

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED



Chair's bulletin June 2017

Dear Member

Welcome to the Chair's bulletin for June 2017. Having enjoyed the endless sunshine of May, June has unfortunately been somewhat damper, but the gardens will no doubt enjoy the benefit!

As well as our grant assessment programme, the Trust is now working on progressing 4 major projects to benefit our community.

BROADBAND

You will be aware that the Trust's Broadband Team has been working with Cromarty Firth Network Company to bring superfast broadband to our area.

I am pleased to say that the equipment for the initial "test" area is in place and, so far, the testing has been a great success! The network is designed to ensure it can grow and eventually "spread" throughout our entire community. We are just in the process of arranging our Broadband Consultation Day, which will take place in July. Watch out over the next few days for details of that. Experts from Cromarty Firth and directors will be available to discuss the scheme.

Our Broadband Team consists of Sharon Ferguson, Ken Sinclair and Steven Watson. Well done and thanks to them all for their efforts so far, but especially Sharon – she even spent a day of torrential downpours to make sure the equipment got installed!

FOYERS BAY

Terms for the Trust to take a long lease of a large tract of land in the Foyers Bay area from SSE has been agreed and the matter is now with our solicitor. We are also just about to instruct an engineer to create an appropriate design of the slipway that will form part of the project. The Foyers Bay Project Team will continue to meet to finalise all the project's plans and once we have these formal plans we can then consult the community and thereafter seek quotations/tenders for the project's construction.

We have met with and agreed a way forward to enable the fishermen to continue to enjoy the Bay and we will formalise the position once the legal formalities between SSE and the Trust have been finalised.

Our Foyers Bay Team is Peter Faye, Hugh Nicol, Stewart MacPherson, Steven Watson, Donald Forbes, Gordon Murphy and Olaf Olsen. Well done and thank you for your efforts so far.

RIVERSIDE FIELD

HRI Architects have now been instructed to draw up a masterplan for the Riverside field. A topographical survey has recently been undertaken. Over the next few weeks some trial pits will be dug so that a geotechnical survey can also be produced. The geotechnical survey details

the ground conditions, and this will be necessary for any planning application eventually submitted.

The Riverside Field Project Team has been created which currently consists of myself, Hugh Nicol, Julie Murphy and Garry Page although we will also be inviting representatives of other interested local groups to also join the Team. The purpose of the Team will be to meet with the architect, discuss proposals and agree the Masterplan for the field, which can then be put to the community. Once the community has approved the plan there will be the need for planning permission through to eventual development phase.

ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR BOLESKINE COMMUNITY CARE

Morag Cameron (Chair of BCC) and Jane O'Donovan (Secretary of BCC), recently attended a Trust Board meeting to give a presentation about their feasibility study and plans. To assist BCC with their plans, BCC asked the Trust if they could negotiate and, if possible, acquire property to secure BCC's future. The Trust agreed to do this and those negotiations are now progressing. We are keeping BCC fully informed of our progress and will let the community know if we are successful.

GRANTS

I and my fellow Directors are pleased to see the number of grants being submitted to the Trust steadily increasing and the variety of activities being funded is widespread. Examples of grants recently approved include:

- South Loch Ness Heritage Group to undertake repair works to the War Memorial;
- Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council's operating costs for the Foyers toilets;
- Feis Gleann Albainn to cover the entrance fees for all children attending the Feis from the Stratherrick and Foyers area.

These grants cover a broad spectrum of ages and activities and we wish all organisations well in their endeavours.

I would especially like to thank South Loch Ness Heritage Group and their team of volunteers for taking on the works to the War Memorial. Their hope is that all the works will be completed in time for the Centenary next year. As the years pass and the memories of war fade, we must never forget the lives forfeited for the sake of our freedom. The Group and their volunteers have already made a massive difference to the site around the Memorial.

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWS

The latest Issue of Stratherrick & Foyers News has just been published and I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I do.

If you would like to receive a paper copy delivered to your door this can be arranged. Unfortunately, we don't have sufficient numbers of volunteers who could deliver to every household so that's why we either post a copy or you can collect one from any of our local shops, cafes, pubs, the Campsite or the Mobile Library. If anyone would like to submit an article or a letter from the next Issue that would be great. Please contact Steven Watson or email strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk.

LIAISON DIRECTOR

You may be aware that, to ensure continual dialogue and good relations between the Community Council and the Community Trust, the Community Council nominates one person to

sit on the Trust's Board as Liaison Director. While Catriona Fraser (SFCC Chair) and I have a very good relationship and are in regular contact ourselves, the Liaison Director undertakes the "official reporting" between the two organisations. Recently that role had been undertaken by Gordon McAndie however, at the Community Council's AGM last month, Gordon decided to step down as Liaison Director. The Community Council is therefore now looking for a volunteer to take on the role. Thanks to Gordon for taking on the role over the last 6 months.

If you are interested in becoming the Liaison Director you should contact Catriona Fraser. As the Liaison Director is a "Co-opted Director" position, the nominee does not have to be a Member of the Trust (as is the requirement for "Member Directors").

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

Trust contact details

Zoe Iliffe, Chair
zoe-dir@sfctrust.org.uk
07907 747749

Steven Watson, Project Co-ordinator
pc@sfctrust.org.uk
07525 120966

Laura Walker-Knowles, Administrator
admin@sfctrust.org.uk
07464 394276

Stratherrick & Foyers News
strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk

Community Trust Directors

Zoe Iliffe, Chair
Sharon Ferguson, Vice Chair
Frank Ellam, Finance Director
Liaison Director (Vacant)
Peter Faye
Stewart MacPhearson
Hugh Nicol
Ken Sinclair
Garry Page
Julie Murphy
1 x Vacancy