

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS

## COMMUNITY TRUST LTD.



Chairperson's email bulletin  
March 2015

### Hello Members

In this Chair's Bulletin, I am happy to announce that, over and above our regular business, we have made two important decisions this month. The first is to go ahead with employing a Project Co-ordinator and the second is to go ahead with making an offer to purchase the land at Lower Foyers.

### Project Co-ordinator (PC)

Following the results of the Questionnaire that went to every household, we have had an overwhelmingly positive response to our proposal to employ someone for this position. The specific results of the Questionnaire are available on our website but, as a summary, 90% of respondents were in favour of the proposal and everyone also provided us with a range of projects they would like the Project Coordinator to help implement.

Full details of the role together with the Community Development Plan, the latter of which sets the need for a Project Coordinator within a community-wide development strategy, are available on the website for all.

We would hope to be employing a suitably qualified person by early to mid summer.

### Foyers Land Purchase

The potential for purchasing a piece of land in Lower Foyers has been explored for many months now and, following an initial public meeting chaired by Margaret Davidson in 2014, there was clear public support, including a signed petition, that resulted in a working group being set up to investigate the detail of what might be possible. Your Trust got involved when it became clear that an official body was required to perform any application to the Scottish Land Fund for funding and that, should the land be purchased, it would require to be owned by a community body with the legal and practical means of acting as owners. The working group have reported to the Trust over several months and progress has been reported to you all within our Minutes. In March, the working group made their final recommendations and, following debate, your Trust has decided to move forward with making a bid for the land. Our bid will be dependent both on us winning suitable funding from the Scottish Land Fund and, ultimately on the preference of the sellers, who are free to sell to whomever they wish.

We will be making our bid for the following reasons:

Community aspiration. The desire to pursue possible purchase of land has been led by a long held and publically expressed community desire to seek suitable land for community development. This has been expressed in public meetings, a petition and information on all this has been available within publically available Minutes over many months.

Commercial. Because we have an opportunity to win funding from the Scottish Land Fund and because land tends to rise in value over time, the purchase makes excellent commercial sense, i.e. it is a good commercial investment for the community.

Quality and Quantity. The land is well situated close to one of Stratherrick & Foyers more populated areas and it is of a suitable quality and size to be available for a range of community developments as the community desires. A range of options have been suggested by the community, including community allotments, poly tunnels, sporting purposes and much more. The specific nature of any development can be decided upon with full community consultation further down the line.

Empowerment. Unlike buildings or other products, land is immutable and, for communities to empower themselves, the ownership of land is a central tenet to empowerment across Scotland.....indeed this was why the Scottish Land Fund was set up. If you own land, you have choices.

### **Grant system**

At our meeting in early March, we ratified £5,488 worth of grants and the details of exactly who received what are publically available on our website.

### **Money available for grants.....don't be shy.....apply!**

Please do keep your applications coming in and don't be shy in applying for funding for any projects you may have in mind. We are keen to help you maximise your chances of securing funds by helping you create your application so please do call us at any time if you want some help. The next closing date for applications is 24th April so there is plenty of time for completion of an application.

### **New Members**

Since my last missive, we have welcomed another 24 residents as Members and that takes our official membership up to 174. It would be wonderful if everyone in the community got in touch in order to become members so if you know someone who might be interested to do so then please do point them to our website or ask them to give us a call at any time. Membership is FREE and as well as all the voting rights at public meetings etc, they will receive regular information on what's going on.

Because of the legalities surrounding company membership, we cannot automatically make everyone a member because we are not allowed to force membership on anyone.

However, everyone in the community has the right to join, for free, and all they have to do is fill in a simple form.....available on our website at [www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk](http://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk)

### **Our new Chair.**

Zoe and I have begun the process of handover and Zoe will be taking over as Chairperson from May.

That's it from me. Thank you for your continuing support of your Community Trust.

Kind regards

Ed



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