

Feughdee West Community Council

Community Consultation Regarding Change of Boundary/ Dissolution.

Feughdee West Community Council (FWCC) presently represents the communities of Inchmarlo, part of Glassel, Brathens, Strachan, Glen Dye, Auchattie, Tilquhillie, Bridge of Feugh and Blackhall.

We have recently produced a Community Action Plan (CAP), outlining potential community projects for the next 15 years. As a result of that work, it was noted that not only are various communities separated geographically by the River Dee, Scolty Hill and the town of Banchory (with no direct road connection) but they also have different demographics and different priorities. Subsequently no joint projects were identified within the CAP.

The CAP did not suggest that the communities should 'split' in order to achieve the proposed projects. Nevertheless a conversation was started to understand both the benefits and disadvantages of dissolving or changing the current FWCC boundary and possibly creating two new Community Councils.

Advantages of staying as FWCC include:

- A larger area from which to recruit community councillors
- A larger community to identify and work on Action Plans
- A larger group = more diversity

Disadvantages of staying as FWCC include:

- Different demographics between north and south of the River Dee, with south of the river generally having a younger working population as compared to north of the river having an older retired population.
- As a result of the above there are different priorities regarding health, education, infrastructure and housing.
- There are different priorities regarding transport – south of the river no longer has a bus service, north of the river has issues with speeding.
- There are different priorities regarding provision of Broadband
- Planning applications have different implications for residents of the different communities.
- We currently have a situation whereby councilors from one area of FWCC can vote on a matter that directly impacts a different area of the community council.

Advantages of dissolving FWCC (and setting up two new Community Councils) include:

- Each new community council would represent a smaller and more cohesive community with common goals. Meetings would therefore be shorter and more relevant.
- Would allow each area to focus on their own identified issues and priorities within their individual communities e.g. planning, infrastructure, health and rural transport.
- Allows for greater flexibility and opportunity to work on joint projects in collaboration with more relevant neighboring community councils immediately adjacent to the newly formed CC's
- Each new CC would be directly responsible for commenting on planning applications within their own area.

Disadvantages of dissolving FWCC (and setting up two new Community Councils) include:

- A smaller group of residents and/or businesses to draw volunteers from.
- A smaller pool of local expertise (to help with community projects)
- Financial – administration costs would be greater to run two community councils rather than one.

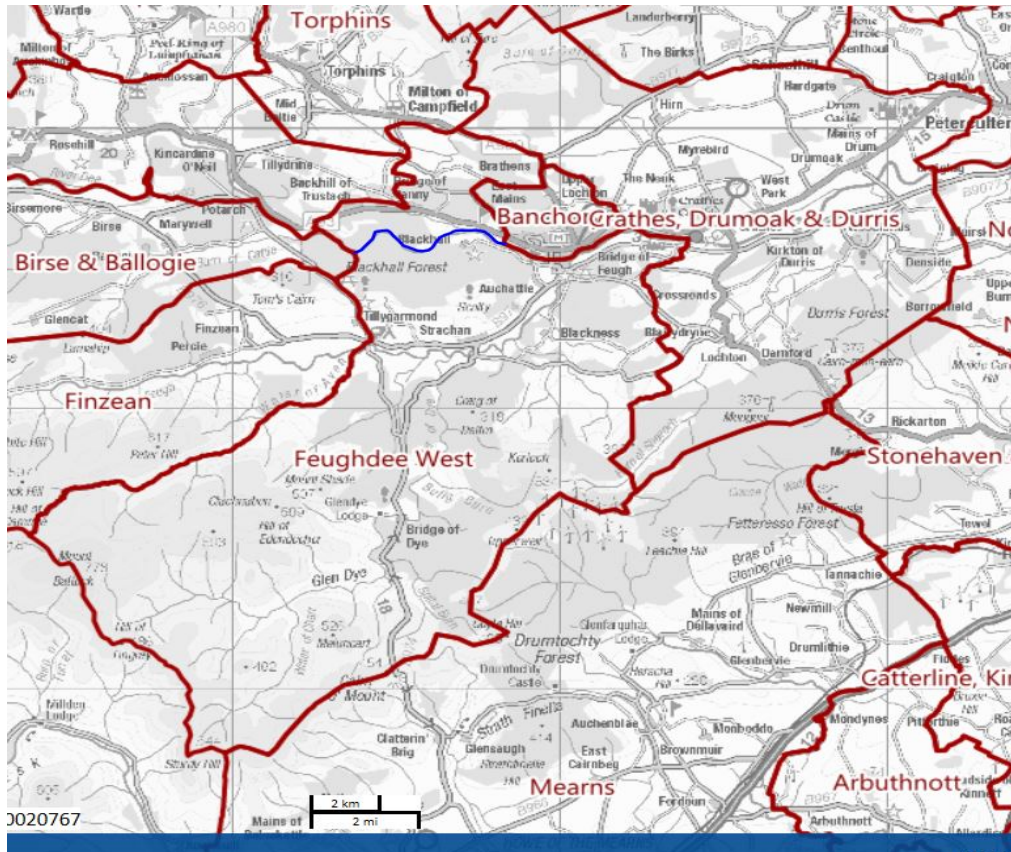
After seeking guidance from Aberdeenshire Council - FWCC voted on three options:

- 1) For FWCC to remain as it is.
- 2) For FWCC to dissolve and the formation of two new community councils.
- 3) For FWCC to change its boundary and part(s) merge with another CC.

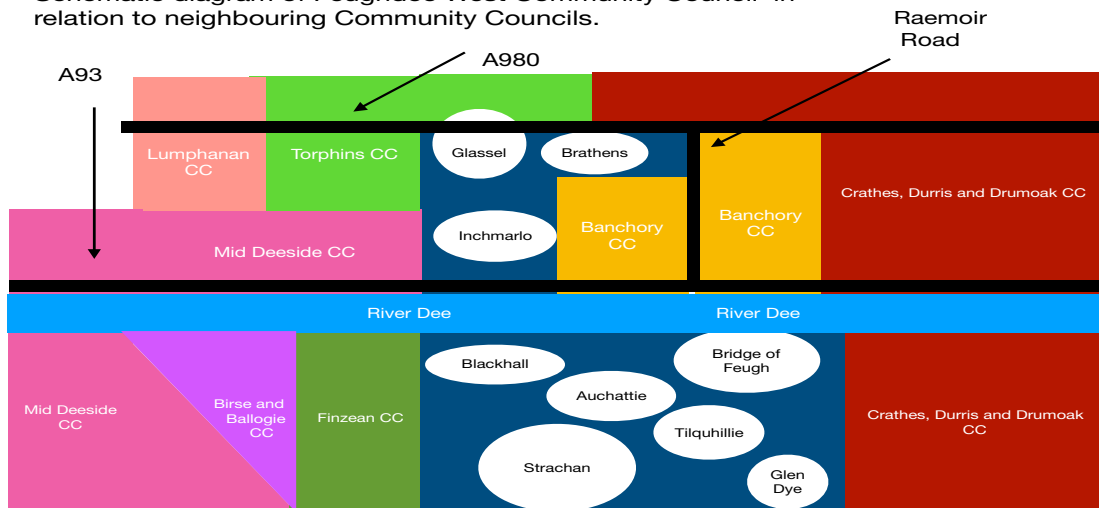
A vote saw the majority of community councillors in favour of a change to the present set up. **However, prior to making such a change there must be a community consultation.**

On the next page there are **three questions** that directly relate to the **three options** above. We would like you to complete the attached short questionnaire or complete the online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YJ7CVD7> to help guide our decision on the future of FWCC.

Map showing the relationship between FWCC and neighboring community councils.



Schematic diagram of Feughdee West Community Council in relation to neighbouring Community Councils.



FWCC Community Consultation

If you prefer you can complete this survey online by following this link
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YJ7CVD7>

*Name

*Address
and
*Post code

***Please note - we require your name, address and postcode to ensure that only the views of residents of FWCC are taken into account. This info will **not** be shared with any outside agency and will be deleted once the data from the survey has been analysed by FWCC.*

The following three questions relate directly to the three options outlined on the previous page. Please tick relevant box

1. Do you think that FWCC should remain as it is (one area, comprising the communities of Inchmarlo, Glassel, Brathens, Strachan, Glen Dye, Auchattie, Tilquillie, Bridge of Feugh and Blackhall)?

Yes

No

2. Do you think that FWCC should dissolve (close down) and two new community councils should be formed? (Please see note below)

For example - Inchmarlo, Glassel and Brathens CC and Feughside CC (comprising Strachan, Auchattie, Tilquhillie, Glen Dye, Bridge of Feugh and Blackhall)

Yes

No

Would you be interested in becoming a member of a new community council?

Yes

No

Any comments regarding the potential make up/boundaries of the new community councils?

Note. In order to establish a new community council we need to have interest from 12 electors from each of the areas proposing a new CC. If this number of electors does not come forward then there is the risk that part of the area would be unrepresented if FWCC should dissolve and a new Community Council not established.

3. Do you think FWCC should change its boundary so that part can merge with another community council?

Perhaps you feel that there is an area that is currently part of FWCC that would be a more natural fit with another community council? For example: Inchmarlo could possibly merge with Mid Deeside or Torphins. Strachan could possibly merge with Finzean? Please note these are only suggestions and no other community councils have yet been approached re a possible merge.

Yes – I would like to see a boundary change.

Please tell us what you think would work for your community.

No – I don't want a change of boundary.

4. If you have answered **yes** to more than one option, please tell us what your preferred option would be:

1 - to stay as we are.

2 - to dissolve and form two new community councils (north and south of the Dee).

3 - to change the boundary so that only one part of FWCC "leaves" and the remaining communities continue as FWCC.

Please use this space to add any comments you would like taken into account.

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please return your completed form to:

- Secretary, FWCC, Knockhill Farm, Strachan, AB31 6LL
- Scan or email to fwcc1secretary@gmail.com
- Your local community councillor
- Leave in the appropriate collection boxes at Inchmarlo and Strachan Halls

Consultation ends Friday 17th January 2020