

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

June 2021 Issue Number: 23

## COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN NEXT STEPS



HAVE  
YOUR SAY –  
RIVERSIDE  
FIELD

DIRECTORS  
LOOK FOR  
SOLUTIONS



## FIRST SHOOTS OF SUMMER

and... Marquee  
goes up to  
provide a new safe  
meeting space





## FIRST SHOOTS OF SUMMER AT LAST!

I'm really looking forward to the next round of working group discussions for the Community Action plan. I attended the Community Life and Outdoors and Nature workshop as they are the two subjects I feel passionately about. The discussions at last months were broad and interesting, so hopefully this time we can come to some shared solutions to the concerns raised and plans emerge that everyone feels excited to take forward.

This past month I have been busy getting back into 'normal' life, catching up with people I haven't seen in ages and enjoying the sunshine – I even got to go to the pub! It has also been great to be able to attend the Wildside Baby and Toddler group with my wee girl Holly, have a proper catch up with the mums and dads and make plans for what we would like our group to do later this summer. The group has a friendly, relaxing and informal atmosphere and we are continuing to welcome new faces from our local area.

It is great to see the Wildside Centre being used by more and more groups and events – exactly how it was intended for our Community. We have been busy trying to get the outside spaces more usable for the kinds of groups we have. Bob has done an excellent job at

creating a lawn area to the side of the building and after helping him pull out countless stones from the ground and a bit of raking, I'm very excited to see the first shoots are popping up! Graham has also cleared the Broom at the back of the property, which opens up the view and will become another flat 'lawn' area for us to use. Mark, our Caretaker, rounded up the troops to help get the Marquee erected, another great outdoor space for us to use and very soon we will have a selection of outdoor benches dotted around the building so that we can make the most of the summer sun. We have a Steering Group for Wildside and have been concentrating on the grounds works in preparation for the summer. There are some great ideas and enthusiastic voices, so if you would like to join us for our next meeting then please email myself or Jillian.

Following our last Board meeting, Chris Finlay has unfortunately decided to resign from the Board due to his very busy work schedule away from the Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for all his hard work since he joined the Board back in October 2019 and wish him all the best. If anyone would be interested in joining the Board in the interim to help support the Board of directors and get a feel of what it is like to be a director then please email me at [kirsty-dir@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:kirsty-dir@sfctrust.org.uk) and we can have a informal chat about the role you could play in our Community's future.

Kirsty Balfour  
Chair, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

## DON'T BE SCARED!

The lovely thing about my role is you get to see both sides of a story. The Riverside Field Project has views, some strong, on both sides of the debate. Some on social media. Some in community get togethers. Some in formal meetings. Some just a chat over a coffee. Even the Trust Board have different views on any plan. I would not expect anything else. Some people have a middle ground – they like one aspect of the plan, but not another and cannot decide if the thing that concerns them is the dealbreaker. That is fine too.

Some of you will have experienced many changes over the years – no

matter what house you live in or shop you go to or facility you use or wind turbine that revolves around and around someone may have objected to it being there.

I hope both the planning process (which tends to be very unemotive and deals in facts, policy and professional advice) and the work from the community steering group will come to a consensus. What is important is that you do not feel scared, worried or bullied into your view from anyone – and I include the vehicle that is the 'Trust' in that. So, apologies from me if you feel that things seem to be moving too fast on any project. Change is scary but I encourage you to make your views known through recognised channels and hopefully we will get the

balance right not only on this but future projects too.

Tony Foster





# HAVE YOUR SAY ON RIVERSIDE FIELD

We currently have over 50 responses to the Riverside Field survey. This is already a substantial sample from the community that captures and represents your views on the project but please continue to let us know your views here before midnight on 21st June.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RiversideField>

We will publish the results and your comments will help guide the Community Steering Group who will take this forward if the project gets through planning. The Trust has facilitated this survey to help capture the community view around the area and closest to the field TODAY, after several years of development work. We will share the results with the community on our website and share with those who have expressed an interest to be on the Community Steering Group and the Directors of the Trust to help reach an informed consensus on how to develop the project. We recognise there are still a few people who feel their voice hasn't been heard and we hope this will help record that in this process.

We also think it is very important that people engage with the planning process whether they have a positive or negative view. Three people have taken the opportunity to do so.

Before commenting do read the Design Statement in Documents as that tells the story of how the community got to this point, including the background of the site and all community consultations. Make your views known to the local Planning Department on the Highland Council website and search for Linden Park.

Planning seems scary but it is a useful process. It can clarify facts and highlight potential areas for change. For example, the Flood Risk Management team do not object because of the proposed drainage arrangements.

However, Sports Scotland have suggested an alternative to a manned climbing wall and offered their help for a bouldering option which members of the community may prefer. Other statutory consultees will give their view so we, as community members, get a sense what is and is not acceptable according to policy and planning regulations.

Tony Foster



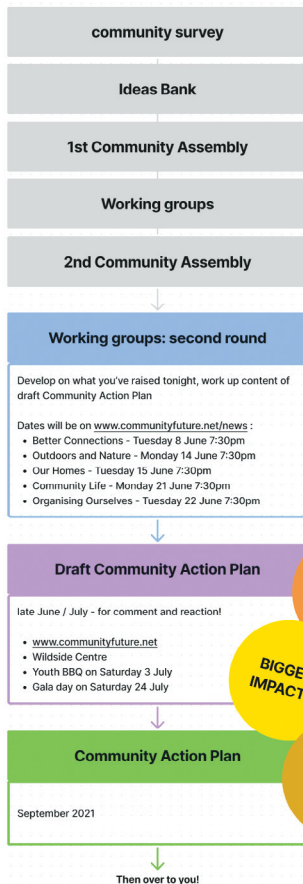


# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN NEXT STEPS

Nick Wright, lead facilitator for the Our Community Our Future community action plan, gives a progress update.

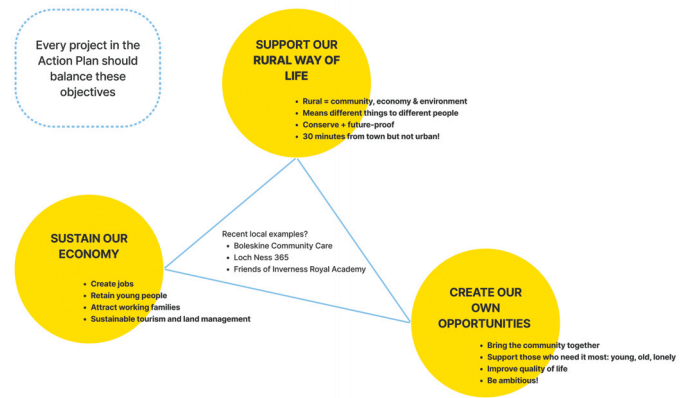
Think back to where we were in February: a blank sheet of paper, with literally no ideas or thoughts of what might constitute 'Our Community Our Future', the Community Action Plan. Now, just 4 months later and with hundreds of responses and ideas from across the community, we're homing in on some really exciting actions for the future. That's exciting!

The journey kicked off in February with the community survey, followed by the first Community Assembly in April, a first round of themed working groups and a second Community Assembly at the end of May. All of these activities have been open to everyone, and we're very grateful to the hundreds of folk who've engaged despite the challenges of working online.

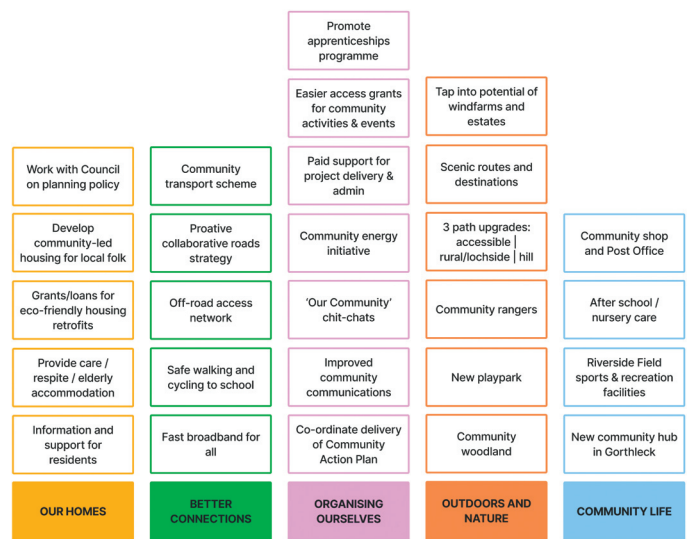


At the time of writing in mid June, we're partway through the second round of themed working groups shown in the graphic. They are open to everyone of course. The purpose is to get to a first go at a draft strategy and actions for the Community Action Plan, for everyone to look at over the summer. The conversations are fascinating.

You can see the draft strategy that's being discussed in the working groups in the diagram below. It's work-in-progress and nobody thinks it's quite right yet, but I'm confident it will get there through more discussion in the working groups and then the draft Community Action Plan.



The next diagram shows the (draft) building blocks of the Community Action Plan. Again, these action areas will change before the draft plan comes out, perhaps significantly, but you should get a flavour of the direction.



The strategy and action areas are very much a first effort. In fact, those diagrams will already have changed by the time you read this, through the conversations in the second round of working groups. But we wanted to give you a taste of what the draft Community Action Plan might contain next month.

If you don't like what you see, it can change. We'll be sharing the draft Plan with the whole community on [www.communityfuture.net](http://www.communityfuture.net) for comment and review over the summer. That will be everyone's opportunity to consider and comment on the plan in the round. To complement that online engagement there will be a special Youth Club BBQ and we'll also be at the Gala in July, so we won't be relying solely on the website. If we can do more, we will.

By September, we should have a Community Action Plan, refined to take account of all the feedback. We'd like to organise a third Community Assembly at that point: not on Zoom, but a real get together. Fingers crossed.

**Please get involved and have your say over the summer. If the plan is to live up to its title, Our Community Our Future, you need to shape it!**

Nick Wright



# VACANCY

## SEARCH FOR A FINANCE DIRECTOR

We are now looking for a suitable person who would like to take on the role of Finance Officer.

The success of The Trust depends, not only on its ability to negotiate Community benefit deals, provide grants and finance legacy projects etc., but also on whether or not it is able to manage its accounts efficiently and as befits the company status.

Financial accountability is of the utmost importance to the Trust and if the community or the Trust's funders lose faith in its ability to control and account for finances, they may lose faith in the whole organisation. The Trust therefore takes its financial responsibilities seriously and needs to recruit the right set of skills to ensure it complies with best practice as befits the status as a Community Trust company.

In this role you will: -

- be in charge of receiving and dispersing funds as determined by the Trust's negotiations and Grants teams. To manage and report on the Trust's finances.
- work with the Chairperson and Trust Manager to produce financial information for the Board as requested.
- provide advice as required to ensure that the Trust complies with its governing document in so far as it applies its resources exclusively in

pursuance of its objects, company law and other relevant legislation or regulations relating to its financial affairs.

- contribute to the success of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust working with the Directors and other employees to maintain credibility, best practice, and transparency.

If you think you are the right person for the role then please check out the full Finance Officer job role here.

<https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/userfiles/file/schemes/contracts%20for%20work/finance%20officer%20job%20description%20june%202021.pdf>

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 5th JULY at 12 NOON

Please send us your CV and a covering letter as to why you are right for the role of Finance Officer to: [admin@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@sfctrust.org.uk)

## MARQUEE GOES UP TO PROVIDE A NEW SAFE MEETING SPACE

On a pleasant Spring evening fourteen SOSA2019 members responded to a call for assistance from Mark (SFCT Caretaker at The Wildside Centre) to help "raise the roof" of the fabulous new marquee over the boulodrome, to the rear of the Wildside Centre. Mark had taken the time to lay out all the necessary parts (no mean feat – they all look the same!) and desperately (and successfully) tried to instil some sort of order on the assembled crew.

He got there in the end, and a great joint effort had the roof and supporting poles in place in very short order. The marquee measures 12metres by 6 metres, so it's a really generous "outdoor" covered space, fitting exactly over

the Petanque Court, with it's gravelled, level, surface. We're sure it will be put to excellent use! SOSA 2019 are now looking to fix a date for our "Out of Lockdown" social event and I've no doubt the marquee will be put to the test!

Whilst writing, may we all express our sincere thanks to the Board of Directors of SFCT and the Members of SFCC, for their continued support and recognition of the efforts we are making to facilitate healthy outdoor activities – and equally importantly, to put smiles on folks' faces!

We now have plans for rock climbing, ice climbing, sea-kayaking, open canoe trials, "canyoning" (whatever that is???) and abseiling, not to mention our up-coming Outdoor First Aid Course and Archery session! Our E-bike trials are ongoing and proving very popular. Promises to a busy old summer, and if you would like to know more, or fancy having a go, you can get more



details by contacting [sosapiste19@gmail.com](mailto:sosapiste19@gmail.com)  
Remember, the idea is to try something new, meet like minded individuals and have a good time whilst you're at it!

Peter Faye



## CARETAKER APPOINTED



Mark Henderson has now been appointed as the new Caretaker for the Trust. He will provide caretaking and janitorial cover for buildings owned or managed by SFCT and in particular The Wildside Centre with limited requirements at Errogie Church/Riverside/Foyers Bay.

Tony Foster

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to Karla and The Green Team for kindly donating £30 worth of plants to the Baby & Toddler Group so we could plant them in the border outside The Wildside Centre's front door. Hopefully it will spread a bit of cheer to those that use the building. The kids had lots of fun playing in the compost!

Jillian Barclay

## WELCOME CAROLINE TUCKER

Caroline Tucker started as Project Co-Ordinator earlier this month. Hello Caroline. She will be here to support current projects and those identified through the Community Action Plan, raising the capacity of the Trust to support organisations and volunteers as you progress your ideas. Caroline will ensure timelines are in place and contractors are meeting agreed deadlines.

Tony Foster

## HIGHER GROUND WIN CONTRACT

The Higher Ground Group have been awarded the Garden Maintenance contract after an open tender process. The Trust were impressed with their 'helping communities stay safe and flourish'. They will soon be maintaining areas at the Wildside Centre, Riverside Field, Foyers Bay and Errogie Church. You can read more about them here

[www.thehighergroundgroup.co.uk](http://www.thehighergroundgroup.co.uk)

At Riverside Field they will be cutting a pathway through the grass, creating areas to sit and spaces to exercise on and play football. Following feedback from the nearby residents, they have been advised on giving consideration to wildlife when cutting the area.

The Wildside Centre is developing an outdoor seating area and Higher Ground will make it even more attractive as well as sprucing up the grounds around Errogie Church and Foyers Bay.



The contract is for one year at which time the Trust will review the contract and work undertaken by the Group.

Areas to be maintained include the exterior and interior of Wildside, keeping the grass cut and establishing accessible areas in Riverside Field (taking into consideration any local wildlife), areas outside Errogie and Foyers Bay to make sure they don't look unkempt prior to any works in the area. We'd like to welcome them on board.

Tony Foster



# DIRECTORS LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS AT BOARD MEETING

The Trust Board met on 2nd June and it was a bumper non stop three hours.

The Board agreed to proceed with a new Finance Officer role as it was felt this would become increasingly difficult to maintain as part volunteer/part paid role and with more funds, projects and match funding coming in to support the aspirations of the community. It was agreed paid professional support would be required.

There was a lot of discussion around grants for groups and how we could support what they intended to do whilst maintaining the spirit of the funders requirements, particularly as we come out of Covid restrictions. There was also discussion on plans for the forthcoming Summer Gala to help ease community members into engaging with each other again.

The balance between several years of work on the Riverside Field Development and the considerations of some of the

local residents were addressed as things move into the planning stage. The Trust and the Community Council had been given late notice when the planning application was 'live' so welcome the Community Councils intention for an extension on planning to allow them and the community to engage in that process. The Board also agreed to conduct a survey, capturing the thoughts of the community as a whole and all the nearby residents thoughts, which will be shared once it ends on 21st June. The intention is to also capture those who are interested in the project for a Community Steering Group who will give consideration to any planning conditions and findings of the survey and help develop the project and advise the Directors moving forward.

Reference to the Community Action Plan was made and the process taking place. Action Groups end in June and there will be discussions with Nick Wright and his team about next steps.

Sadly we have lost some Directors due to work pressures and there is a recognition that groups are struggling for volunteers and momentum after the pandemic so thought will be required how to engage with, support and take forward future projects.

Tony Foster

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

Wednesday 2nd June	Monthly Trust Board Meeting
Tuesday 8th June- 7:30pm	Better Connections Working Group Meeting
Monday 14th June- 7:30pm	Outdoors & Nature Working Group Meeting
Tuesday 15th June- 7:30pm	Our Homes Working Group Meeting
Saturday 19th June	SOSA Outdoor First Aid Course
Sunday 20th June	SOSA Outdoor First Aid Course
Monday 21st June- 7:30pm	Community Life Working Group Meeting
Tuesday 22nd June- 7:30pm	Organising Ourselves Working Group Meeting
Saturday 26th June	SOSA Archery for Beginners
Tuesday 29th June	Community Council Meeting

Do you have any events you would like added to the Community Calendar? Please email any events to: [admin@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto: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, please click on this link.

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



## SAVE THE DATE

Please note there has been a change of venue and time to the Summer Gala that will be held alongside the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Markets. Would your Community Group like to showcase their skills? Would you like the opportunity to fund raise? Then please email [clo@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:clo@sfctrust.org.uk) to book your spot! We look forward to a fun, safe day at The Wildside Centre!



24th July 2021

**SUMMER GALA  
&  
COMMUNITY MARKET**

11am to 3pm  
The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge, IV2 6UN

Stalls ~ Refreshments ~ BBQ  
Raffle ~ Local Produce ~ Crafts  
Foyers Fire Brigade  
Kids Disco ~ Games  
Mieles Gelato Ice Cream  
Piper  
Family Fun Day

contact - [sfc-greenteam@outlook.com](mailto:sfc-greenteam@outlook.com) (Traders)  
[clo@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:clo@sfctrust.org.uk)

**SFCT**   
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

SAVE THE DATE

## 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.

