

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED



Chair's bulletin July 2016

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest edition of the Chair's bulletin. I can say that it has certainly been a busy year for the Trust so far. Directors and volunteers are committing more and more time for the benefit of our community. I am also pleased to say that the number of grant applications being considered by the Trust is increasing, with clubs and groups providing different activities. We are also continuing to work on various projects which will hopefully benefit our whole community.

S&F NEWS

Issue 2 of the Stratherrick & Foyers News has recently been published and we hope you're enjoying reading the news from the Trust and from others in our area. We want everyone to contribute to the News so if you would like to write an article, publish a letter or send in photographs for Issue 3 or future issues, we would love to receive them.

Also, if you would like to go onto our mailing list to receive a copy at home, please let us know. Members of the Trust should already automatically receive an email link to the electronic copy, however, we're happy to provide a paper copy instead if you would prefer. Please contact Steven at strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk. Alternatively you can visit www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk and follow the link to the News there.

Steven Watson and our Communications Team have done a fantastic job of putting the News together, so a big thank you to them. Our Communications Team is made up of Steven Watson, Peter J Faye, Hugh Nicol and Stewart MacPherson.

LAND AT RIVERSIDE, FOYERS

You will see in Issue 2 of News that the Trust is inviting groups to come forward with their ideas for the land at Riverside. Please have a look at the News and contact either myself or Steven Watson if you are interested in developing an idea to put the land to good community use.

LIGHTBULB SCHEME

You should hopefully have seen the posters or read in the News about the Trust's latest scheme to help our community reduce carbon emissions and to save money on their energy bills - our Lightbulb Scheme. Directors wanted to do something that all properties in our area could access and benefit from.

Every household (1 application per household) can therefore now receive up to 20 free low energy lightbulbs paid for by the Trust. There is a form and information at the back of Issue 2 of the News. There are a variety of lightbulbs (with different fittings) available - although none available for dimmer switches I'm afraid.

Just complete one application form per household and return it to the Trust. You can decide to either collect the lightbulbs yourself from our supplier or the Trust can deliver them to you, although this may take a little longer than if you collect them yourself.

BROADBAND/4G MOBILE

For those of you who attended our Consultation Day back in March, you will recall that we had information about a possible new Broadband scheme within Stratherrick & Foyers and the wider "Highland Council Ward 13" area. The Trust is still taking an active part in that wider project and, as part of that, we are now circulating a questionnaire asking residents to let us have information about their existing Broadband service and provider. This will enable us to co-ordinate information about the current Broadband service within our area and help us to decide the best way forward. The information we collect will be kept completely confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than for our Broadband project purposes. It is vital that we receive as many responses as possible, as this is the only way for us to demonstrate a real need in our area to those who will be able to help us achieve and fund our objectives. Please return your form as soon as possible and encourage your neighbours to do the same.

If you haven't already received a survey questionnaire or don't receive one through your door in the next week or so, please get in touch with the Trust. Any of the directors, Steven Watson or our Administrator will be able to get a survey to you to complete.

There have been articles recently in the national news following the Queen's Speech when the Government announced proposals for making superfast broadband a utility and the possibility of compensation to those users who don't have access to a superfast service. We are obviously aware of that and will continue to work to find the best way to improve services within our area, including continuing to work with Community Broadband Scotland to achieve the goal.

We suspect (as already happens in other areas) that families who might consider moving into our area are being put off because of the poor broadband and mobile service. This problem is foremost in our minds and we will do whatever we can to improve the service. However, projects of this size don't happen overnight and so I would ask for your patience. We will of course keep you all informed.

You may also have seen articles about the Highland Council securing funds to improve 4G mobile services throughout our area. Again, as soon as we know anything we'll let you know. It is possible the Community Council will hear about this before the Trust but I'm sure when they know something, so will everyone else.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Members may or may not be aware that Frank Ellam (our Finance Director) and Katie Ellam (a former Trust Director and Community Councillor) will shortly be leaving our area. I personally would like to say a massive thank you to both Frank and Katie for their time and commitment to our community. As our Finance Director Frank has generously donated a huge amount of his time to the Trust, Katie likewise during her directorship and while serving on the Community Council. I will be sorry to see them both go but I wish them the best of luck in their new home.

This does mean however that the Trust will eventually need to find a new Finance Director. If any Member is interested in taking on the role, then please let me know. Although it is a voluntary role (as are all the directors), the Trust has a Job Description setting out the requirements of the Trust for our Finance Director. If you would like to speak to either myself or Frank about the role please don't hesitate to get in touch.

ADMINISTRATOR

I am delighted to confirm that the Trust has a new Administrator. Laura Walker-Knowles took up the post at the beginning of May and she is settling very nicely into the role. Laura can be contacted on our usual Administrator email address (admin@sfctrust.org.uk). We'll be updating our website over the coming weeks to ensure up to date contact details are now shown. Our postal address hasn't changed - that is still Evergreen, Inverfarigaig so you can still send post to Laura c/o Evergreen.

GRANTS

Just a reminder that grant meetings are now held bi-monthly, so there are now 6 opportunities each year to apply to the Trust for funding. Our grant meetings and their deadlines for submission for the remainder of this year are:

Grant meeting	Application submission deadline
3 August 2016	22 June 2016
5 October 2016	24 August 2016
7 December 2016	26 October 2016

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

I would just like to formally congratulate Catriona Fraser on her recent election as Chair of the Community Council following Iain Brown's resignation. I wish Catriona all the best in her new office. The Trust would also extend its thanks to the former Chair, Iain Brown, for his services to the community. We wish you well and hope you enjoy your free time.

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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