

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LTD.



Chair's bulletin February 2016

Dear Member

Welcome to the first Chair's bulletin for 2016. With Christmas and the New Year a distant memory, we at the Trust are starting to look to the future. We're at the beginning of what we hope will be an interesting and very busy year.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

As we announced at the AGM, the Trust is about to publish the first new community newsletter. It will be uploaded onto our website and we will email the link to all members. Alternatively a paper copy can be supplied if requested, so if you receive the email but would prefer a paper version, please contact Steven Watson (contact details below) or email strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk. This is also the email address if you would like to write to the newsletter, provide an article for future issues or send photos of public events.

The newsletter will be available for the whole community – you do not need to be a member of the Trust to receive a copy, so if you know any non-members who you think might like to receive it, please pass it on or let us know and we can arrange to send copies to them. Paper versions will also be available in various public locations around the area.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Trust will be holding a community consultation at Stratherrick Hall on **Thursday, 3 March 2016**. In order to give as many people a chance to attend, we will be open between 2pm and 9pm, so please do come along. The Trust wants to receive your comments on a variety of proposals/issues relating to our area, for example:

- Community broadband
- Land at Foyers

There will be exhibitions, information and questionnaires available if you wish to leave your comments with us. There will also be application forms available for Grants, Membership and the Apprenticeship Scheme. Directors and staff of the Trust will be available throughout the day to answer questions or discuss any matters you may wish to raise with us.

We have also invited various other groups to come along and share the day with us, eg. Boleskine Community Centre, the Foyers Fire & Rescue, Home Energy Scotland and Community Broadband Scotland.

I'd also like to thank the Brownies and the Loch Ness Luvvies for relinquishing their booking of the Hall that day to allow the Trust to hold this consultation.

Please do come along – this is your chance to have your say.

GRANTS

At its Grants meeting in February, as well as several smaller grants, the Trust awarded its largest grant ever. The Board approved a grant application by Boleskine Community Care for £60,000. In accordance with the Trust's funding criteria we consulted with SSE, who were happy for the grant to be approved. SSE said *"Given the vital service provided by the care group, it is exactly the type of organisation the Trust should be supporting"*.

This award will provide the financial comfort BCC needs to expand their services and equipment. The funding will also allow them to employ a Care Manager and to create a "care hub".

Deadlines for future grants meeting this year are:

| Meeting | Deadline |
|----------------|------------------|
| April 2016 | 25 February 2016 |
| June 2016 | 21 April 2016 |
| August 2016 | 23 June 2016 |
| October 2016 | 24 August 2016 |
| December 2016 | 26 October 2016 |

If you would like to discuss any possible project or grant application, you can speak with any director of the Trust or Steven Watson our Project Co-ordinator. Steven will also be available at the consultation day on the 3rd if you want to come along to chat about an idea.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Since making the initial decision to invest some of the funds held by the Trust for the future, the Board took advice from our financial advisor and has made its first investment. A percentage of the Trust's income will be invested each year. The money is being invested to ensure that funds are still available to our community for the longer term. We are all aware that the funds from the windfarms are only for a limited time and this investment strategy will ensure today's children will still have funds available into their adulthood and beyond. Rest assured however that there will still be funds available for individuals and groups to realise their ideas and projects.

ADMINISTRATOR

Following Fiona Ambrose's decision to give up the role of Administrator, I am pleased to announce that Jeanette Taylor from Dores has accepted the position and will be taking up the job shortly. The Administrator's email address will remain the same, but there will be a new mobile phone number. The new details will be published on the website shortly.

That's the news for now. Thank you for your continuing support for the Trust and please do contact us if you have any comments; we appreciate any feedback. If you do have any questions, or even better would like to be involved with the Trust, please get in touch or come along and see us on **Thursday 3rd March at Stratherrick Village Hall between 2pm and 9pm.**

Zoe Iliffe
Chair

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust Ltd

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