

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan 2022 Issue Number: 40

PULL OUT
ANNUAL
REPORT



FIREWORKS
SUCCESS

PLACE PLAN



and... cost of living

FIREWORKS AND WINTER WONDERLAND

We would like to take the opportunity to say a MASSIVE thank you to every single volunteer that made the Fireworks display on Saturday night a roaring success and putting smiles back on many faces who have missed it over the last 3 years, and to those that attended their first ever firework display. This event would not have been able to take place without these volunteers.

If you didn't see Neil Kirkland's shout out, here it is: 'Thanks to everyone who came along to the Fireworks at Loch Ness Shores tonight, a great turnout! Thanks to the Trust for funding the Event and for the Community Volunteers who set up the event. Great food from Alex and her team at the Campsite. Thanks also to all the folk and businesses who donated raffle prizes. Thanks also to Foyers Fire crew who were on hand to keep us all safe. A fantastic amount was raised through donations of £384 which will be split between the 3 nominated charities. A donation of £200 was made by the SFCT to the Fire service family support trust. Thanks Again'

In the feedback for the event you gave it 7.5 out of 10!

The next event will be the Winter Wonderland at the Wildside Centre on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December from 4 – 8pm. There will be refreshments, Santa's Grotto, raffle, carol singing, stalls and an incredible light show with new lights to see in 2022!

It's also the best place to buy those special Christmas presents from the following stallholders CosiNess, Flowersbytheloch, Jinty's Jams n Jellies, Lyne Mhor Croft, Martins Sweets, Morag's Crafty Bothy, River Croft, The Neil Mackenzie Trust, KindNess Glass, Rachel McIntyre Paintings, mjs_cakes_and_bakes and more. We look forward to seeing you for some Stratherrick and Foyers Christmas Spirit.



Have a Safer Winter – Here's what you can do to stay safe from fire this Winter!

<p>If you've been drinking, don't cook. NEVER leave cooking unattended.</p>	<p>Always put candles out when you leave the room, go to bed or leave the house.</p> <p>Keep candles away from anything which could catch fire.</p>
<p>It's safer to smoke outside, or standing at an exterior door or window, especially if you are tired or have been drinking.</p>	<p>Do not smoke, use naked flames or get near to anything which may cause a fire whilst wearing clothing or a bandage that has been in contact with emollient skin cream.</p>
<p>Keep portable heaters away from furniture, bedding or curtains. Don't sit too close and turn off portable heaters before going to bed.</p>	<p>Make sure your smoke and heat alarms are working. Test them every week.</p>
<p>Unplug fairy lights or other electrical Christmas decorations when you leave the house or go to bed.</p>	<p>Keep in touch with friends, relatives and neighbours who live alone or who may be at risk.</p> <p>A phone call, or a socially distanced door-step chat can make a massive difference at this time of year.</p>
<p>If you've got a live Christmas tree it's important to keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.</p>	



firescotland.gov.uk @SFRSYourSafety

Call us to arrange a free Home Fire Safety Visit for you or someone you know who may be isolated or at greater risk from fire. Together, we can all stay fire safe.

CALL **0800 0731 999** TEXT **'FIRE'** TO **80800** or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk

The
Wildside
Centre

Save the Date!



Winter Wonderland & CHRISTMAS MARKET

9th &
10th Dec
4-8pm

Would you like to be part of our Christmas market? Can you volunteer before/ during/ after the event?

Email pc@sfctrust.org.uk to join the team!

REFRESHMENTS - RAFFLE - SANTA'S GROTTO - LIGHT SHOW - CAROL SINGING - MORE TO BE CONFIRMED

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

SFCT
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

PLACE PLAN UPDATE

A big thank you to everyone who came to one of the Local Place Plan events over the last fortnight.

All told, 126 people participated across 5 community drop-in events, 3 schools sessions, a business breakfast and a visit to the Mums and Toddlers.

Highlights included:

- A huge range of diverse views on future community priorities and place priorities
- Catching up with friends and neighbours old and new
- A wealth of ideas from the two Primary Schools to revitalise play parks
- Lots of delicious home baking!

Once we've written everything up, we'll share it online so you can see it for yourself. It is always fascinating to see what other members of your community say about your shared place.

We'll then share a draft of the Local Place Plan over the coming weeks to check if things are going in the right direction.



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OUR VISION

“We will act to enhance the quality of life for people by engaging with the issues that matter to the community and by supporting people, at a sustainable level (i.e. with finance, personal time, specific knowledge etc.) help people make things happen.”

We are guided by our ‘Articles of Association’ which include our Vision, both of which determine what we do and how we behave:

- To prevent or relieve poverty
- To advance education, training and/or retraining
- To advance heritage
- To advance environmental protection and improvement
- To advance citizenship and/or community development
- To advance the provision of recreational facilities



Catriona Fraser



Chris Gerkhe



Mark Sutherland



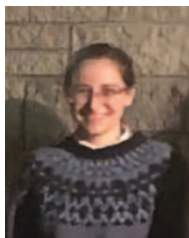
Ken Sinclair



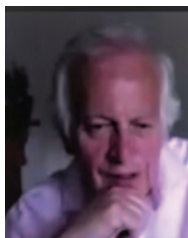
Kirsty Balfour



Maureen McGuire



Maire Brown



Gareth Jones

CHAIR REPORT

Welcome to a special edition of the December newsletter. You will see that this month, it is devoted to coverage of the Annual General Meeting held in November. The period the AGM covers spans from July last year through to June this year, consequently most of the information looks back to this period.

It is worth a quick reminder of the world we were living in then. June 1 last year was the first day there were zero Covid deaths since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Controls on social contact were pretty well removed and people started to go back to their workplace, although millions elected to stay at home. Emma Raducanu winning the US Open was a bright spot before we saw, in September, the first surge in gas prices and the government became embroiled in ‘Partygate.’ Spring this year brought Russia’s invasion of Ukraine that set the seeds of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Putting a Trust hat back on, with Kirsty Balfour in the chair, the review of the activities of the Trust falls into the following areas:

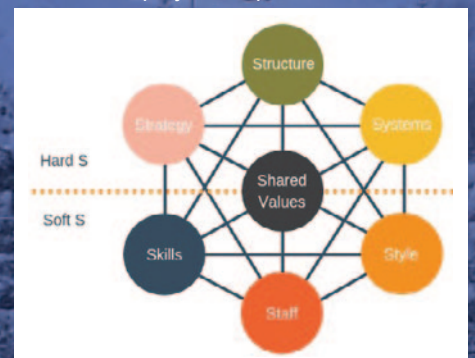
- Implementing the Community Action Plan
- Professionalising the Trust’s operations
- Improving social cohesion with new and improved community events
- Enabling legacy projects
- Looking after the legacy fund
- Easing the cost-of-living crisis for residents
- Implementing the Community Action Plan

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Trust is the first to acknowledge that the activities Community Benefit Funds are spent on must be decided by the people who live here. The community was asked in early 2021 what it wanted the ‘windfarm money’ invested in. The task in the 12 months under review was to convert that ‘wish list’ into a plan of action. This work was led by our external advisor Nick Wright who held a series of themed working groups with residents to draw the hundreds of responses and ideas into a draft strategy. Five core themes emerged from this work that covered improving our homes, transport and communications, the way our community organises itself, outdoor activities, and life in general. You will find more information about this work elsewhere in the newsletter. In summary there are a dozen or more projects up and running that are now bearing fruit. We have very recently entered the final phase of the consultation process when we are asking, village-by-village, what residents would like to see happen on their doorstep.

‘PROFESSIONALISING TRUST OPERATIONS’

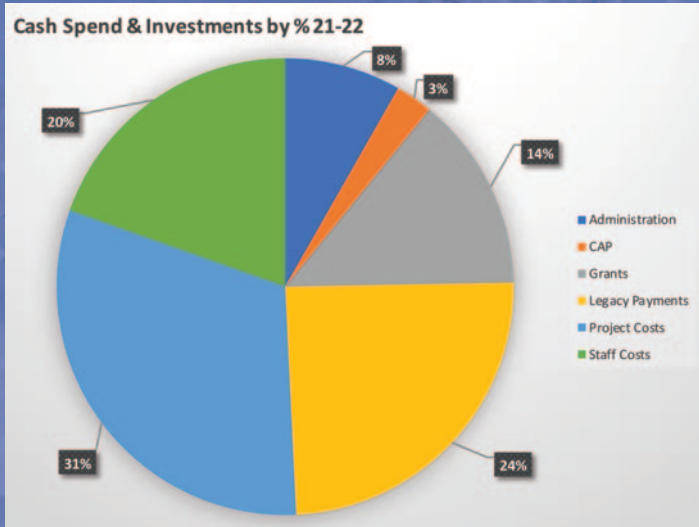
Historically the Trust was run by volunteers with limited paid support. However, as the volume of projects expanded, it became clear to the Directors that we had to put the operation on a more professional footing. This was partly about bringing on board additional staff but also to put in place policies and processes you would expect to find in a high-performing



Continued overleaf

Continued from page 1

middle-sized business. The performance improvement model we used (illustrated on the previous page courtesy of McKinsey) led us to review (and improve) the Trust's strategy, the skills, staffing, systems, policies etc. We commissioned an independent audit of the operation (available on the website) that highlighted the strengths and areas of weakness we had to work on. The independent audit will be repeated annually. You will have seen from previous newsletters that we now have a complement of ten staff working a combination of full and part time. The driving principle is that this is a group of specialists who support not just the Trust, but community groups too. This chart shows how the annual income is spent and the proportion that goes on salaries. I would, on behalf of the Board, like to take the opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work and acknowledge that there are still not enough hours in the day to deliver the Community Action Plan!



IMPROVING SOCIAL COHESION

The Trust's commitment, particularly in the wake of COVID-19, to advance citizenship and community development has never been more important. This year saw the Trust facilitate some great social events that brought people together. Winter Wonderland, although constrained by social distancing, was a great success and we were delighted to assist with the Jubilee Celebration. The Piece de Resistance was the Highland Gathering (staged at the invitation of the owners of Corriegarth Estate) which was well received by those who braved the windy weather to attend. I stress, these events are only possible because of the volunteers who run them on the day. We hope that although misconstrued at times, it is recognised that the Trust's ethos is to facilitate and support.

ENABLING LEGACY PROJECTS

The power companies, that provide the Community Benefit monies, are keen to see a focus on activities that bring long lasting benefits to a place. It is with this in mind that we pour considerable energy into major projects such as the community hubs. It is frustrating that it takes a long time before you see any great change on the ground.

However, the review year is notable for the progress that was made on planning the new facilities. The biggest projects have either received planning permission, are in planning or very close to submission. We are delighted to see the new toilet facilities underway in Foyers, partly as the result of a great collaboration between the Community Council and the Trust.

Thanks to the groundwork completed over the last year, we will soon start to see more 'boots on the ground.'

Large projects can also be controversial. It means substantial change – particularly by those directly affected. Communication is key and we haven't always got this right. Our commitment this year is to re-double our efforts to ensure you, the community, feel a

strong sense of ownership and empowerment to influence the way large projects develop.

Last, but not least, of the big projects is the provision of high-speed Broadband. The Trust had great foresight to bring Crommarty Firth Wireless on board all those years ago. However, the position became very complicated when it was announced that fibre would be laid to the doors of some but not all the homes in the area. Thanks to excellent input from one of our directors, we ended up with the best of both worlds; an Open Reach service (eventually) and agreement from CFW to continue to maintain a service where Open Reach doesn't reach.

LOOKING AFTER THE LEGACY FUND

We have often written about the foresight previous directors had to establish a legacy fund. A substantial percentage of the Community Benefit monies goes straight to an investment company that is building our own 'sovereign-type' fund. It is currently valued at £1 million and should grow to £8 million plus over the next 20 years. It will be the interest from these investments that will sustain the Trust's activities when (or if) the Community Benefit monies dry up. Earlier this year we established, courtesy of two directors who have a very good understanding of the financial markets, to work with our investors to ensure the returns are maximised.

EASING THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

We never thought it would happen: Community Benefit funds are again being used to help vulnerable residents. After monitoring the situation for several months, the decision was taken to provide grants to individuals and families who are being badly affected by the Cost-of-Living-Crisis. It looks as though Community Benefit Funds will continue to be used in the future to ease damaging national and global catastrophes that have their roots many miles away from where we live.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The bedrock of the Trust's "raison d'être" is of course to channel Community Benefit Funds straight into the community in the form of grants. You will find elsewhere the list of grants that were awarded during the review period. Voluntary groups were slow getting off the ground but, even so, the number of individuals and organisations that benefitted was substantial and the number of applications continues to gather pace. The one gap that causes real disappointment is that we don't have Green Space or its equivalent driving the ecological agenda. This year we hope to address this gap.

DIRECTORS AND STAFF

I would like on behalf of the community (if I may!) to thank the staff, past and present, for their hard work and dedication. We now have a talented team that is wholly focused on making life better for everyone who lives and works in the area. Our thanks also to the Directors, again both past and present, who served on the Board last year. And a special thanks to Kirsty for steering the ship in her role as chair. It is humbling to see the patience, effort and resilience that directors demonstrate month after month, year after year, for what can be at times be a thankless task.

MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

A final word about the Trust members and volunteers involved in delivering a wide range of community activities. As mentioned earlier, our ethos is to facilitate and support – provide the resources that enable individuals and voluntary groups to perform at their best. I feared just post COVID-19 that community volunteering was dying. The evidence of the last few months is that it was wounded by the pandemic. However, in the last few months we have seen the community getting back on its feet. Remember the Trust and the Community Benefit is yours; let's work together to use it, and use it wisely, to make Stratherrick and Foyers a better place.

Gareth Jones
Chair, SFCT

We offer a series of grants including Student Grants, Sporting Grants and grants for projects and groups large or small. The Board review each application and below are the grants awarded in this financial year.

OUR FUNDERS

SSE Glendoe	£66,693
SSE Dunmaglass	£73,971
Greencoat Corriegarh	£172,743
Easter Aberchalder	£2,834
SSE Stonelairg	£34,0778
GHR Knockie	£3,024
TOTAL	£660,043

GRANTS AWARDED

STUDENT GRANTS

Matilda Hepburn-Wright	£500
Olivia Grant	£500
Sarah Flanagan	£500
Hamish Bain	£500
Mark Henderson	£100
Peter Faye	£100
Dillon O'Hare	£500
Anna Yeats	£500
Emily Bloodworth	£500
Davie Macpherson	£500
Isabel Slater	£500
Jessica Main	£500
Maire Brown	£500
Raine MacGruer	£500
Ryan Sharp	£500
Abigail Kirkland	£500
Angus MacGruer	£500
Graham Bain	£500
Isabella Cameron	£500
Verity Cameron	£500
Jan Bain	£250
Maureen McGuire	£400
Laura Gwilliam	£500
Chris Finlay	£500
Michael Bloodworth	£100
Scott Simpson	£500
Gill Gray	£400

SPORTING GRANTS

Olivia Grant (1 of 2)	£250
Olivia Grant (2 of 2)	£250

NON CONSTITUTED GRANTS

Alister Chisholm	£1,000
<i>Compilation and publication of a memorial booklet</i>	
Stratherrick Baby and Toddler Group	£938
<i>Provision of a programme of activities and events</i>	
Michael Bloodworth	£1,000
<i>for fitness class equipment</i>	

CONSTITUTED GRANTS

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council	£9,811.16
Boleskine Community Care	£39,696
<i>Support Service Employment and other costs</i>	
Stratherrick Hall Committee	£5,672.00
<i>Additional roof repairs to prevent further deterioration</i>	
Stratherrick Clay Target Club	£13,043.36
Kilchuimen Academy	£520.68
<i>Ski trip for 12 pupils from the Trust area</i>	
Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council	£1,950
<i>Application for £1,950 for ten weeks coach hire to take the whole school/nursery to swimming lessons. Grant awarded - £1,950</i>	
Wade Bridge	£6,500
<i>Application for: £6,500 (total cost £13,000) to carry out critical repairs to the north corner of the west abutment eroded by flood river flow. Grant awarded - £6,500</i>	



TRUST MANAGER REPORT

The financial year goes from July 2021 to June 2022.

CREATING EMPLOYMENT

In that time we said hello to four new staff members. Sarah Byrne and Sharon Ferguson are our new Fundraisers. Steve Marshall became our new Buildings and Facilities Officer (recently replaced by Matthew Rhodes) and Gail Marshall our new cleaner. Maire Keenan came in to replace Carlene Vincent as our Finance Officer.

One of the outcomes of both the Community Action Plan and funding, particularly from SSE, is employment and to support the work of volunteers. I'm delighted that we are creating employment for people in the local area and, with the help of our Fundraisers in particular, create further employment for future projects from external funding.

Caroline Tucker continues as our Project Manager and it's true to say the Summer Fair at the Wildside would not have happened without her dedicated staff support and the continued work undertaken by Steven Watson and Laura Walker Knowles (and others) behind the scenes. A big thank you to all the staff for their work this year.

THE WILDSIDE CENTRE

The Wildside continues to be a hub for Etape and the Loch Ness Marathon and events such as the Winter Wonderland, E Bike trials and Soup To Go's first birthday. From your feedback from Winter Wonderland the team arranged

for a walkway around the venue to make it easier underfoot and we've been doing evaluation surveys from all our events to make them even better in future years.

TAKING THE PULSE

At last years' AGM we said goodbye and thanks for several years dedicated financial and Board Member service to Frank Ellam. Prior to that we launched our first Pulse survey to assess how the Trust and all our stakeholders are performing locally on an annual basis. This will help us improve the work we all do in the area and get a sense check of how things are going in an open and transparent way. We presented the results at the AGM.

ACTIONING THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

In December Nick Wright presented the Community Action Plan for Stratherrick and Foyers. Immediately we set to work setting up Community Action Groups to determine how to take these ideas forward. As well as the Board overseeing the resourcing of that activity, and thanks to a Skills Audit we did within the community, we now have groups working on Pre and After School Care, Transportation, Housing, Pathways, Parks and the Community Hubs. Some are active, some not so, but without their help and advice these projects would not get off the ground. You can check weekly progress on our website via the Projects Page.

COMMUNITY HUBS

The Hub project that is progressing at a pace is Errogie, with a consultation starting early 2022 to gauge what we should advise the architects to include in the building. Our architects Simpson and Brown also did their own

consultation. Coupled with volunteers getting their hands dirty clearing the area around the church everything was on track to do some wind and watertight work on the building. When it became evident that there were bats in then church, we called a halt to the work. We've been conducting a bat survey to ensure we can do any future works to protect this endangered species and we've embraced this issue to be encompassed in the bio-diversity aspects of the building. With a review of the scope of the building due to the rising cost of materials we are coming up with something quite special with the resources we have.

Planning in Principle was given to Riverside Field and the slipway into the Loch finally went into planning. Planning has taken its time to determine a planning application on Riverside Field to support recommendations from planning on safety and infrastructure in the area and the Slipway but we hope to kick off with both, and further engagement with the community, in the new year.

NEXT YEARS AGM PREVIEW

In June the Luvvies hosted an event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and we continued work on the first Highland Gathering at Corriegarth Estate. As that happened in July it is for next years' AGM to talk about that. As we come out of Covid and face the challenges of Cost of Living I'm sure you will agree it has been a challenging year. We have embraced each challenge with our best foot forward and hope to continue to do so in 2022-23.

Tony Foster
SFCT Manager

I have studied in my spare time for most of my working life and I enjoy being part of the Trust in particular helping to support students in all of life's situations, working, studying part-time and full-time education. It is so valuable to support everyone and encourage people to take up new or additional learning.
LWK

The Trust helped us as newcomers to the area to meet people young and old at the different events which were organised through the year.
GM

Being a Trust Director allows me to be part of a body that is future proofing our community. It also allows me to engage with the wider community and find out what's important to them and what they aspire to."
CF

For me it has been a chance to discover how much social capital we have in our area: the voluntary work, the network of relationships, the care for the most vulnerable in our community and the goodness of folk. It is a wonder to behold and very precious."
CG

STAFF / BOARD
COMMENTS

'TAKE THE PULSE' SURVEY 2021

For ten days the community of Stratherrick and Foyers were asked to 'Take the Pulse' survey, to assess the impact work volunteers do across the area on behalf of the community. This survey was conducted with advice from Scottish Community Development Centre, who have been part of Nick Wright's team putting the Community Action Plan together.

The survey was done before the launch of the new Community Action Plan and will be conducted every year. The result of the survey gives us a benchmark to start with that we can assess every year. The new results will be at this year's AGM.

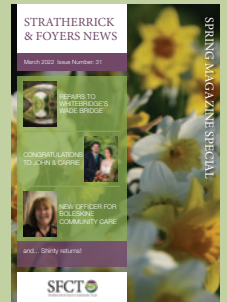
Last year we established things are positive, but it is recognised there is room for improvement. It is hoped the Community Action Plan, put together by the community for the community, will help identify where to put our energies and resources, evidence the need of the community and help us unlock further funding to meet all our aspirations.

Highlights of the 'Take the Pulse' survey include;

- People are seeing improved communications from the Trust (59% strongly agree/agree to 21% disagree/strongly disagree) which is nice to see as a lot of energy has gone into that as an action, with the magazine being delivered direct to people's doors and the launch of this new website last year!
- That said the Trust can be more transparent about why decisions are made. We've been doing regular updates on projects every Thursday for a year now with call-to-action buttons on each page if you want to get involved too. We reviewed our governance using an outside consultant and we came out very well comparative to other organisations like ours.
- 73% of people strongly agree/agree they know they can get involved with the Trust and 82 % know they can volunteer in the community if they choose to do so which suggests a high level of inclusivity (3 to 12% felt they didn't have a good idea or weren't aware they could get involved in the Trust or community groups). We ran a Skills and

Volunteers Audit this year to see if anyone can offer their time and help to meet any of the outcomes.

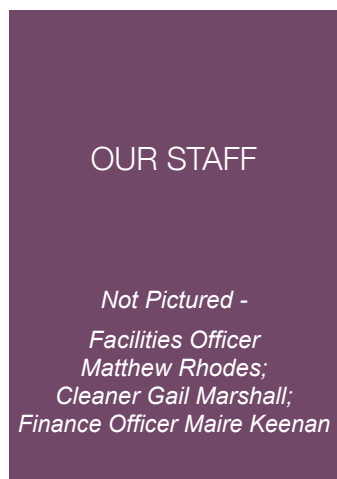
- 56% of people strongly agree/agree the Trust is working to make Stratherrick and Foyers a better place for all residents, 24% disagree/strongly disagree. We added a Business Directory to the website if you want to employ local people with any jobs you need doing.
- 53% of people's family have directly benefitted from the investment of the Trust, 34% believe they have not. All the grants awarded this financial year are on this report
- 62% of the wider community have benefitted from the investment of the Trust, 17% believe they have not.
- 67% of the community believe the Trust supports local voluntary sector organisations, 7% disagree/strongly disagree. We've launched a section on the website for local groups. The What's On section now features all groups who provide information and is being circulated weekly on social media too.
- Just over 50% feel the Trust makes the community feel empowered to take actions to Stratherrick and Foyers for everyone and 29% do not. We hope our new approach to delivering the Community Action Plan with Action Groups has helped engage more people.
- The Trust cannot (and doesn't) do everything and therefore relies on partnership working with other community groups and stakeholder. Many of the questions from 14 to 25 will be impacted by the CAP and hopefully the new Pulse Survey will show your opinion on this. However last year's Pulse Survey gave us a benchmark to start from.
- Scottish Community Development Centre said we should expect big differences between last year's survey and this year's survey. By the time this year's AGM happens the results will be in!



BUILDING CAPACITY

In 2021 – 22 the Trust took on board comments made in the Community Action Plan to take on staff to support Projects and to compliment the work undertaken by volunteers in the community. The staff we took on board help make our aspirations move along quicker than we would with volunteers doing it alone. They also spend time working and help build and raise the capacity of stakeholder groups, including those

groups who are in a better position to meet the communities aspirations. This makes us a leading employer in the local area, an aspiration of our funders SSE, and any external funding we bring in will ensure more employment in the future. Projects take time. This is always a risk, as people can't see what is happening and perhaps think nothing is happening at all. We do weekly Project Reports on our website and we tend to share any curve balls we face such as the Bat Survey at Errogie or delays in planning decisions. Community members are encouraged to follow these updates.



Sarah Byrne



Steven Watson



Jillian Barclay



Tony Foster



Sharon Ferguson



Laura Walker-Knowles



Caroline Tucker

KEY ACHEVEMENTS IN 2021-22

- Survey of community on Riverside Field, including closest residents.
- The Summer Gala and Market at the Wildside Centre.
- Funding success and planning for the Toilets with Community Council
- Staff attended the Community Council, reporting on current status of all our projects
- Community Action Plan launched
- First Pulse Survey launched to assess work of the Trust
- Winter Wonderland event at the Wildside.
- Ran Volunteer Day at Errogie Church
- Improved walkway around the Wildside Centre
- Launched Community Action Groups to take forward projects identified in the CAP, a community led approach with support from Trust
- Ran a Skills Audit to help identify individuals who could help support the work for the CAP
- Recruited a Project Officer, Buildings and Facilities Officer, Finance Officer, Cleaner and Fundraising Officers
- Launched What's On, weekly Project Plans, Business Directory, Clubs and Groups section and enhanced news section on the website
- Handed over Broadband Project to Cromarty Firth Wireless Network to ensure future of access to broadband in the area
- Provided substantial funding for Community Council and Boleskine Community Care
- Awarded Planning In Principle for Riverside Field
- Put Foyers Slipway into planning
- Supported Luvvies Jubilee event
- Planned the Highland Gathering

DIARY DATES

In response to improving communication on a regular basis with all the groups we are currently engaged with we are setting up regular email updates and regular project meetings. Proposed dates are below.

 <p>COMMUNITY LIFE</p>	 <p>OUTDOORS & NATURE</p>	 <p>GETTING ABOUT</p>	 <p>OUR HOMES</p>	 <p>ORGANISING OURSELVES</p>
<p>WILDSIDE CENTRE GROUP ERROGIE RIVERSIDE FIELD FOYERS BAY CHILDCARE GROUP HIGHLAND GATHERING</p>	<p>PATHS GROUP PLAYPARKS GROUP</p>	<p>COMMUNITY TRANSPORT</p>	<p>HOUSING GROUP</p>	<p>WINTER FORUM SUMMER FORUM AGM</p>

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER EMAIL UPDATES and first Tuesday of the month thereafter

Content from Project Plan updates and anything specific to the group

MEETING EVERY SIX WEEKS – SHORT MEETING ONLINE

WILDSIDE CENTRE GROUP	THURS 5TH JANUARY
ERROGIE	TUES 3RD JANUARY
RIVERSIDE FIELD	WED 4TH JANUARY
FOYERS BAY	WED 11TH JANUARY
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	THURS 26TH JANUARY
PATHS GROUP	TUES 10TH JANUARY
PLAYPARKS GROUP	THURS 12TH JANUARY
CHILDCARE GROUP	TUES 17TH JANUARY
HOUSING GROUP	WED 18TH JANUARY
HIGHLAND GATHERING	TUES 24TH JANUARY

MEETING EVERY TWELVE WEEKS IN PERSON / ONLINE

WILDSIDE CENTRE GROUP	THURS 16TH FEBRUARY
ERROGIE	TUES 14TH FEBRUARY
RIVERSIDE FIELD	WED 15TH FEBRUARY
FOYERS BAY	WED 22ND FEBRUARY
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	THURS 9TH MARCH
PATHS GROUP	TUES 21ST FEBRUARY
PLAYPARKS GROUP	THURS 23RD FEBRUARY
CHILDCARE GROUP	TUES 28TH FEBRUARY
HOUSING GROUP	WED 1ST MARCH
HIGHLAND GATHERING	TUES 7TH MARCH

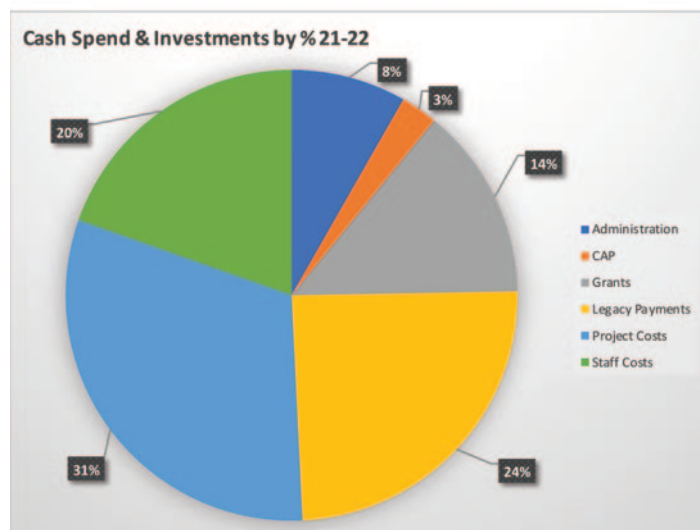
FINANCE

Here is a pie chart breaking down the % of our cash budget spend last year.

In 2021-22 Administration and communications is 8% of our budget, the Community Action Plan took 3% of the budget, we spent 31% of the budget on Projects, 14% on student, sport, non constituted group, constituted groups and covid grants, 20% on staff salaries and 24% was invested in legacy funds for beyond the lifetime of the windfarms. This pie chart is based on cash spent from our cash flow.

Our Grants list do not include adjustments for funds not utilised.

We invested £151,740 to Clarendon which will provide an income to the Trust and the Community beyond the lifetime of the windfarms. The current value of this fund as of September 2022 is £1,034,403.55. This has gone down for the first time this year, due to current financial markets, but is still performing better than we anticipated and long term should return to expected levels.



Breakdown of the 2021-22 cash budget

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	-	-
Other income	672,783	634,063
Staff costs	(113,819)	(36,875)
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets	(23,781)	(26,099)
Other charges	(243,545)	(209,894)
Surplus before tax	291,638	361,195
Tax on profit	(649)	(1,667)
Surplus for the year	290,989	359,528

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets	1,325,168	1,157,274
Current assets	1,074,400	1,030,989
Prepayments and accrued income	73,452	2,370
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(34,524)	(37,872)
Net current assets	1,113,328	995,487
Total assets less current liabilities	2,438,496	2,152,761
Accruals and deferred income	(100,397)	(105,651)
	2,338,099	2,047,110
Reserves	2,338,099	2,047,110

JOIN THE TRUST

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

<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.



THE PULSE SURVEY 2022

The Pulse Survey is conducted every 12 months and is to assess the temperature and impact work volunteers do across the area on behalf of the community.

The 45 people who filled out the Pulse Survey in 2022 were roughly in the same age range as last year, same male/female gender split (40%/60%) and based in similar locations as last year (33.33% Foyers, 26.67% Gorthleck, 11.11% Whitebridge, 17.78% Errogie and 11.11% from Inverfarigaig).

This survey was promoted over 17 days via email, website, social media and word of mouth. With 338 occupied households in the

area over 10% of households are represented, and therefore this gives us a high degree of accuracy that these results reflect the thoughts of the community as a whole. Four people chose not to give their names and, as last year, we have kept those responses in the results.

Developed in association with SCDC (Scottish Community Development Centre) we were advised not to expect too much of a change from last year. However in some areas we did and, on the whole, we saw an improvement across the board. Thank you to those who filled in the survey. We know we can always do better, and will aim to do so, but the results are below.

Tony Foster, Trust Manager

	2022 AGREE	2022 AGREE/DISAGREE	2022 DISAGREE	2021 AGREE	2021 DISAGREE
Communication from the Trust 22% increase. Only 2% disagree compared to 21.5% last year. This is very encouraging. Communication can be quite labour intensive. In September we received a grant to employ a staff member to help maintain and improve Communication for one year.	81%	17%	2%	59%	21.5%
Decision making transparent Feedback suggests minutes of meetings could do with more detail. We are producing an annual report and distributing it around the area which will hopefully help this.	42%	30.5	27.5%	35.5%	39%
Good idea what Trust Supports Up slightly but a big drop from those up disagree/strongly disagree from last year. This may have been from the CAP brochure being distributed to every household and our general communications. Great to see 23% of you went from strongly disagree/disagree. It would have been nice to get over 75% 'Agree' here but little steps!	66.5%	25%	8.5%	62%	31.5
Know how to get involved with Trust Slight increase with more community members involved at the grass roots on Community Action Groups. This helps advise the Board on the decisions they make.	82%	14%	4%	77%	12.5%
Trust is accountable on decisions This year we started empowering groups to make decisions to help advise the Board on their projects. We also attended Community Council and reported on all projects and where they were in planning etc. This year we also had an external governance review to see if we were suitable for purpose and the results were very complimentary.	57.5%	22.5%	20%	52%	25%
Working to make a better place for all A slight improvement on last year, reflective of everyone having had the opportunity to have had their say via the Community Action Plan and the Trust basing decisions on that.	64.5%	20%	15.5%	57%	24%
Family has Benefitted Slightly down on last year.	51%	22.5%	26.5%	53%	34%
Community has Benefitted Slightly up. Both these are likely to change once the projects identified by you in the CAP are live and running for a few years.	63.5%	28%	8.5%	62%	17.5%
Supports Voluntary Sector Broadly the same, despite adding conditions to those groups applying for funding. We are supporting groups via our Fundraisers so we can achieve more with the funds we have.	73.5%	22%	4.5%	67%	7.5%
Empowered people The change here may be our approach to Community Action Groups and Steering Groups for each project, getting more people involved in actioning projects and decision making. Again we'd like to see this improve over time.	57.5%	29%	13.5%	50.5%	29%
Conserving the Environment A strong theme in the CAP and one that underlines everything we do. We can do better.	40%	46.5%	13.5%	30%	24%
Land Management & Land Use Slightly down, but not something we do much of at present	29%	46.5%	24.5%	34%	29%

Maintain Rural ID	46.5%	36%	17.5%	35.5%	30.5%
One of the pillars in the CAP, along with conserving the environment, and reflected in our approach here. Once again we can do better here.					
Creating Jobs	49%	38%	13%	43%	20%
This year we have 10 employed people, support 4 other jobs & employed local people for contracts where we can. We obviously need to promote this better.					
Retain Young People	31%	44.5%	24.5%	18%	29%
Broadly the same and not much work done in this area.					
Attract Working Families	24.5%	53.5%	22%	15%	37%
A slight difference, possibly due to some work being done in creating facilities, promoting tourism, preparing for affordable housing and childcare.					
Create Sustainable Tourism	31%	49%	20%	20%	33%
A slight difference as we create facilities, hope to sustain pathways and encourage and promote local businesses when we can, this helping support local employment. There is a balance to be achieved here whilst conserving the environment and maintaining our rural identity whilst having an infrastructure and facilities other communities enjoy.					
Creating Opportunities For All	33.5%	42%	24.5%	31.5%	33.5%
Slightly up, but less people in the disagree/strongly disagree area.					
Those In Need	62%	29.5%	8.5%	54.5%	16.5%
Some improvement here, possibly from raising capacity of other groups, support from grass roots groups to help people and work we are currently doing during the cost of living crisis. We can do better here.					
Health & Well Being	55.5%	31%	13.5%	48%	20.5%
Again, some improvement here, with groups and projects at Wildside, Errogie and Riverside all contributing to improvement in this area.					
Collaboration externally	49%	42.5%	8.5%	44%	15%
Broadly similar and something we need to promote more as we work with other stakeholders and agencies on CAP outcomes.					
Aware I can get actively involved	86.5%	9.5%	4%	82%	4%
Broadly similar, but shows an inclusive community.					
Score out of 10	6.5	We didn't do a score out of 10 last year			

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM started with people greeting each other in the Place Plan event that was taking place prior to the event. Sandwiches and refreshments were consumed from Morag's as people took to their seats to what turned out to be a two hour AGM.

The acting Chair Gareth Jones and the Board gave their introductions and their report, most of which can be found in this publication for the first time. This was followed by Trust Manager presenting, hot off the press, the findings from this years Pulse Survey (last year and this years results can be found in this newsletter too!)

Marie Keenan presented the accounts. These had been ratified by the Board and A9 Accountants. There were a few

questions regarding the figures presented in this newsletter and we've refined some of the content to make it clearer. The meeting accepted the accounts for 2021-22.

There was a vote on the recommended changes to the constitution which opens membership to everyone living in the community. If you decide to become a member this is only agreed by the Board, not decided who should or should not be a member by the Board. The changes also allows for members not to agree with all the activities the Board of the Trust undertakes. This was passed unanimously.

Board members stood down and were then re-elected. Susan Greer was also elected as a new Board Member.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Board for the work they do in the community. They then left for a Board Meeting at which they co opted Malcolm Stewart and Mark Sutherland as Board Members.

Thanks to everyone who attended the AGM. Your support is appreciated.

COST OF LIVING UPDATE

WHITEBIRDGE FISH FRIDAY

As part of bringing the community together during the cost-of-living crisis, we are working in partnership with The Whitebridge Hotel to support the community with a subsidised fish tea. The Whitebridge Hotel have been running a very successful Fish Friday for many weeks but with funding approval from SSE we can support the community by offering this at a reduced rate for a limited time.

A Large Fish dinner would normally be £14.50 but is now available for £6.50

A small fish dinner would normally be £11.50, but is now available for £3.50!

If you can you can still attend and pay the regular price as before.

Hurry and book your table, starting from Friday 25th November. Call 01456 486 226. The Whitebridge Hotel will have board games and quizzes at the ready to make a real social afternoon of it! So, switch of your heating, internet, and pop along to The Whitebridge hotel and mingle with other members of the community!

SELF BUILD HOUSING GRANTS

Do you want to self build in the local area – then you now have a grant to do it. Details can be found here [Funding for self-build homes - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Details will be coming out soon about a local grant from Highland Council to help you with energy efficiency measures for your own home. To register your interest now email: EES-ABS@highland.gov.uk Please quote: EES:ABS 2022/23 – SFCT

GIVE ONE/TAKE ONE

Have you got any good quality cosy jackets that need to be re-homed this winter? Pop along to the Wildside Centre, where you will find a clothing rail dedicated to GIVE ONE/TAKE ONE. Men's, women's and children's winter jackets and fleeces welcome. Why not take a look when visiting our next Warm Wednesday.

WARM WEDNESDAY AT THE WILDSIDE

To support the cost of living crisis we want to open the Wildside to Stratherrick and Foyers residents, every Wednesday throughout the Winter from 9.30 - 5.30. You can be warm, have a cuppa, biscuit and free broadband to watch a film, do some work or just meet up with other people in our community space.

We want this to be an open door policy for you so that you can feel welcome and warm and not have to heat your own place for the day. Enjoy some company, or pick a quiet spot in the Wildside.

Our aim is to build on this and we hope to introduce a monthly evening meal if there is enough interest and if

possible extend the opening hours. We have been awarded some funding for more initiatives to make this winter a little easier for members of the community – more details soon.

FOOD AND FUEL GRANTS – 11 APPLICATIONS AND GROWING

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust agreed with SSE to take the unusual step this and next winter to support individuals and households with food and fuel. This is individual benefit, previously a 'no no' with the funds we get from the energy companies, but current circumstances have meant a short term fix to support those who need it at this difficult time. The Trust has asked the Knockie Trust to look after this fund, as they have had many years of experience in this area, and the Trust will administer the funds to people's bank accounts. You can apply for up to £250 per individual or £500 for a household of two or more. The Trust has budgeted £10,000 towards this, with up to £15,000 to come if there is a need. This will not stop you from applying to the Knockie Trust for any additional funds they administer. These are unusual circumstances and we appreciate you may find yourself in a situation you have never experienced before. All applications are treated in confidence so please, if you need a little help financially for food and fuel, don't be afraid to ask for it.

Over 11 applications have already been received with more coming in. Check the Trust website for how to apply and for more information on grants you can apply for this Wednesday in our November and October news sections.

We have provided the application form on the back of this newsletter.

**Confidential - The information you provide on this form will be held in confidence by
The Knockie Trust. Email completed form to knockietrust@gmail.com or post to Dalruidheah, Whitebridge, IV2 6UR**

Before you start, please make sure your application can tick ✓ all five of the following boxes:

I am resident in the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council area	
I need up to £250 individual / £500 household with 2 or more people	
My application does not include the repayment of debt.	
I understand this grant is for food or fuel only.	
I understand the grant will be paid directly into my bank. We will get bank details from you only if a grant is awarded.	

If you have ticked all five boxes, then please continue:

How long have you lived in Stratherrick and Foyers?		Years		Months
--	--	-------	--	--------

Your Name	
Your Address	
Your Postcode	
Email	
Telephone Number/s	

Please tell us the reason for your application – what you need and why you need help from this fund.	
How much does this cost?	
£	
Please provide the name of someone who can support your application (friend, minister, social worker, carer, doctor, teacher, shop owner, office bearer of local group etc) and contact number/email. We may not approach this person and will only do so with your permission:	
Declaration:	
I certify that the information contained in this application is correct. I understand that decisions made by the Knockie Trust are final. I agree not to publicise any grant or help I receive.	
Your signature	Date signed form