

Common Good Topics for Meeting 23rd January. 2023

Common Good management group

One of the main pre council election discussion points was the lack of local input into Common Good decision making, and the conflict of interest which Highland Council officials and councillors have viz a viz spending the Nairn Common Good to prop up Council budgets.

As Burgh CCs we have long campaigned for a local group which would manage the fund with administrative help from HC officials. This was promised in 2012 but has never materialised.

It appears that Nairn is to be a pilot for a management committee made up of representatives from the local community and elected members. We very much welcome this, and are sure that other areas with Common Good Funds will also welcome the initiative.

We are concerned that this has been entrusted to HC officials who, as has been mentioned, are very conflicted in their priorities and are for the most part not residents of the Burgh.

In August CCs were assured that a paper would be taken to 'the next meeting' (November). Again a reassurance that a paper would come to the NAC meeting today and it didn't. Next meeting is May, which is a long time from the first promise of action.

So far the CCs of the Burgh have not been asked for their input into the process of setting up this group or its mandate, and therefore we would like the following parameters to be included in the discussions:

1. That the committee will be a Management Committee making the decisions
2. The group should be small and effective.
3. That the composition will comprise Nairnshire Councillors, and 'Burghers' ie residents of the town within the old Burgh boundary.
4. For this reason, neither the Invernesscentric 'Nairn' Community Planning Partnership nor the Third Sector Interface should be seen as having a locus in decision making concerning Nairn's Common Good.
5. HC officials may be functionaries of the committee acting to carry out the decisions of the committee.
6. Those who are likely to benefit financially from CG decisions should not be part of the management group.
7. All meetings should be open to the public and all minutes available.