

# Stromeferry and Achmore CC Chair's Report June 2023 to January 2024.

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The CC formed in October 2019 reached the end of its term on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

At the May 2023 AGM meeting all members of the CC stayed in place; Gill as Chair, Dawn as treasurer, Mary as secretary and Kath, Neil, Mhairi and Ann as members. We held CC meetings in June and August 2023.

No CC was formed as result of the October 2023 CC election, so the previous members continued with some of the projects that had been started prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023. From June till October we progressed the following projects and completed some of them after the end of our CC term (i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023) with permission from our Ward manager.

## Defibrillator for Stromeferry residents

One key project was to obtain funding for a defibrillator for Stromeferry residents. In June 2023 Mary spoke to the local manager for Bakkafrost (Salmon farm in Lochcarron) and he emailed us the company application form to apply for community funding. This form was completed and agreed by all CC members and our request for £2,000 was submitted in August 2023 to the Bakkafrost Community funding department. On the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Bakkafrost Community Funding department emailed us to say that they were awarding us the full £2,000 that we had requested for Lucky2BeHere to provide us with a defibrillator.

In January 2024 we accepted their award and the ex CC were working with Bakkafrost and Lucky2BeHere to have the monies lodged into Lucky2BeHere's bank account. However as that was being progressed Mhairi, CC's point of contact person with ScotRail, was told by one of ScotRail's executives that ScotRail had intended to contact us to offer to install and maintain a defibrillator at Stromeferry station. With the caveat that ScotRail's offer is dependent on their application for Government funding for defibrillators being successful. ScotRail expected to give the ex CC a decision on this funding by the middle of February 2024.

The ex CC informed Lucky2BeHere and Bakkafrost of the ScotRail offer of a defibrillator so **no** money was transferred from Bakkafrost to Lucky2BeHere for the Stromeferry defibrillator. This has now been handed over to the new CC. Mary informed Bakkafrost that Mhairi is now their contact.

## Defibrillator training.

The CC organised a defibrillator training course and this was delivered by Lucky2BHere on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in Kyleakin Hall. It was an excellent defibrillator training course in, and our CC area provided 10 of the 13 participants. The Stromeferry and Achmore CC members all agreed that the CC should donate £100 to Lucky2BeHere as a 'thank you' for the training course as the CC did not have to pay a fee for the training.

## Community Council Archive

In February 2023 the CC started the process of setting up an archive of the CC minutes from the 1980s minutes, output from various studies undertaken, Highland Council plans etc by bringing it all together and locating it in a filing cabinet in the Community Hall. The hall

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committee allocated a space for the CC filing cabinet in one of their cupboards, so thanks to Jackie for arranging this for the CC. The FCT had a filing cabinet which was identified as usable if it had a locking mechanism applied to the cabinet. As of November 2023 the locking mechanism did not materialise; so the ex-CC obtained approval from the Ward Manager to spend ~ £180 on a new locking filing cabinet supplied by Viking. This was ordered, delivered, installed and all the CC information stored in it during November 2023. The Hall Committee have a key; Mary bought additional keys and is currently holding them.

## Spanglefish Software upgrade for the Community website

The four groups who use the Website – Community Village Hall, Fernaig Community Trust, Community Council and CMNet broadband agreed to the upgrade of the Spanglefish software from V2 to V3. This involved having all the data on V2 migrated to V3. Once this migration was complete each group verified that all their data had been moved to V3. The annual cost going forward will be £78 for the Spanglefish software and this will include the SSL (security) fee. An annual fee of £24 is paid to Host World for our Domain name. The four groups have agreed to split this annual cost four ways, with each group paying £102/4 = £24.50 per year. In 2023 the CC invoiced the other three groups and collected 3 x £24.50.

## Remembrance Day

The CC purchased the Remembrance Day wreath which Gill laid on behalf of our CC at the annual Remembrance Service held at the Balmacara Memorial.

## Setting up of Strome – Achmore Path Group

The original CC survey conducted in December 2022 and January 2023 resulted in twenty one households responding. In August 2023 eight households gave their permission to the CC to pass their contact details to Colin Parsons. Colin having set up a Strome and Achmore path email group

In between delivering on the above projects the CC continued with the local issues that were brought to our attention, we maintain a dialogue with the HC roads department to get updates on progress being made on the activities which affect our CC area.

A CC representative attended the monthly Lochalsh collaboration meetings and supported the Collaboration's efforts to raise the urgent need to get dentistry services for the residents of Lochalsh.

In January 2024 a new CC was formed and the ex CC secretary provided the incoming group with a handover and continues to provide support as when it is needed.

Au Revoir!