

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED

12th March 2014

Dear Trust Member

I am making contact both to introduce myself as the newly appointed Chair of the Community Trust, to welcome you as 'Member', and to let you know what is happening within the Trust during the weeks ahead. You will of course soon be able to see our most recent Minutes but I thought it important that I also write to you on a more personal level.

Since the election during the AGM on 26th February, you now have a brand new team of Directors in position. At this early stage of our tenure, we need a wee bit of time to play 'catch up' and to get a grip on where we are now with the various projects already underway. I envisage this taking a few weeks after which we will then start to actively address some of the many and varied suggestions articulated within the 2013 Survey, to which so many of the Community contributed. Our intention, indeed our duty, is then to engage with those who are keen to make things happen and offer our help where appropriate and as is financially sustainable.

As new Directors, there is much to do to build a deep understanding of the finances available and the varied rules attached to what we can and cannot offer by way of grant assistance etc. There will be challenges ahead but, as a team, we intend not only to ensure that the Community's money is well managed and distributed but also to communicate with all Members at regular stages throughout the year ahead and do our best to keep you all well informed.

In the immediate future, we have already made contact with all Community Councillors expressing our desire to act together, where appropriate, with mutual respect and in a supportive manner. While I am aware of the tensions that existed prior to my coming on the scene, I am hopeful that, as a new team, we can play our part in creating a positive and trusting relationship within the Community during the months ahead. Of course, it may not all be plain sailing and there will undoubtedly be issues and concerns that crop up and we promise to deal with these in as professional a manner as we can, i.e. timely, politely and with well-researched information. We do have access to a number of professional bodies such as the 'Development Trusts Association Scotland' and expert specialists 'Articles' lawyers etc. so will use these whenever necessary.

That's it for now and I hope, between this letter and the Minutes of our coming meetings, that you will feel well enough informed at this early stage of the life of your new Board. We will also be exploring additional means of communication too but need a bit of time yet to agree the best way forward.

And finally, we have written personally to all the outgoing Directors, thanking them for their energy and persistence in taking the Trust to where it is today. They managed to achieve an

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overwhelming agreement on the Articles of Association and, with more people stepping forward as potential Directors than there were places, that speaks volumes for the confidence they have created. Your current team leap off the back of their work and, with full Articles etc. in place, we have the opportunity now to focus on supporting members of the Community to achieve what they want to achieve and to do our part to help make this wonderful community an even better place to live than it is already.

If you know anyone else in the Community who might want to receive our letters and Minutes etc. then please do ask them to become a Member. It costs £1, there is no personal liability beyond that £1, and you get the opportunity to receive info and take an active part in the Trust's activities. Please give either Fiona Ambrose (Secretary) or myself (Chair) a call/email if you would like a form.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards from us all.



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