

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

August 2021 Issue Number: 25



TONY'S UPDATE THIS MONTH

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came and was involved with the Summer Gala. The intention was to use the regular Markets and create a mini event to help ease people out of lockdown. The event eventually found itself at the Wildside Centre as a location, allowing the Trust to give some additional support, and gave many of you the chance to see the building for the first time. Thanks for your kind words about the event and the location (we particularly liked the hub at the heart of the community comment!). You all seemed to enjoy the community spirit and weather. Behind the scenes we know we could and want to do better when running such events so we ran a survey and your feedback was invaluable for future event planning.

THE WILDSIDE CENTRE IS OPEN

We are now gearing up to opening the Wildside Centre for you all, making sure our housekeeping is in order and that users can take pride in your building. A big thank you to everyone involved who made the renovation and opening of the Wildside Centre happen. You can also use the new grass area at the side of the building. There are benches to sit, chat and enjoy the scenery and Wi-Fi access is available there too! The Wildside Centre Landscaping Team met recently to discuss potential developments around the area with a whole host of great ideas coming from that.

BEING A TOURIST

I kind of had a work and play couple of days when I came up with the kids during the summer. I wanted to stay down at Riverside and visit the Falls of Foyers, pop into the local shop, stay at the Wigwams, take a walk in the field and get a feel for the area. The local paper recently commented on the Sports Facilities in a fair report and I did a interview with the BBC on the project too. Having actively encouraged people to make

their views known to planning (good or bad), taken an additional survey which captured both the community view and those closest to proposal, the Community Action Plan once again identifying a need for sports facilities (as the survey did in 2013) and now having had feedback from statutory consultees we can get a true sense of what needs to be addressed from the proposed design. The process has also offered the opportunity to highlight the needs of the community irrespective of the field being used or not. We hope to meet with the new Steering Group, which has a mix of people for and against the development, to help guide the next stages of the process before the end of August.

KEEP UP TO DATE

We've been having discussions how we can keep you up to date on all future projects a little more. We also want past and future Directors of the Trust to be kept in the loop. So, we aim to use our new Website Project Pages to tell the story of what we are up to on a weekly basis, updating them on a Thursday. Some weeks there will be lots of news, others not so much. So if Riverside Field is of interest you can check the website once a week and get an idea about what is happening. Or if Errogie Church is of interest you can check the page there. We hope to have them all up and running by the beginning of September. Keep checking the website.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

After 260 survey responses, 110 ideas bank suggestions, 10 community workshops and two community assemblies the suggested objectives and action areas for the Community Action Plan have been published and Nick Wright and his team have been taking on your feedback about that. The process should allow for all voices to be heard, not just the loudest, and evidence community need in a robust and democratic way. The majority of you will be supportive of the projects identified. It's true, not everyone will be happy about certain projects and we have to be sensitive to that where we can. The Community

Action Plan has been a great piece of work and I've already had interest from other community groups who want to follow our example.

The needs identified can be used as evidence to our direct funders (from windfarms and hydro projects) and any match funders we have to approach, as our aspirations far exceed the funds coming into the community at present. No funder will touch any project if need hasn't been evidenced and there isn't much point in spending time and energy taking projects forward that are not supported by a majority of the community. The Volunteers on the Trust Board may take forward some of the projects but others may be best taken forward by others like the Local Authority to willing volunteers who just love an idea. We have been preparing support structures to help, again where we can. Recently staff members Steven and Laura (who have been with us over five years!) have been joined by Mark Henderson who is looking after our buildings, Caroline Tucker who will help project manage some of your ideas and ensure we are aware when we are ahead or behind on our timelines and now we have new Finance Officer Carlene Vincent who will oversee our financial responsibilities and stability. Along with the Board Members volunteering their time we are building up a great team within the community.

Tony Foster
Trust Manager, SFCT



B862 GORTHLECK VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PUBLIC FORUM - MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

Residents of Gorthleck and the wider community are invited to attend a Public Forum to view the proposed Gorthleck Village Improvement Scheme.

The forum takes place on Monday 6 September 2021 at the Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck. There will be a Drop-in Session between 4pm and 6.30pm followed by a Presentation with Q&A between 7pm and 8pm.

The Scheme aims to lower vehicle speed and better manage traffic, provide a shared-use path throughout the village, improve the road carriageway and road drainage and generally improve the road environment, road safety and amenity in Gorthleck.

Council officials will be in attendance to answer questions and discuss the proposals.

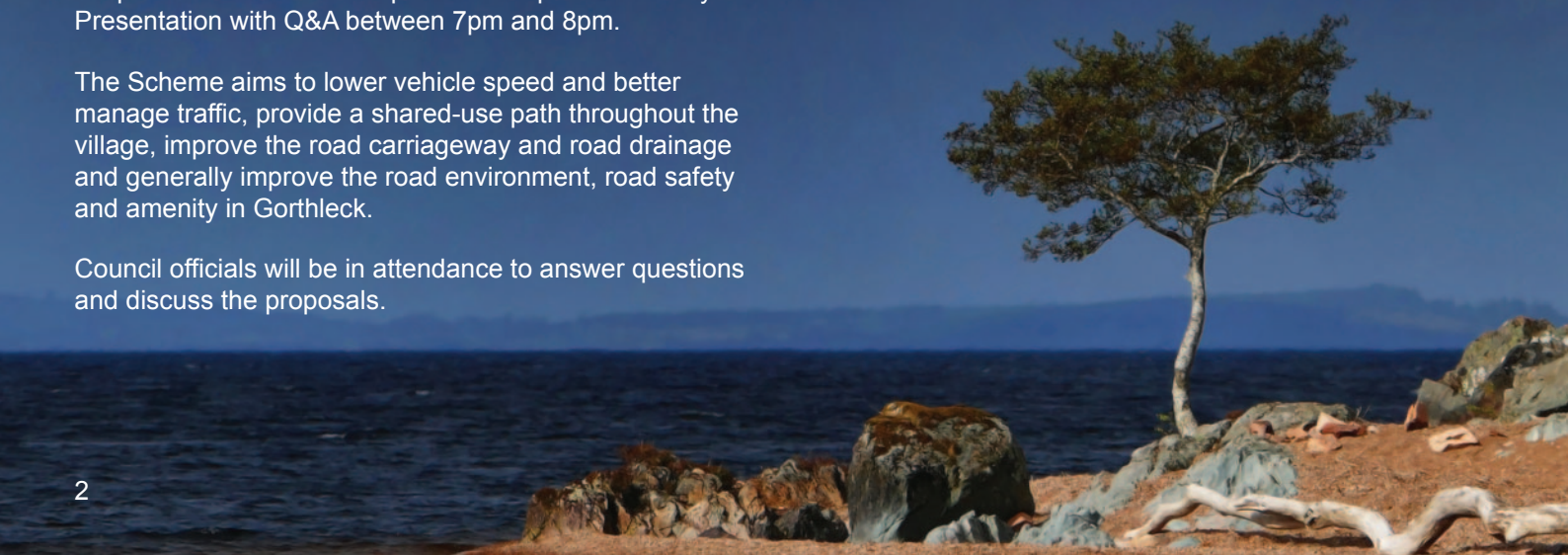
Please come to view the proposals and let us know your thoughts, concerns and ideas.

Feedback forms will be available to further engage in the consultation exercise.

COVID 19:

The use of face coverings is required unless medically exempt, hand sanitiser will be available, and the collection of contact details will be taken for Track & Trace.

Colin Ross,
Highland Council



PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We are always looking at how best to communicate with the community. You may have noticed some updates appearing on the Project pages on the Community website – our aim is that by September we will have weekly updates on each of these pages, which will give you a progress report on how the Trust is moving forward with each project. Here are some highlights of the most recent updates:

FOYERS BAY: LATEST UPDATE - 5TH AUGUST 2021

Mike Lawson, the Trust Architect, has been asked to submit the planning application for the slipway. Further investigations, including a Bathymetric Survey, have been suggested prior to this and Board approval was given for this work to be carried out.

RIVERSIDE FIELD: LATEST UPDATE 12TH AUGUST 2021

All consultees have responded to the planning application which is due to be determined in September. You may have noticed that we have had some media coverage on this, with interviews with Kirsty in the Inverness Courier, and Tony on BBC Alba. We are following up with planning and then will meet with the local steering groups around the end of August.

Higher Ground, our Ground Maintenance Contractors, have also been busy creating and maintaining a pathway around the field for general use.

ERROGIE CHURCH: UPDATE 19/8/21

Are you interested in being involved in the works at Errogie Church? We will shortly be tendering for local building companies to assist with the first phase of the project, focused on carrying out essential repairs and making the building wind and watertight before the onset of winter. The contract comprises remedial work on the core structure, involving repairs and improvements to the roof, stonework, internal timber linings, electrics and floor. If you would like to be kept informed about the tendering process, planned for next month, please drop a note to the Project Co-ordinator, Caroline Tucker, who can be reached at pc@sfctrust.org.uk before August 30th.

David from Northern Asbestos Services was on site on Wednesday to carry out an Asbestos survey, which is essential before any construction works can be carried out. We hope to receive the results of this very soon.

Caroline has spent time with a number of members of the Steering Group over the last couple of weeks, gathering

information and ideas on the potential uses of the building. There are some wonderful ideas out there, but what has come through loud and clear so far is the need for a warm, inviting and multi-purpose community space. Once all the information is gathered, it will be collated and presented to the Steering Group, wider community and our chosen architect to help with the design process.

UPDATE 12/8/21

Next Friday sees the deadline for design proposals from Architects for Phase 2 of the project. We have 5 Architects who have confirmed interest, so we are very much looking forward to seeing their ideas.

UPDATE 5/8/21

Last month Kirsty, Gareth and Frank met with potential funders, Greencoat Capital, to discuss the Errogie Church Project. Yesterday we heard that they were so impressed with our project that they would like to use it as their key ESG case in their company report and presentation. Naturally the team are quite pleased with this!

UPDATE - 28/7/21

Over the last couple of months, activity at Errogie Church has picked up again and the project is beginning to move forward. Our budget has been approved by the Trust for the first phase of the project – Essential Repairs – and we are working with the Architects and Quantity Surveyors with a view to start work on this next month.

We have also put the design process for Phase 2 – Building Conversion – out to tender to a number of interested parties, and Gareth and Caroline are meeting one of the prospective Architects, Catriona Hill from Oberlanders, at the Church later this week.

As part of the design process for Phase 2, Caroline is hoping to be in touch with members of the Steering Group over the coming weeks – thank you to those of you who had a chat with her at the Gala on Saturday about your thoughts and ideas! She will be in touch with you again in due course to discuss the proposed uses of the building, so that we can feed this information to the Architects to incorporate into their designs.

Tony and Caroline have also done some research into other funding sources for the project, and for this we are primarily looking at grants with a focus on the conservation of a historic building and conversion of an existing resource to a community space.

Tony has put an application in for a grant from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund via the Highland Council, and our application has been put forward for consideration.

Caroline Tucker
Project Co-ordinator, SFCT



WATER SAFETY IN STRATHERRICK & FOYERS

Safety around water has had a lot of attention in the media over recent weeks. As we live in a community where large bodies of water play a prominent part in our landscape we felt it would be helpful to put together some tips on how to remain safe around water. Below is the Water Safety Code, sourced from the Royal Life Saving Society, Scottish Water and Water Safety Scotland. Further information from all of these organisations can be found below.

Whenever you are around water:

STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess your surroundings, look for the dangers and check for any signage or flags which could warn you of any potential dangers.

DANGERS MAY INCLUDE:

- Very cold temperatures, which could lead to cold water shock
- Hidden currents
- It can be deep, and estimating depth can be difficult
- There may be hidden rubbish like shopping trolleys or broken glass
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slimy banks)
- No lifeguards
- Water pollution which could make you ill

STAY TOGETHER

When around water always go with friends or family, and children should ALWAYS be supervised by an adult. Swim at a lifeguarded venue.

IN AN EMERGENCY

CALL 999 - Ask for the Fire and Rescue Service when inland and the Coastguard if at the coast. Do not enter the water yourself to rescue.

FLOAT – If you fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help.
Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.

Other resources and further information can be found at:

The Royal Life Saving Society - The Water Safety Code | Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK)

Scottish Water - Water Safety - Scottish Water

Water Safety Scotland - www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk

RNLI - Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks (rnli.org)

Caroline Tucker,
Project Co-ordinator, SFCT



THANK YOU

We would love to thank everyone who attended the Summer Gala & Community Market on Saturday 24th July at our new community hub – the Wildside Centre. It was a fantastic day where the Community were able to get together and catch up on some much-needed face to face time and for many of you the first time you've seen the new building and grounds.

We would like to thank every single Community group, volunteer, market trader, Stratherrick & Foyers Markets, Foyers Fire service, new SFCT staff team and every individual that took part in making the day a success! Thanks also to the weather, which was great!

We look forward to welcoming you to future events and we have some great ideas up for discussion at the moment so watch this space!

Jillian Barclay
Director, SFCT



WELCOME CARLENE

We'd like Carlene, our new Finance Officer, to introduce herself to you. She will take over from the duties Frank Ellam has done for the Trust for many years, when he stands down at the AGM in November.

Hi, my name is Carlene and I am an Accountant living and working in Inverness. I have lived here for over 30 years moving to the big city from a small village in Sutherland. I have mainly worked in the public and charity sectors undertaking a number of finance roles but have more recently been working in practice assisting companies with their accounts. I am also a Trustee of the East and Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau.

I strive to be happy in everything I do and am a strong advocate of having a good a work-life balance. As well as working I enjoy spending time with my family and reading. I am looking forward to working with the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust.

Carlene Vincent,
Finance Officer, SFCT



SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP

SUMMER TRIP TO INVERGARRY &
FORT AUGUSTUS RAILWAY MUSEUM
Saturday 18 September
further details contact
Bob Main 01456486317



SOUTH LOCH NESS
HERITAGE GROUP
7.30pm, Wednesday 22nd September, Stratherrick Hall

INVERNESS KLONDIKERS IN THE YUKON, 1898: FOUR ADVENTURERS
AND AN ECCENTRIC FREE CHURCH MINISTER
A talk by NORMAN NEWTON
Normans will relate the story of their experiences and actions in getting to Skagway, Alaska, their perilous trip up to the goldfields of the Klondike and the rewards if any they achieved there. The Eccentric Free Church minister was from Stratherrick

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Norman's presentation will be preceded by a short AGM.

LOCAL BUSINESSES - WE NEED YOU!

We have now built in the specifications required to develop a comprehensive directory for our community. We will now be taking the time to input an incredible amount of information so please bear with us. If you are a business in the Stratherrick & Foyers and have not previously forwarded on your information, then please can you send us your:

- Business name
- Logo/Image
- A short description of your business and what you offer
- Address
- Telephone No
- Email
- Website
- Facebook page

Please send your details to Steven at clo@sfctrust.org.uk and we will make sure you are included.

WILDSIDE LANDSCAPING UPDATE!

The Wildside Landscaping Team met last week to discuss the progress that has been made so far, suggestions from the wider community that were submitted at the Gala day and to action a plan for future works needed in the centre's grounds to make it an even better place to enjoy.

So far the lawn area has been established, and has been a welcome addition to the outside space – having a flat, grassy area for groups to play on or outside benches to extend the seating areas. The marquee is now fully functional and can be booked out to use as an outside space or as additional space if needed for events etc. There is also an artificial grass floor, which can be rolled back if required, making it more multi-functional and fit for many uses. Higher Ground landscapers regularly visit the site to trim the grass and control the weeds. We have also cleared the broom to the rear of the building, opening up this ground to new possibilities.

Many of you contributed great suggestions and feedback onto our Wildside map at the Gala day. When the team met, we discussed all the ideas and grouped them into different categories; 'Essential Upgrade' included things like installing fully disabled access paths around the building and more storage space. 'Devolved to Groups' included some suggestions like a Micro-Brewery or vegetable garden where we would hope a group of enthusiasts might like to pick this mini project up and drive it forward. 'Next Projects' included decked areas, bandstand, pergola and outdoor stage. There were also suggestions like nature trails, bird boxes and playpark, which we grouped together as projects for the team to take forward next. Finally, there were some longer term suggestions that we categorised as 'Potential Future Projects' which included outdoor toilet facilities and an additional foyer to the front of the building. The team's next step is to speak to our Project Co-Ordinator Caroline and come up with a robust action plan.

If you are interested in any of the areas detailed above please get in touch to offer your feedback or support, we would love more people on our team.



HIRE THE WILDSIDE CENTRE FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENTS AND GROUP MEETINGS

2 EVENT ROOMS

Each can hold up to 84 people, one with kitchen access

1 MEETING/TRAINING ROOM

For up to 29 people

CONTACT

admin@sfctrust.org.uk



EVENTS THIS MONTH

Monday 23rd August	Soup to Go, The Wildside Centre
Tuesday 24th August	Needles & Pins, 6:30pm - The Wildside Centre
Thursday 26th August	Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am
Monday 30th August	Soup to Go, The Wildside Centre
Tuesday 31st August	Community Council Meeting
Wednesday 1st September	Trust Monthly Board Meeting
Monday 6th September	Soup to Go, The Wildside Centre
Saturday 18th September	South Loch Ness Heritage Group, Summer Trip to Invergarry & Fort Augustus Railway Museum
Wednesday 22nd September	7:30pm, Stratherrick Hall, South Loch Ness Heritage Group Inverness Klondikers in the Yukon

Do you have any events you would like added to the Community Calendar?

Please email any events to: admin@sfctrust.org.uk

You can find all the upcoming events on our What's on page here:

<https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/whats-on/>

JOIN THE TRUST

If you would like to become a member of the Trust then please click the link.

<https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/join-the-trust/>

MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS... AND PHOTOGRAPHER

This newsletter is made possible by community benefit funding from SSE Renewables, Greencoat and Green Highland Allt Luaidhe (228) Limited.

Thanks also to Russell for his fab photos.

