

# **STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING FOYERS SCHOOL TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015**

## **1. Uniqueness – Presentation by Graeme Ambrose**

Background 3 years ago Destination Lochness marketed and promoted the area, whilst working with agencies to improve infrastructure e.g. South Lochness trail, However this work was limited due to limited funding largely caused by voluntary membership fees.

The solution to this was a Business Improvement District which is backed by Government Legislation which allows a fee to be levied from local businesses. This practice is common in cities and America, the origin of the concept,

Consultation for a Lochness improvement district started in 2012, leading to a ballot in 2014 with an 82% voted for its creation. Area covered ranges from Fort Augustus, to Cannich to Beauly to Inverness airport and down to Tomatin but does not include Inverness City Centre. The levy is based on the business rate-able value so excludes smaller businesses but they can opt in if they wish. 370 have paid the levy with another 160-3K who can opt in, 50 doing that. This means a bigger funding pot to enable them to achieve their 6 objectives, better marketing, attract business to the area, improve access infrastructure, business development opportunities, support sustainable events and provide a representative voice on matters of concern to tourist businesses.

Local examples are the 3 laybys on the Foyers-Dores road, plan to complete the South Lochness trail over the next couple of years and improve views from the A82. It is difficult to do local small projects as funds are tied in to the business objectives.

Scottish Government have secured £2 million of funds over next 4 years to enable Visit Britain, uniqueness etc. to carry out international marketing of Inverness.

**SSE, Torness Sub-Station Update – Ian Parry Project Manager, Simon Hall Environment Manager, Neil Anderson Community Liaison Officer, Sam O'Connor Communications Officer, Rosie Calder Farigaig Line works Liaison officer, Seamus Donnelly - Balfour Beatty Site Manager.**

Overall project includes the grid connections from both Corriegarth & Dunmaglass wind farms. These will initially be overhead lines coming together and then being buried from the Caolanour junction to the substation, SSE have secured the necessary Section 37 consents, SSE have permitted development rights for the buried cable section.

Total of 8 contracts which are all about to be signed.

SHTL acknowledges the delays to the overall project is down to themselves, hence they have a new community engagement policy, this places the Community Liaison Group (CLG) at its core, the first meeting of which was held prior to the CC meeting.

It was agreed SHTL needs to invite a representative from both the Farr and Dores CC to the next CLG meeting

As developers only pay for what they need the substation will only have capacity for Dunmaglass and Corriegarth, any further capacity such as Aberarder will require an extension,

All future contacts should be channeled through Neil Anderson

Work can not start until agreement is reached with THC over road improvements. SHTL propose

a two stage plan;

Phase A Formation of widened roads to facilitate delivery of oversized loads

Phase B once on site works complete (damage/wear and tear on new roads is completed) final surfacing of roads to leave site with undamaged finished road surfaces.

Intention is not to start phase A till Sept. with no road closures before November, avoid tourist season.

CF advised SHTL of the need for them to have a protocol in place with Stagecoach and community so if schools are closed early due to weather... there are no delays at road works for school buses and parents. This may require use of satellite phones to ensure communications are maintained.

[Rosie.calder@sse.com](mailto:Rosie.calder@sse.com) Email her to give contacts

## 2. **Members Present / Apologies**

Iain Brown (IBR)	Whitebridge	Morag Cameron (MC)	Foyers
Ian Bateman (IB)	Whitebridge	Martin Donnelly (MD)	Foyers
Catriona Fraser (CF)	Gorthleck	Katie Ellam (KE)	Easter Boleskine
Liam MacNally (LM)	Gorthleck		

Apologies - Sally McGuire (SM) Foyers

MD left the meeting at 8:15pm

## 3. **Police Report**

Little to report as only 1 neighbour complaint, the first new officer will start in June and Inverness will continue to help periodically.

## 4. **Adoption of Minutes**

March 2015 Proposed IB, Seconded KE, Unanimous

## 5. **Matters Arising**

**AP33 CF** will complete this action

Community transport – Kilchuimen needs a new school bus & SFCC children to maintain numbers, BCC are looking at/organizing a car share scheme and our Primary schools need to get to things.

One option may be a request to Highland Cross, AP Mda to come back

Community Firewood – Alternative store site to be identified **AP IBR to talk to FCS re their proposal**

ETAPE – All comments agree it went well with roads opened quickly. AP MC to thank M Sutherland for a well organised event & invite him to a feedback session..

BB – following discussion it was agreed a paid person is needed to do the editorial work, perhaps a new format - information newsletter. **AP CC and trust to nominate two members form each to a joint sub-group to look at ways to take this proposal or similar forwards.**

## 6. **CC Secretary Role / Web Master** see attachment,

SM will remain Secretary with auto forward of emails to Chair

Following discussion on attached text from Eric law,

IBR proposed CC take on web site hosting, seconded CF, Unanimous

## 7. **Treasurers Report**

See attached, Unanimous agreement to return £350 to Tourist group with a letter of thanks

IBR propose we pay toilet cleaner on a weekly basis, LM seconded, Unanimous.

## 8. **Reports**

- a. Fire brigade – a couple of wild fires, looking for new recruits
- b. Trust – Project Coordinator post has resulted in a few applications, interview panel has been selected. Zoe ..... is the new chair replacing Ed Ley Wilson who has moved out of the area
- c. BCC – successful Daffodil Tea event raising some £200 in total
- d. Firewood - ongoing, see matters arising
- e. Community transport –
- f. Foyers – Sports field / Paths - Ward forum to be organised
- g. Land Purchase – offer made by Trust awaiting result
- h. Play park - SSE Volunteers to be organised as is Grass cutting contract
- i. Liaison Groups Dunmaglass& Corriegarth – Torness substation delay means Dunmaglass will not deliver Turbines until 2016 however Corriegarth are sticking to program.
- j. Renewables Community Benefit – negotiations ongoing with Aberchalder / Knockie / Dell / Garrogie Hydro schemes and Corriegarth Windfarm

## 9. **Planning Matters**

No objections to applications

## 10. **Correspondence**

Highlife consultation on Mobile library

## 11. **AOCB**

BCC – Tea fund raiser 1<sup>st</sup> May, Cameron's Café between 3-5pm

Primary Schools - THC looking at composite classes for 3-4 year olds and P1s, result would be more stable numbers for small schools thus help to keep teachers. Proposals have been well received with possible start in 2016, Stratherrick have their own provision.

**Meeting Closed at 9:45pm**

**Next meeting 7:30pm Stratherrick Hall 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015**