

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED



Chair's bulletin January 2017

Dear Member

Welcome to the first edition of the Chair's bulletin for 2017. I hope you all got through the festive period in one piece and have recovered from all the coughs and colds that seems to have been rife over the last few months.

We begin what is looking to be another busy year for the Trust continuing the work on our various community projects and we look forward to receiving lots of grant applications to distribute more community funds. I will have more detailed updates on our projects, ie. Broadband, Foyers Bay and the Riverside field, in future bulletins. For now, to find out what's happening keep checking our Board minutes, the Stratherrick & Foyers News and our website, and of course if you feel something is missing please don't hesitate to contact the Trust.

AGM/NEW DIRECTORS

Thanks to all members (and non-members) who attended our AGM at the end of November. I hope you found it informative and useful. Various questions and comments were put to the Board, which are always gratefully received.

Members elected 4 directors to the Board – Sharon Ferguson, Garry Page, Julie Murphy and Terry McCarvill-Ellis and we therefore welcome Sharon back to the Board and welcome new faces Garry and Julie to the Board. Unfortunately, Terry subsequently informed me that he had decided to resign as a Director as, due to work, he felt unable to give the level of commitment required of a director of the Trust.

GRANTS

Grant meetings this year will be held in February, April, June, August, October and December. The dates of meetings and deadline for submission of grants is as follows:

Grant meeting	Deadline for grant submissions
1 February 2017	Past
5 April 2017	22 February 2017
7 June 2017	26 April 2017
2 August 2017	21 June 2017
4 October 2017	23 August 2017
6 December 2017	25 October 2017

The reason we have these deadlines is that the Trust has created a process of assessment which involves one or two directors reviewing the grant application, contacting the applicant to discuss the application and/or clarifying any queries and referees being contacted if necessary. The director(s) then complete an assessment report which is put to the Board meeting, and this process does take a little time. However, it gives applicants the best opportunity for their applications to be considered fully and sometimes leads to higher value grants being awarded than had actually been applied for!

RIVERSIDE FIELD

Towards the end of last year I was approached by a few residents asking if the Trust was intending to build a new school on the Riverside field. This was certainly news to me but the residents said that they had heard this, and that the Highland Council was also involved. I am unsure where these rumours started but thought it worthwhile just to quash them as several residents had expressed very grave concerns about it.

Let me say categorically that **the Trust has absolutely no plans to build a school on the Riverside field**. We have undertaken several community consultations about the field and not once has the idea of a school ever been suggested or desired.

As the Highland Council had also been mentioned, I took it upon myself to contact Cllr Margaret Davidson (our Ward Member and Leader of the Highland Council) to seek her clarification. Cllr Davidson confirmed that the Highland Council also has **no such plans**. There will be a full response from Cllr Davidson in the next Issue of Stratherrick & Foyers News but I just wanted to put people's minds at rest that a school will **NOT** be built on the Riverside field.

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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