

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED



## Chair's bulletin August 2019

Dear Member,

You may have noticed, and indeed some residents have expressed their concerns to me, that our Project Co-ordinator Steven Watson, has not been as active in the community in recent months as he had previously. You may also recall that, in 2016/17, Steven had a period of extended sick leave and returned to work on a part time basis until finally returning to full time work in October 2017. While at the time of his return both the Trust and Steven were confident that Steven was fit enough to return to full time work. Unfortunately, for a little while now, Steven has been struggling with maintaining his health and continuing to work full time.

In March this year, due to his health problems, Steven requested that he be permitted to work on a part time basis and requested a reduction in his formal duties.

Therefore, over the last few months Trust Directors have been undertaking a formal process to consider Steven's request and, I am pleased to say, that this has now been resolved amicably.

In order to assist Steven with his health problems, the Trust has agreed a trial period of 12 weeks whereby Steven will work only Mondays and Tuesdays (totalling 14 hours per week).

On Mondays Steven will work from home and will be available by either email ([pc@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:pc@sfctrust.org.uk)) and mobile (tel. 07525 120966)

On Tuesdays Steven will be based at the Trust's recently purchased property, Wildside Centre, Whitebridge. Steven will be available to meet with the community at Wildside but this will be on an appointments system only. If you wish to make an appointment to meet with Steven at Wildside, please telephone Steven (on the mobile number above) to arrange a suitable appointment. If however you are housebound or disabled and unable to attend at Wildside then Steven will be available to visit you at home (again based on a mutually agreed prior appointment).

This appointment system basis is necessary as, because of his health problems, Steven is no longer able to drive around the community on his own and is relying on public transport and unfortunately therefore is no longer as mobile as he originally was.

As we have agreed a trial period reduction in Steven's hours, his duties have also had to be restricted. Therefore, Steven will only be available to advise residents and groups on the types of grants available from the Trust and advising where residents/groups may be able to obtain third party funding. However, Steven will no longer be available to assist residents or groups with any other activity, nor will he be available to assist residents or groups to complete any applications or documentation respective to any grant application (whether that be a Trust grant or a third party funding application).

The Trust's projects will continue to be undertaken; however these will be managed (temporarily) by the volunteer Directors. Steven will assist the Directors with specific tasks or research; however, Steven will not be leading on the Trust's projects during the trial period.

The agreed trial period commenced on Monday, 5 August 2019. If the trial period proves to be successful for both the Trust and Steven, then the changes in duties and hours may become permanent. If the trial period is not successful, then Steven will revert to his previous full time hours and duties.

These trial changes have been agreed to try and assist Steven with his health problems but balancing the needs of the Trust and our community. If the trial period is successful, then the Trust will look to appoint further staff.

Obviously, I have not outlined all the agreed terms and conditions of the trial period above, but these are the most important points for the community to note.

We hope you will understand that this has been a difficult period for both Steven and the Board of the Trust. We thank you for your understanding and hopefully we can all now move forward in a positive direction.

Yours sincerely,

Peter J Faye

Chair  
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust Ltd

#### **Trust contact details**

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