**Cromarty and District Community Council**

**Chairwoman’s Report 2023**

Never did I think that when I joined the Community Council 3 years ago would I be writing a chair’s report let alone my third! But here we are. It has been an interesting year to say the least with many changes, including those of our government and the historical changes in the monarchy.

This year we have enjoyed a “life as we know it” for the most part but it has not been without its challenges along the way. The cost-of-living crisis has impacted us all, and continues to do so. We encourage those to use the Cromarty Care Project Food Larder when required. We are very lucky in Cromarty to have as many resources as we do and if help is asked for, every effort is made to give it.

With the help of different funding sources through the Youth Café, 31 young people have been given food and fuel vouchers, 64 families given Tesco vouchers and 8 families given shopping and electricity vouchers. This is simply incredible and massive thank you must go to Alan, Wanda and Fraser for co-ordinating and implementing all the grants to make sure families are provided for.

The C&DCC has been working hard on many different projects, the biggest of which being the Freeport bid. As this is a subject many in the town wish to be involved in, we have formed a sub-group purely to pass information around as it comes about. It was clear from the open meeting we held with residents, that understanding what the Freeport is, and how it will impact us is something we would like clarification on. We are actively working to speak to as many people as possible and have our questions answered.

Furthermore, we have been attending meetings with the Port Authority, the majority of which have been positive and are helping to strengthen our relationship with them. We are working with them to establish how to control the noise coming from Nigg Energy Park and are discussing the complaints made by residents

We were involved in the Black Isle Place Plan, giving residents a chance to voice their opinions on what they would like to see happen across the Black Isle and most importantly Cromarty. The statistics from this event were encouraging, and we are waiting to see what the next steps will be. We are also still actively involved with discussions with Albyn re housing in Cromarty and await further information re the impact of The Inner Moray Firth Development Plan.

Our new Youth Member Dominic replaces Tilly who left in November. Dom has made some valued contributions to the Community Council meetings, particularly voicing the issue about the school bus service for Cromarty being run as a public service (the issue of which has now been resolved).

Wanda, Fraser and the young people at the Youth Café have enjoyed a jammed packed year of activities which saw them take part in Tennis, Rowing and Rugby to name but a few. They had another successful Easter program which saw 120 of our young people take part in different sports plus an exciting residential to Fairburn. This was the first time some of our young people would have been away overnight, and a first for all for a Youth Café trip. The photos speak for themselves, and it looked like a great time away.

Fraser sends the Community Council a report each month and the number of kids getting the opportunity in various projects is outstanding. Whether it is sports, creative workshops, or leadership programmes there is always something exciting for the young people to be involved in which is fantastic and we are very thankful to have such a service in the community which offers different opportunities to our young people.

It has been a year in post now for our 3 new Highland Councillors Lyndsey, Sarah and Morven-May who have all settled into their roles well. They themselves have had to work through large budget cuts from the Highland Council which presents its own challenges across the Black Isle, and I won’t dare bring up the word pothole! We have enjoyed meeting them all and creating good relations with each of these ladies. We look forward to working with you more in the future. Lyndsey has attended our meetings for the last year, and now that a year is up, they will be rotating their posts. Sarah Atkin will be taking over from May 2023. We want to thank Lyndsey for her help and all she contributed to our meetings.

October will bring us to our Community Councillors’ elections, and we are always looking to encourage new members, so if you feel you could spare some hours a month to join us, please consider standing for election. There is always something to learn by being involved in the Community Council, and we want Cromarty to be the best version of itself. If you share the same desire, please do get involved. The more the merrier!

Last but certainly not least I want to say a massive thank you to the team. The wealth of knowledge, wisdom and fun each of you bring to the table has made the last 3 years so rewarding. The Community is lucky to have you representing them and I am so proud of all we have managed to achieve. The number of hours you all put in doesn’t go unnoticed and you are all wonderful in your own right. I appreciate everything you have done for me and for this town. THANK YOU!

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about”

**Paige**

**Chairwoman for the C&DCC**