

	<p>(b) There are plans to go ahead with the Christmas tree stand/flower border, as at Sauchen.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Police Report</u> The police bike will be sent to Inverurie as it was too small to be used by Ian Robison. However, funding for a larger one for him is being sought.</p> <p><u>Crime trends and figures for Westhill for the period 12-02-2009 – 12-03-2009</u> In this period there were 3 reported thefts, 1 of which was a shoplifting incident which resulted in 2 persons from Aberdeen being charged. The other 2 involved unattended property going missing during parties and at least one of these may have been accidental.</p> <p>There was one attempted break in at business premises, and a break in to a burger van in the industrial estate.</p> <p>There were 10 Vandalism reports including a series of incidents in and around schools in the Town. A group of, as yet, unidentified young males were seen to run off from one location and enquiries are ongoing to attempt to identify those members of this group.</p> <p>Two Breach of the Peace complaints led to fixed penalty notices being issued in both cases.</p> <p>One person was given a fixed penalty notice with regard to using a school playground as a toilet.</p> <p>Two Assaults were also reported with persons reported on both occasions.</p> <p>Various people were reported for Road Traffic Offences by local and Roads Policing Officers, or issued with conditional offer tickets.</p> <p>We have recently set up another new Neighbourhood Watch in Elrick and are in the process of supporting another resident of Westhill who is looking to do likewise.</p> <p>It is obvious that our main concern must be with regard to the very recent upturn in the number of incidents of Vandalism to our schools. It is my belief that a small group of young males, aged 13-15 years would be mostly responsible and we have leafleted areas overlooking all of our schools highlighting the problem and encouraging local residents to assist the police by identifying those responsible or making us aware of youths congregating in these areas. Anyone with any information relating to these incidents should be encouraged to contact Grampian Police on 0845 600 5 700 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.</p> <p>Otherwise this is a good set of crime figures for an expanding town like Westhill, and I am confident that if all agencies and parties concerned with providing services within the Town continue to work together these will be sustainable.</p> <p>Ian R Robison 8143, Westhill Community Officer</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Road Safety at Elrick Primary school: update</u> A detailed analysis of the site has been carried out twice. This survey is used to help traffic planners as it can predict the numbers of pedestrians and vehicles. However, the score for the site was extremely low, indicating that no crossing was required here. However, representatives have also been to the school to watch the traffic, and there were several near misses whilst they were there. These were due to irresponsible parking. It was found that 75/80 cars were school traffic. This indicates that traffic calming measures and education would be the most effective methods to improving school safety. It was proposed to set up a school traffic plan, in which Rowan Drive may be made a school traffic exclusion zone. This has</p>	

	<p>worked well in other areas. Rewards would be given to the children for using the 'Park and Stride' scheme. Walking buses would also be set up, and the school will be given high visibility jackets. Kerbside signs could also be put in to say 'Stop, Look, Listen' for the children. Until these schemes are started up, the school was offered a temporary crossing assistant, however it was emphasised that this would not be the permanent solution. The walking buses can either be informal, or formal, in which case the 'drivers' would have to undertake disclosure checks, but the council would pay for this. A sub-committee at the school will be formed to implement these changes, and an article in the Evening Express was requested. Flashing 20mph signs or school signs were also suggested, but it was felt that since most traffic is for the school, the signs would have limited effect. Elrick Primary School thanked the Community Council for their support.</p>	
7	<p><u>Road Safety on the Aberdeen Dual Carriageway</u></p> <p>Aberdeen City Council is responsible for the portion of road up to the Westhill roundabout. There are currently 18 crossing points on this section of road, which the Community Council find very dangerous, especially because of the number of accidents or near misses there have been there recently. The Councillors have written to the Chief Constable and Aberdeen City Council is currently looking to reduce the speed limit over this section of road to 50mph. A vote was taken, that found the Community Council in favour (7-4) of the move to reduce the speed limit. However it was felt that more enforcement is needed to ensure that people keep to the speed limit along this road (although a small time lapse should be allowed for people to get used to the new limit). Stewart Whyte will write to the Chief Constable regarding this, and will also write to the City Council requesting that they consider blocking up some of the crossing points to reduce the danger.</p>	Stewart Whyte
8	<p><u>Travellers at Garlogie: Council Proposal</u></p> <p>There are currently two proposals. Firstly, Aberdeenshire Council propose that access to the lay by be stopped altogether, and that the ownership goes back to Dunecht estate. Echt & Skene Community Council propose that some access be kept for dog walkers, and that the size of the lay by is reduced so that only 3 or 4 cars can park there. Previously, Dunecht Estate has evicted the Travellers, but this time they have declined as the legal costs involved were quite high for the estate. The Community Council felt that the proposal by Echt and Skene Community Council was the better option, however they will not get involved and leave it to Aberdeenshire Council to decide.</p>	
9	<p><u>Planning Issues</u></p> <p>The requirement to keep the existing buildings at Broadshade is being reviewed, but permission for 207 houses to be built here is going ahead. The low cost housing must be in place within 5 years.</p>	
10	<p><u>Sub-Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>Christmas Lights</u> The lights are now in storage at Macintosh Plant hire near Echt. There will be no raffle this year. We need to find out from Sauchen how they put their lights onto their tree once it is in the holder.</p> <p><u>Litter</u> The monthly picks are progressing well. Schedules have been arranged so that they do not clash with council picks. Aberdeen City Council has a very poor record of fixed penalty notices – just nine compared with over 5000 in Glasgow. Aberdeenshire is better than the City, but lags behind much of Scotland. Cllr. Saluja will investigate the reasons for this record to be so low. One litter bin along with its pole has been removed by the Council from the Old Skene road at the Brimmond crossing. Cllr. McKail will investigate the reasons for this.</p>	<p>Cllr. Allan</p> <p>Cllr. Saluja</p> <p>Cllr. McKail</p>

	<p><u>Making it Real (Planning for Real)</u> One hundred and twenty-five flyers were delivered to houses, shops and the Nursing Home in Skene asking people to comment on the bus service and if they would use an improved service. Ninety people replied asking for an improved service. Christian Allard will discuss the results at the next Bus Forum meeting. He will also raise the need for further training for drivers to ensure they know about and are able to operate the ramps which enable mobility scooters to access buses.</p> <p>An application to Shell for funding had been successful. This will be used for a feasibility study into the need for a 'Community Cafe' in the area. Echt and Skene Community Council have donated £200 and the Community Development Group have also agreed to contribute. In view of recent changes to plans it was agreed that the sub-committee would clarify exactly what this money would be used and report back to Westhill community Council.</p> <p><u>Public Art</u> This is still a work in progress, however Denman Park, having been identified as the Heart of Westhill by the majority of participants, will be the location for the first piece of art in the project. The theme of a compass will be developed by a professional artist and used in the design.</p> <p><u>Hanging Baskets</u> The cost for watering will be £20 a time, which was thought to be very reasonable. It will also cost £1.25 for the mats and wicks, of which we will require 25. Foxlane will be opening for the Easter weekend (11th April), and the Councillors and Community Councillors will be shown around before this time. Cllr. McKail will find out if the excess cardboard packaging from Foxlane is deemed as commercial waste or if the Council will recycle it.</p>	<p>Christian Allard</p> <p>Maureen Strachan</p> <p>Heather Wood</p> <p>Bill Loudon</p> <p>Cllr. McKail</p>
11	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>See attached report.</p>	
12	<p><u>Bulletin / Website</u> Spring issue has been delivered, but two new deliverers are required for two areas. There was a better balance of article to adverts this time. Mrs. Gill Barton thanked the Community Council for our article on her late husband. It was requested that the Councillors reports should be brought further forward in the next issue. A Secretary is needed for Citizens Advice Bureau, if anyone is interested. The Bulletin was able to be put on the Website very early this month, so is up for anyone to review.</p>	
13	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Objections or comments on the new structure plan should be in by 24/04/09. b) Maureen Strachan will complete the survey about the proposed NHS smoking ban on behalf of the Community Council. c) Correspondence about the planning gain needs further discussion, so will be dealt with at the next meeting. <p><u>Correspondence Received</u></p> <p>R-01: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Councils and Scottish Government Planning Consultations & Publication R-02: Letter – Ms. Claire Martin, Aberdeenshire Council: Proposed Amendments to Off-Street Parking in Aberdeenshire R-03: Letter – Mr. Richard Carey, NHS Grampian: Tobacco Policy Consultation R-04: E-mail – Ms. Stella Kemp, Aberdeenshire Council: Proposed Library at Westhill Primary</p>	

	<p>R-05: Letter – Cdr. Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Community Council Forum – Minutes of Meeting 04/12/08 and associated papers R-06: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee Meeting 24/02/09 – Agenda & Minutes of Meeting 03/02/09 R-07: E-mail – Ms. Kathleen Moir, Aberdeenshire Council: CDG Meeting 25/02/09 and Minutes of Meeting 14/01/09 R-08: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Community Profiles R-09: E-mail – Ms. Kathleen Moir, Aberdeenshire Council: Change of Agenda for CDG Meeting 25/02/09 R-10: E-mail - Mr. Charlie Flint, LEGRA: LEGRA Newsletter – February 2009 R-11: E-mail - Mrs. Alison Hannah (Westhill resident): Westhill Primary library R-12: E-mail – Sgt. Peter Mackenzie, Westhill Squadron, Air Training Corps: Help distribute Westhill Bulletin R-13: E-mail – Ms. Audrey Hendry, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Council meeting R-14: E-mail – Ms. Diane McCombie, Aberdeenshire Council: Finalised City and Shire Structure Plan R-15: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Community Council Forum meeting – 05/03/09 and associated papers R-16: Letter – Mr. David Jennings, Aberdeen City Council: Finalised Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan R-17: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: ASCC information R-18: E-mail – Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Road Closure notification – Hill of Keir, Skene R-19: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Changes in the Scottish Planning system R-20: E-mail – Ms. Laura Milne, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Bus Forum meeting – 25/03/09 R-21: E-mail - Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: SDPA Update 6 R-22: E-mail - Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: National Spring Clean R-23: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Invitation from Public Petitions Committee 30/03/09 R-24: Booklet – Transport & Infrastructure, Aberdeenshire Council: The Network – Issue 55; Spring edition March 09 R-25: E-mail – Ms. Amanda Simpson (resident): Garlogie Travellers R-26: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Planning Gain / Developer Contributions R-27: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Press article re. Public Petitions Committee meeting 30/03/09 R-28: Booklet - Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Local Community Plan – Garioch 2008-2012</p> <p><u>Correspondence Sent</u> S-01: Letter – Mr. Bruce Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill library (SW) S-02: E-mail – Cllr. Mark Cullen, Aberdeenshire Council: Bulletin (SW) S-03: E-mail – Ms. Audrey Hendry, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Council meeting (SW) S-04: E-mail – Sgt. Peter Mackenzie, Westhill Squadron, Air Training Corps: Help distribute Westhill Bulletin (SW) S-05: Letter – Gladedale Group (Scotland): Leddach Grange Estate, Elrick, Westhill (SW) S-06: E-mail – Sgt. Peter Mackenzie, Westhill Squadron, Air Training Corps: Westhill Air Cadets - Bulletins help (DR)</p>	
14	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>(a) Staff are needed to man a stall at the Gala. The theme will be the 75th anniversary of D-Day.</p>	

	<p>(b) There is a proposal that Old Skene Road should be widened. Echt and Skene Community Council have objected on the basis that the footpath should be protected during this development.</p> <p>(c) Cllr. McKail will pass on the detail of the Driving Check to all those who volunteered to take part.</p>	
15	<p><u>Date of next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th April 2009, at Holiday Inn Westhill (room to be advised).</p>	

Heather Robertson
Minutes Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 12/3/09						
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2009	XMAS LIGHTS & TREE	MAKING IT REAL	LITTER CAMPAIGN	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/02/09	6765.19	5140.00	3196.02		2093.10	17194.31
Receipts in period 13/02/09 to 12/3/09						
Bulletin advertisers- winter/spring issue	320.00					320.00
Bulletin advertisers- prepaid for 2009		3580.00				3580.00
Echt & Skene CC- contribution to Youth Café study				200.00		200.00
Payments in period 13/02/09 to 12/3/09						
Fee to Minutes Secretary for February	-80.00					-80.00
D. Ritchie & B. Burbidge- Spring Bulletin fees & expenses	-281.84					-281.84
Xmas lights- sundry Dec 08/Jan 09 costs reimbursement to D. Ritchie			-100.50			-100.50
Ian Forsyth- reimburse Xmas gift to shopping Centre caretaker					-6.36	-6.36
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/03/09	6723.35	8720.00	3095.52	200.00	2086.74	20825.61
(Includes £8,177 in Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, on 5.91% interest to 8/4/09)						