

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LTD.



## Chair's email bulletin April 2015

Dear Member

This is my first communication to you all as I prepare to take the office of Chair on 1 May 2015.

To begin on a sad note, we must say goodbye to Ed Ley-Wilson from the Trust. I am sure you will join with me and all the Directors to take the opportunity to pass on our gratitude to Ed for all the hours of hard work he has put into the Trust over the last 18 months. He has been an inspiring Chairman and the Trust would not be in the healthy position it is without his contribution. Ed has worked tirelessly during his chairmanship to make the Trust fit for purpose, to ensure that members are fully informed and that the Trust is working in their best interests. We wish Ed and Leah well in their new home and their new ventures.

You will recall from the last Bulletin that the Trust had made two major decisions – firstly, to employ a Project Co-ordinator and secondly, to attempt to purchase land at Foyers. Since those decisions were made, directors have put in a huge amount of effort to action those decisions.

### **Project Co-ordinator**

A substantial amount of work has been taking place behind the scenes to put the Trust in a strong position to be able to employ a PC, for example:

- Budgets set and ratified;
- Grant applications submitted to help the Trust fund the salary of the PC;
- Payroll and Human Resources policies and procedures are being put in place to ensure the Trust is capable of employing a PC in a proper and appropriate manner;
- Job description and other relevant documents finalised;
- Recruitment processes being finalised;
- Interview panel appointed;
- Job advert created.

The job advert will appear on the Trust's website. It is also being placed in the Press & Journal on Friday, 17 April 2015 and Monday, 20 April 2015 and on [www.jobsinscotland.com](http://www.jobsinscotland.com). The Trust is also hoping to create some positive publicity through the use of local media.

A range of information and documents relating to the PC is available to view on the Trust's website.

The closing date for applications will be Monday, 11 May 2015 and it is proposed that interviews will take place in early June 2015.

We hope members will continue to support the Trust as we go through the appointment process and watch this space for further news.

### **Land purchase**

Following the Board's decision, negotiations continued with the estate agents and solicitors have now been instructed to make an offer based on the Board's decision. The offer we make will be subject to obtaining grant funding from the Scottish Land Fund to help with financing the acquisition. If our application to the SLF is not successful, then our offer will be withdrawn. We'll keep you informed as matters progress.

### **Grants**

The next quarterly grant meeting is Wednesday 3 June 2015. The closing date for applications is 24<sup>th</sup> April so please make sure you send your completed application to the Administrator by that date.

THE TRUST NEEDS YOU! We can't distribute money to you unless you apply for a grant. Advice and assistance is currently available on the Trust's website or from the Trust Administrator (contact details below). The main aim of appointing the PC will be to help you (as individuals and groups) to put together workable plans and apply for funding to turn your ideas and projects into reality.

### **Groups**

The Trust is starting to look at how we can improve communication with groups active in our area. If you have any ideas about how we can help groups, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email and contact details are below.

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



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### Sent on behalf of the Community Trust Directors:

Graeme Ambrose	Martin Donnelly	Ed Ley- Wilson
Katie Ellam	Peter Faye	Sharon Ferguson
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