



Cromarty and District Community Council

Chairwoman's Report 2026

Year 6 – and what a year it has been. I say this each time I write these reports, but time really does fly and here we are my 6th annual Chairwoman's report.

First, I would like to say a huge thank you to Joanna Rose who has become our new Minute Secretary. I want to thank Joanna for stepping into this role for us. Joanna as expected has become a valuable member of the team. To our outgoing Minute Secretary Claire, I know we kept you for longer than we should have but your support and help is hugely appreciated and we thank you for being so patient with us.

Next year will see the election of new Community Councillors. Could this be you? Are you passionate about the Cromarty community and want to make a difference? If the answer is yes, please consider standing. We welcome any questions and would encourage you along to our monthly meetings. These are open to the public in person and online. Please keep an eye on our social media and notice boards for dates and times. We would love to see you.

In my last chair's report, I talked about Opportunity Black Isle and the Local Place Plan. I am delighted to say that the Governance Board is now up and running including Nige and myself. We have had some very interesting discussions with different stakeholders and look forward to continuing the conversation and pushing the Plan forward.

As for the Community Council this year has been challenging, with increased costs and budget cuts affecting us all. The CC has been working on several projects including meeting with Albyn regarding affordable housing, the Cromarty clean up project and speaking with the Black Isle Community Councils on Black Isle wide issues. The CC budget each year gets smaller and as a volunteer force it gets harder to operate. We are very fortunate to have the volunteer pool we do, who each contribute to making Cromarty the thriving town it is.

Our Youth Cafe has also had a change of personnel. New members of staff but not new faces. We are very lucky to have appointed John Munro and Orlagh MacIver as Assistant Youth Workers. They may be new to post, but both are familiar faces in the Youth Cafe, and we are delighted to be able to employ two fantastic individuals whose experience will aid them in being successful in their roles. We wish both the best of luck and thank you for your contributions now and going forward. I also must mention Wanda who continually pours her heart and soul into the kids of this community. Her power of work is extraordinary, and we will forever be in awe of all she does.

At the recent Open Garden event I had the opportunity to speak to visitors to Cromarty and the theme of the discussion was about the community spirit and the "there is always so much going on here". Cromarty is unique in what it offers. Fantastic restaurants, independent shops, museums – I could go on. With monthly markets, community gardens and different organisational events Cromarty continues to provide something for everyone to enjoy.

To the team - the hard working, non-judgemental amazing group of people who never stop. Dedicated to doing the best for Cromarty is what brought us together and will continue to drive us forward even when challenges arise. The unsung heroes who don't need praise but deserve it immensely. Thank you could never be enough. I will forever be grateful to you all.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead

Paige

Cromarty & District Community Council Chairwoman