of chat etc with Bruce and Jackie Sangster about their experiences at Sangsters. This should be a great evening full of wonderful memories for Bruce and Jackie and very entertaining for those who come along. The meeting starts at 7pm and is held in the Church Hall. Non members most welcome.

JAMES BRAID MEMORIAL

"We have suggested to Fife Council that a sign at both entrances to Elie on the

A 915 should be erected commemorating the Birthplace of James Baird Open Golf Champion. We think it merits shouting about."

The Dangers of the Chain Walk

You will have seen yet another dramatic rescue from the cliffs. The Community Council considered preparing a short pamphlet especially for the caravan site visitors explaining the dangers of the Chain Walk and offering advice but the decision was taken that this should not be done.

However - it was agreed to ask Fife Council to produce warning signs for each end of the Chain Walk, warning people of the danger of trying to do the Chain Walk when the tide is coming in. It was felt that this would reach everyone - not just those staying in the area. We live in hope not to see a helicopter over Kincaig . . .