

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LTD.



Chairperson's email bulletin
September 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.

Now we are fully 'fit for purpose' (see last email bulletin), we are turning our focus towards helping people in the community to develop and implement 'legacy' projects and building community assets. 'Legacy' projects are those larger projects requiring funding higher than £10,000. Of course, our regular grant-giving to individuals and groups within the community continues as ever but there is also a growing sense of ambition within the community and people are beginning to step forward with ideas of larger projects. We, in turn, are guided by the 2013 Community Consultation document and, of course, by any direct approaches you make to us for financial assistance.

My main message this month is to let you all know that this community is only a few months away from starting to receive some serious money from the various energy construction projects both underway and going through planning. If you have a larger project in mind and need to source some initial 'start up' funding, then please do come and speak to us. The sooner we know of your intentions and ideas the better we are able to plan the Trust's finances accordingly and set things up so that we are ready to support you when you need it.

For any large and ambitious project, it is often the initial start-up funding that is hard to come by. Here in Stratherrick and Foyers, we are lucky enough to be beneficiaries of substantial community benefit and it would be great to start to use some of this money to finance an ambitious project or two here in our area. Indeed our funders, SSE, are also very keen to see this happen.

So, if you have some ideas that you would like to put into action and need the funding to make things happen, please do make contact, thank you.

What else has been happening?

All details are available in our Minutes as ever but here is brief list of one or two of the other things that have been happening with your Trust:

The Grants system has now been fully reviewed and upgraded and I hope you will have seen the details which have been advertised widely in the Boleskine Bulletin, on notice boards and at our Open Evening etc.

We have welcomed a new Co-opted Financial Director on to our team. Frank Ellam is a chartered accountant and comes to us, not only with prior knowledge of the Trust itself, but also a career in finance which makes him eminently suitable for helping us manage your Trust's financial affairs. With our 'Financial Management Scheme' already implemented, a

Financial Director's job description and A9 Accountancy providing full professional back-up, Frank is the icing on our financial management cake.....although he may wince at being described as such.....sorry Frank! ☺

Community Land purchase - Foyers. The team dealing with this are making great progress with negotiating prices and determining exactly what financial support is available from the Scottish Land Fund etc. We are lucky to have the voluntary services of a surveyor and a solicitor on this team, both of whose professional skills are being used to the full, and once they have all the details sorted, they and the rest of their team will be communicating once again with the wider community to ask whether you like the idea of taking the purchase forward. The Community will have the final say of course.

Apprenticeship. We have financed our first Apprenticeship in the area. Jake Macmillan has started work as an Apprentice Gamekeeper and, as well as learning skills on the job, he will also be attending a two year course at Thurso college to gain the qualifications required to build a career.

AGM.....a date for your diary. We have brought the date of our AGM forward from February to December. It will be held on Wednesday 3rd December as this gives us a more reasonable time frame for completing the annual accounts, providing them for members' comments at the AGM and then getting them to Companies House in time for the end of March deadline. Look out for the invitation to our AGM coming into your letter boxes soon.

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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