

From: angela\_as\_anderson@btinternet.com <angela\_as\_anderson@btinternet.com>  
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:13:44 PM  
... <long list of Fifee CC mail addresses removed>

Subject: Re: Ceres & District - Concerns with Fife Council

Good morning and a late response to this email thread.

I have been Chair for coming up 2 years and it's a position no one else wants!

We cannot recruit new CC members so at the moment I can see a time very soon when we may dwindle away - not a position I want us to be in but....

Our elected members are a life line. They work very hard and can get a response from FC on simple matters fairly quickly. We are surrounded by green energy projects as we sit half a mile from a sub station - and as far as I am concerned FC are not interested in our local voice on related planning matters. It's lip service which is hugely frustrating.

Whilst I recognise the benefits of the English system - I fear no one in our village just now would want the responsibility that comes with it - and that's the conundrum.

I see we have now been asked for a detailed breakdown of our FC grant expenditure - which is all documented in our annual accounts return.

Onwards and upwards then!

Best wishes  
Andrea

Andrea Cail  
Chair, Auchtertool CC.

On Sun, 8 Feb 2026 at 11:19, SalineandSteelend CC <salineandsteelendcc@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, as a fairly new chairman, just coming up 1 year, I am really pleased just how helpful our local councillors are. However we do find contact with the council a bit slow and haphazard.

We do get the weekly planning list. Otherwise I think we get some things but other consultations etc are not always directly sent to us, which does make life a bit more difficult.

I don't think we could cope with the amount of work the English CC proposals would incur. Our age profile is also quite high just now.  
I did attend the session on Wednesday which I found very interesting and worth checking the recording/hand outs.

Do you find getting invoices for meetings difficult to get from the council?

I have found that if you can actually speak to someone at the council you have a better interaction and outcome.

Please keep going, us new folk need your help and guidance and experience!

Towards a better future?

Regards,  
Tina  
Tina Chapman  
Chairman  
Saline and Steelend Community Council

On Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 10:46 PM Rosyth Community Council <rosyth.community.council@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi All

I agree with Anne re the extra responsibilities gaining even some of the powers of English Parish Councils. The average age of our community

councillors is around 65yrs and we already find it difficult just to find people to take on the responsibility of being an office bearer! More communication and engagement from Fife Council and other organisations which are not just an email so a box can be ticked re community consultation would be good however.

regards

Linda Temple

Secretary and Treasurer (because nobody wants the Secretary duties!)  
Rosyth Community Council

On Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 11:29, Anne Smith <burntislandcc@outlook.com> wrote:

Hello Margaret,

Thank you. You make your points well.

However, I'm unsure that volunteers in CCs would welcome the responsibilities as well as the powers of English Parish Councils. Many of us already feel the current burdens of CC duties are carried on too few shoulders - volunteers have busy lives and can only give their time and abilities as they are able.

Our Locality Manager has almost no engagement with our CC beyond an occasional email response.

I'm hoping our Fife CCs group can encourage Fife Council to communicate and engage with us better. Am I too optimistic? I feel we are an underused resource for Fife Council. I don't want us seen by Fife Council as a bunch of moaners. I wonder if yesterday's Teams training for CCs and Cllrs on planning for renewables might be a response to John's highlighting of the issues?

I worry that Scottish Government seeks new ways to engage with grassroots communities when the network of CCs already exists and could be strengthened and empowered, at least as respected advisors to Local Authorities. It'll be interesting to see how much attention is paid to our (unresourced) Local Place Plans.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/>

Regards,

Anne Smith

Secretary RBBCC

On 5 Feb 2026, at 10:10, Anstruther Communitycouncil <anstruthercommunitycouncil@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear all,

We think that many Community Councils would agree that Fife Council, as an organisation, has become too remote, and that it has very little regard for the expertise and commitment that community councils freely offer.

Some years ago, Fife Council divided East Fife into five localities, one of which was East Neuk and landward. We had an office, manned and open, five days per week. In Charge was a dedicated Locality Manager who was the conduit between the community and the Council. There was also a Housing officer, an Environmental health officer, and a Registrar, all of whom were responsible solely for the East Neuk locality. You could go into the office to pay your rent or Council tax, as well as raise any issue concerning the Fife Council. The Locality Manager sat on several local committees and received minutes of every community council meeting in the locality. The East Neuk had two dedicated Community education workers based in Anstruther.

After only a short time, this was gradually cut back, and services were centralised until only the Locality Manager remained. This post was merged with the other localities and moved to Cupar when the new Waid Community Campus opened in 2017. This left a manned desk in the Waid Academy as the sole face-to-face contact between the community and Fife Council.

We know going back to this level of service will never happen, as Local authorities no longer have this level of funding, but there has to be a way to make council procedures and the decision-making process more transparent and to bring the community more into the decision-making process. Ideally,

Community Councils' responsibilities should be enhanced to the level of those of English Parish Councils.

Their activities generally fall into three categories: representing the local community, delivering services, and improving local wellbeing.

? Financial Power: Councils have the authority to raise money through a small portion of local council tax, which is used to fund community projects and maintenance.

? Planning & Consultation: They are statutory consultees for all planning applications in their area. While they cannot veto a project, the "principal authority" (district or unitary council) must consider their views.

? Maintenance of Assets: They often manage and provide:

? Public Amenities: Allotments, bus shelters, litter bins, public clocks, and toilets.

? Recreation: Parks, playing fields, village greens, and community centres.

? Highways: Footpaths, bridleways, and street lighting.

? Neighbourhood Planning: They can create Neighbourhood Development Plans to influence future land use and growth in their parish.

? General Power of Competence: Eligible councils (with a qualified clerk and two-thirds elected members) have a "general power of competence," allowing them to do almost anything an individual can do, provided it isn't prohibited by other laws.

The Question is, does the Fife Council really wish to empower individual communities to take responsibility for moulding their future, or do they want to retain control in their remote ivory tower in Glenrothes? If there is a willingness to empower each community, then Local Authorities need to lobby the Scottish Government to change the roles and responsibilities of Community Councils. And enhance those roles and responsibilities, and properly fund them.

Community councils should also ask why the development of democratic decision-making in England is based in the community, while in Scotland, decision-making is reserved for the 32 councils.

Regards,

Margaret Hellicar - Secretary

The Royal Burgh of Kilmarnock, Anstruther and Cellardyke Community Council

On Fri, 2 Jan 2026 at 12:30, Ceres and District Community Council

<CeresAndDistrict\_CC@outlook.com> wrote:

Dear Fife Community Councils

Firstly, Happy New Year to all;

We are writing to you to let you know about an action being taken by Ceres & District regarding engagement with senior management at Fife Council.

The draft letter below explains our position. We would be interested to know if other community councils have a similar / shared experience. As you will see we plan to discuss this at our next public meeting.

Regards

Neil Martin

Ceres & District Community Council Meeting 12th January 19.30 2026 Ceres Memorial Hall

Key Agenda Item (for Information)

Following a meeting of Elected Ceres & District Community Councillors, I have been delegated to inform you about serious concerns within our Community Council regarding the lack of any actions and engagement undertaken by Fife Council.

As we review our Agendas and minutes over recent years it is predominantly ongoing recurring issues that continue to be sidelined by Fife Council with either minimal/ no action or a substandard action.

Our elected Community Councillors now believe that our voice on behalf of our community is being disregarded by Fife Council and now question the value of our Community Council. We have received a resignation form an active Community Councillor due to Fife Council totally disregarding any views we have put forward on most issues.

The Elected Community Councillors will discuss the concerns with residents on the 12th of January and have agreed to write to Fife Council Chief Executive laying out our concerns. If no satisfactory action is undertaken by Fife Council following this communication, Ceres & District Community Council will consider what future we have.

Regards