

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LTD.



Chairperson's email bulletin
July 2014

Dear Member

This is our latest Chair's bulletin to keep you informed about what is happening and, as always, to offer ourselves up to answer any questions you may have.

The work to bring the Trust up to standard is now complete. While of course, no company is ever fully 'complete', we are happy that we have achieved all the tasks we set out for ourselves back in March when you voted us on as Directors and that we are now fully 'fit for purpose'. With a full set of policies and procedures and a newly ratified Financial Management Scheme all in place, your Trust is on an even keel and ready to move forward on your behalf with confidence.

We are now starting to spend the bulk of our time thinking and planning forward and addressing some of the priorities outlined in the 2013 Community Consultation document. It's an exciting time for us all as the potential for funding ever larger community projects in the years ahead starts to materialise.

Here are some of the current major changes and, if you want to know more then please do give any of us a call at any time:

Financial Management Scheme. This has now been fully ratified by the Board and we attach a copy of it to this email for your interest. This document sets out the control systems for managing the community's benefit funds and ensures that there will be continuity of control whomever you vote on as Directors in the future.

Grant Applications. Following requests from our main funder, SSE, and our own investigation on what is happening with other Trusts in the area, we have now fully updated both the nature of the Grants on offer and the manner in which they are assessed and awarded. Please find a summary of the new Grants being offered attached to this email for your information.

IMPORTANT. The old Grant application forms will be retired on 31st August and the new system will run concurrently with it until then. Full information on the new system was launched at the Open Evening and we will place the same information on to notice boards and on to our interim website shortly. Meantime if you have projects in mind that relate to the old energy saving grants system, i.e. stoves, PV panels etc, then please ensure you get your application in to us before 31st August. Thank you.

ALSO IMPORTANT. As well as your individual needs, we are really keen to help finance your group activities and to put money to what SSE calls '**Legacy projects**'. Legacy projects are those which will last for a long time and they will include things like land purchase, community care programme and centre, pier, sports centre, community woodland etc. and of course our own Apprenticeship scheme which is already up and running.

Apprenticeship scheme. It turns out that we have not one, but two local companies keen to offer apprenticeships to young people in the community. At present, we are working with one of the companies on their application and we will provide you with more detail as things progress. We are delighted that two local employers are keen to help local young people to find their feet in the working world. If successful, then the partnership between the Trust and the two local employers will have created a great legacy for the young people involved. More information to come once things start to happen.

Possible land purchase. We have linked up with the local working group, started by Councillor Margaret Davidson, who are assessing the pros and cons of possibly purchasing a piece of land at Lower Foyers. In order for them to negotiate with the purchaser and to fully investigate the possibilities of winning funding from the Scottish Land Fund and/or Lottery etc., they need to be part of an official constituted group. The Trust is ideally placed to provide this service so we have co-opted one of the working group members, Zoe Iliffe, on to our Board as a Director. While Zoe will also have full Director's responsibilities, she will be focusing her time on assessing the potential for purchasing this land and advising the Board accordingly.

New website. We are not far now from launching our own website. There is a huge amount of information generated by the work we do and, by having our own website, we can make this available to everyone at any time. A website also allows us to communicate with the wider community including those who are not yet 'members' of the Trust. We will let you know the address of the new website when it is up and running. Watch this space. Until the new website is up and running, we are using the old website as an interim. You can find all the usual application forms and other information at www.stratherrick.org

New email addresses. Please make a note of our new email addresses, thank you. They all follow the same pattern as follows: ctdir-ed@stratherrickcommunity.org.uk
If you want to email any of us, just replace 'ed' with any of the other Director's first names.

For a more general enquiry, please contact our Administrator, Fiona Ambrose. Her email address is: ctadministrator@stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

Other news.

- Due to personal circumstances, one of our Directors, Jane Brown, has now resigned. We thank Jane for her contribution and wish her all the best for the future.
- Our Open Evening on 1st July went very well. All the workings of the Trust were made available, including full financial information, and we hope those of you who came found it interesting and informative. Thank you for your positive comments and suggestions.
- Membership.....we are always keen to welcome new members of the Trust and if you would like to recommend membership to any of your friends or family then please ask them to make contact with Fiona, our Administrator, directly and she will help set you up. We are particularly keen to welcome young people between the ages of 12 – 17 as Junior members. It costs only £1 to become a member and this is also the limit of your liability.
- Financial control. We have created a more formal relationship with A9 Accountancy so that we now have a fully professional company overseeing and advising on our

financial management. We have set this up in such a way that there is no additional cost to the Trust.

- Neighbours. We are building a great working relationship with the Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company. We have been sharing information and building best practice together and I would like to thank Harry Whiteside, their Chairperson, for her help and advice to date.

That's it from me, I hope this helps keep you informed and if you have any queries then please do give us a call on either of the two numbers below at any time.

Kind regards



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