

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED



## Chair's bulletin April 2017

Dear Member

Welcome to the Chair's bulletin for April 2017 and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

### **PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR**

You will probably all be aware by now that Steven Watson has returned to work, albeit on a phased return basis. He is working 3 days a week for a few months to get himself back into the swing of things, but I'm pleased to say that you will be seeing Steven around and about the area once again. Do remember however that he has been unwell and he may not be quite back to "full speed" just yet.

### **BROADBAND**

You will have seen in the latest edition of the Stratherrick & Foyers News that the Trust's Broadband Team has been working with Cromarty Firth Network Company to draw up a plan to bring superfast broadband to our area. This is not by way of fibre optic cable but by a wireless network with very small transmitters being located at strategic positions to "bounce" signals around. I'm not technologically gifted, so this is my understanding of how the system works! If you would like more detailed information, please don't hesitate to contact the Trust.

In order for the scheme to get off the ground, the Trust has recently approved an initial small "test" area and the required equipment will be installed over the coming weeks. Tests will then be undertaken to ensure that a superfast service can actually be achieved. Once testing has been undertaken and any "bugs" ironed out, the service can then be offered to residents.

The network is being designed to ensure it can grow and essentially "spread" throughout our entire community. Once the test phase has been successfully rolled out, the Trust will look at some of the harder to reach places in our community. Our eventual aim is to offer a broadband service to the whole area, not just the higher populated spots.

It has taken a lot of time and effort on the part of individuals to get to this stage. All options had to be investigated but we believe this form of network is the best option available. Watch this space!

### **FOYERS BAY**

Following months of discussions and negotiations, the Trust is about to finalise terms with SSE to take a long lease of a large extent of land in the Foyers Bay area. Those of you who attended the Trust's Consultation Day in March last year will have seen some of the initial ideas for the Bay including the idea of constructing a slipway and other boating facilities with a secure parking and storage area. The Trust received a (mainly) very positive response from the community on the consultation. The lease itself still needs to be drawn up by solicitors but it is hoped this won't take too long.

It is hoped the area can be given an initial tidy up while the more formal plans for the slipway and other facilities are drawn up. All plans will of course be published before any formal construction work takes place.

### **RIVERSIDE FIELD**

At the beginning of the year the Trust invited a couple of local architects to attend meetings to give presentations about plans for the Riverside field. I am pleased to say that an architect has now been appointed by the Trust to draw up a masterplan for public consultation and subsequent planning application. The architect will meet with the Trust and representatives of local groups during the process of creating the masterplan. Again there will be public consultation and an opportunity for comments before any planning application is ever submitted.

The Trust will therefore be contacting representatives from the local groups to invite them to attend a meeting with the Trust and the architect to get the ball rolling.

That's the news for now. Thank you for your continuing support for the Trust and please do contact us if you have any comments; we appreciate any feedback. If you do have any questions, or even better would like to be involved with the Trust, please get in touch.

Zoe Iliffe  
Chair  
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust Ltd

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