

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED



April 2014

Dear Trust Member

This is a second email bulletin from me to let you all know what we have been doing since taking up our positions as Directors. You will have received our latest Minutes however, because of the rules governing the way these work, the Minutes are always going to come out a month after our meeting.....so these email bulletins should, I hope, help to fill the gap and keep you informed with all that is going on.

There are many different facets to running any Company and possibly a few more besides when running a 'Community Company' and we take these new-found responsibilities seriously. Our job, as newly installed Directors, is first to build your Company so that it is fully fit for purpose and then to begin to address some of the desires expressed in the Survey completed in 2013. The previous team of Directors left us with a strong and well considered set of Articles. These are our 'bedrock' and our job now is to build a solid house upon it. This process is well underway and our ethos is to ensure that, whatever actions we take, we will leave the Trust better than we found it. This process of continual improvement should become normal behaviour and, while of course there may be the odd hiccup, the overall direction is entirely positive. Bearing in mind that we are all volunteers and that only a month has passed since my last missive, we have already moved a long way from where we were and here are some of the achievements to date:

- All Directors are now 'up to speed' on all aspects of the Trust's business
- We have created a clear sense of direction and are all working towards clearly identified goals.....with an ambitious timescale in place.
- We have created a full Directors' Induction and Training scheme so that any new Directors in future will be able to enjoy full initial training as soon as they join.
- A new 'Funding' team now manages all communications and negotiations with our funders.
- A 'Communications' team is already implementing a new communications strategy.....this email bulletin is only one part of that.....the Q&A attached is another.....and there is much more to come, including a website.
- A 'Grants' team is rewriting our whole Grant system to ensure a better match between our funders' requirements (as per the Terms signed with them) and our community needs.
- The whole Grants data recording system is being up-graded to become fully fit for purpose and better in line with our funders reporting needs.
- One of the Directors, as 'Apprenticeship' czar (!), is already seeking businesses and young people in the area to take advantage of this excellent scheme.
- We are actively seeking a new Finance Director to co-opt on to the Board.
- We are producing budgets and cashflow projections which will allow for better control of current spend and allow us to project our thinking forwards when deciding what larger projects we might be able to help you fund in the future.
- We have re-written both the Administrator and Bookkeeper paid contract roles and clarified exactly what are their responsibilities.

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- We have produced a number of important 'policy' documents including Data Protection, Equal Opportunities, Child Protection, Document Management and others.
- We have begun the process of performing some blue-sky thinking with regards to what role your Community Trust might play in the future.
- We have begun the process of designing our own website. This will become not only a hub for providing you, our Members, with up-to-date information, but also a central deposit of information for Directors.
- We have committed to our first 'Open' meeting to be held sometime in June.....date to be decided.
- In amongst all this we continue to assess and award individual and group grants as ever.

That's it from us for now and I hope you are feeling well enough informed as to what is happening. Of course if you have any questions then please do get in touch either by email or by telephone at any time and I am happy to have a chat and to listen to any ideas as you see fit. If I cannot answer your questions myself then I will find someone who can.

I hope you enjoy reading the 'Question & Answer' document above and I hope too that we will see many of you at our coming **Open Day in June**. Please keep your eye out on notice boards and email for the date and time.

Kind regards



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