

Nairn West & Suburban CC Chairman's Report for 2022-2023.

It is now vital that we all ensure that Nairnshire is treated fairly by Highland Council, HIE and NHS Highland as we work with tighter budgets and cuts.

Nairnshire has so much potential to deliver real economic growth with more local jobs and a green sustainable economy.

The big problem is lack of investment in our Infrastructure.

NWSCC has been working on the following issues throughout the year:

- New Nairn Academy Building – we have been advising as part of stakeholders group
- Nairn Bypass - we have lobbied and met with MP, MSPs
- Flood prevention - continued lobbying to get flood studies brought forward.
- Sewage upgrade - continued lobbying.
- Town Centre Regeneration - taken part in consultation and discussions about library, car parking, disabled access, Ombudsman's Report and follow up, reuse of existing buildings.
- Commenting on planning applications
- Responding to consultations on Common Good issues.
- Asking for a proper say for CCs in spending of community developer contributions.
- Campaigning for reopening of harbour toilets and rewrite of visitor strategy.

We also must ensure Fair Share Budgets for

- Health and Social Care
- Education
- Leisure and Recreation etc

There is real pressure and doubts about the sustainability of our local Health and Social Care Services, Education Provision, Leisure, and Recreation provision etc.

What can we do to improve the future?

We must have a **Community Led Local Place Plan**. If we do not have one, quite simply we will get no new infrastructure or investment. NWSCC and NRCC have been actively pushing for the process to be speeded up and for funding to be released to get started.

We must get a **new Academy Building**.

We must build a **by-pass**.

We must create more local jobs and that means sorting out our infrastructure-by-pass, sewage, flood risk, regenerating existing properties for housing and other uses.

This can include green sustainable energy sources and better use of our natural resources including the harbour.

We have many companies wanting to expand their local workforce.

We also need a more open and transparent attitude to communications between Highland Councillors and Officials and Community Councils. We are all working towards the same goal - a better deal for Nairn and a better future for our citizens. Issues raised by CCs should be dealt with quickly and effectively for the good of our community.

Common Good: We must deliver the Common Good Engagement Group

Throughout the year we have campaigned consistently for a local engagement group to allow local people a proper say over their very significant Common Good Assets. We have inherited a massive Common Good asset and we must ensure we look after it and hand it on to the next generation in as good a condition as we inherited. It is not and must not be used as a cash cow to boost HC finances!

My simple request is for all the good people of Nairnshire to get involved and pressurise our elected representatives to make sure we maximise the potential of Nairnshire.

Please Join Us!

Community Councils are a statutory tier of Local Government which give our community a voice in a huge region which seems to have lost its connection with smaller communities.

We need younger, newer voices to take on the task, so please consider joining the Community Council at the election in Autumn or contribute to BID, NICE - all the many good groups and charities that we have in Nairnshire. We as a CC can also co-opt new members or have associate members.

We can deliver a better future within existing budgets. We just have to put in the necessary work.

It is all of our responsibility and I know we have the ability and capacity to deliver this exciting future.

Dr Alastair L Noble MBE

May 2023