

ANGUS COUNCIL

20 JUNE 2024

**RENAMING OF CUMBERLAND CLOSE, KIRRIEMUIR
CONSULTATION WITH KIRRIEMUIR RESIDENTS**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. ABSTRACT

This Report provides details of the results of the consultation with residents of Kirriemuir in connection with a Petition requesting the re-naming of Cumberland Close, Kirriemuir following the decision of the Council to defer the matter for consultation with residents.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This Report contributes to the following priorities contained within the Council Plan for 2023 – 2028.

Caring for Place: We will engage with communities to support their ambitions to deliver on local aspirations through a place framework.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council: -

- (i) notes the previous decision of Council on 14 December 2023, including to agree that the residents of Kirriemuir should make the decision around any change of name and to instruct the Director of Infrastructure and Environment to carry out a consultation for the residents of Kirriemuir to determine whether to change the name of Cumberland Close, Kirriemuir;
- (ii) has regard to the feedback received from the residents of Kirriemuir via the consultation process concerning the possibility of renaming Cumberland Close, Kirriemuir; and
- (ii) agrees to retain the current street name of Cumberland Close and take no further action.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On 17 August 2023 a petition signed by 956 people, which included 629 signatories from out with the Angus area, was lodged with Angus Council. For the petition to be put before the Scrutiny and Audit committee, there required to be more than 50 signatories from within the Angus area. This requirement was satisfied.
- 4.2 Members were asked to note Standing Order 14, which detailed the requirements in terms of any petition received and stated that petitions would only be accepted where the name and address had been provided with all signatories requiring to be resident in Angus. (These provisions are now contained at Standing Order 13 of the new Standing Orders approved by Council in 2023 and coming into force on 1 January 2024.) More recently with the advent of e-petitions, the Scrutiny and Audit committee had accepted petitions when only postal codes of signatories were provided, particularly considering data protection requirements. All signatories within the Angus area had provided a postal code and there were 327 signatories from Angus.
- 4.3 This petition was reported to the Scrutiny & Audit Committee on 26 October 2023 (Report No [277/23](#)) in accordance with Standing Order 14.
- 4.4 The Scrutiny & Audit Committee agreed to refer the matter to Council for debate without any discussion taking place on the detail of the matter.
- 4.5 At its meeting on 14 December 2023 (Report No. [351/23](#)), following a vote on an Amendment, the Council agreed: -

- (i) to note the detail of the petition to change the name of Cumberland Close and the detail in the Council report;
- (ii) to note the strength of feeling in Kirriemuir around the issue;
- (iii) to agree that the residents of Kirriemuir should make the decision around any change of name;
- (iv) to agree in principle to consider a change of name; and
- (v) to instruct the Director of Infrastructure and Environment to carry out a consultation for the residents of Kirriemuir to determine whether to change the name of Cumberland Close, and if so, whether this should be to (i) Visocchi close, (ii) Lindsay close, (iii) Millar lane or (iv) some other name and thereafter, to collate the responses and bring back a report to council on the outcome of that consultation.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Consultation with residents of Kirriemuir took place between 18 March 2024 and 21 April 2024.
- 5.2 The consultation was carried out via the Engage Angus online platform, which included an invite to residents to participate via the online portal, by letter, by email, or for those who do not have internet access or would find it difficult to otherwise participate in the consultation, by completing a hard copy of the online survey which was made available over the consultation period at Kirriemuir Library.
- 5.3 Public Notices were erected in Cumberland Close, and Reform Street outside Kirriemuir Library. The consultation was also promoted through our social media channels and was covered by a newspaper circulating in the area.

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Overall, 570 representations were received, of which 421 (74%) voted for the Cumberland Close street name to remain unchanged and 146 (26%) voted in support of the petition to rename the street. Not all respondents answered the question on whether the street should be renamed. A summary of the response figures by media is provided in **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 6.2 The online consultation received 1493 visitors of which 411 respondents participated in the consultation. Of those 411 responses, 407 (99%) were from residents of Kirriemuir and 4 (1%) participants were not residents of Kirriemuir. Of the total respondents, 284 (70%) considered that the Cumberland Close street name should remain unchanged, and 124 (30%) considered that the street name should be changed.
- 6.3 Contributions received from the paper-based surveys conducted at Kirriemuir Library amounted to 122 in total. Of those responses 115 (94%) considered that the Cumberland Close street name should remain unchanged and 7 (6%) considered that the street name should be changed.
- 6.4 One letter of representation was received in objection to the change of street name and is copied in **Appendix 2** of this report. No letters of representation were received in support of renaming the street.
- 6.5 Two responses to the consultation were received via the council's customer care system (DASH), with only one of the respondents being a resident of Kirriemuir. The Kirriemuir resident supported the name change while the non-resident objected to the name change.
- 6.6 Emailed representations were received from 34 individuals, of which 20 (59%) were opposed to a change in the street name and 14 (41%) were in support of renaming the street.
- 6.7 With reference to the data protection considerations indicated in paragraph 4.2 above, only the resident postal codes of participants were required to participate in the consultation. Under these circumstances it must be recognised that no control could be exercised over the residency of participants, or the number of consultation responses received from individuals.

Suggested Street names

- 6.8 For those voting to change the street name, Visocchi Close was ranked first in order of preference, Lindsay Close was ranked second and Millar Lane ranked third. **Appendix 3** of this report details the above rankings.

6.9 Various other street names were suggested by respondents, and these can be seen in the individual comments captured in the appendices to this report. If the Council proposes to change the street name it must advertise those proposals in a newspaper circulating in the area and thereafter take into account any representations made to them within 28 days after the date of the first publication of the advertisement, before they may alter the street name.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There will be no financial implications for the Council if members determine not to proceed with the renaming of Cumberland Close. If members decide to rename Cumberland Close that will incur costs estimated at approximately £500 in providing and erecting the new street plates, plus approximately £300 for the advertising of the proposal, as referred to in paragraph 4.6. There would also be the requirement for officer time to carry out the process of publication, dealing with any enquiries, and if objections to the proposals are received, a further report to the Council.

7.2 Although not a cost to the Council a change of name is likely to result in some additional costs for local businesses who could be affected in relation to amendments to business stationery, advertising, etc. The scale of such additional costs is unknown and will depend on the circumstances of each business.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

9.1 There are no direct equality implications in terms of this report as its recommendations have no differential impact on those with protected characteristics.

10. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Legal, Governance & Change, and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report [277/23](#), Scrutiny & Audit Committee, 26 October 2023
- Report [351/23](#), Angus Council, 14 December 2023

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Summary of Consultation Responses

Appendix 2 – Letter of Representation

Appendix 3 – Ranking of Preferred Street Names