

Stromeferry and Achmore Council AGM

Chair' Report 2023, Gill Harrington

How time seems to have flown. I can't believe it has been a year since I gave my last report to the Community Council.

I am going to take a leaf out of Helen Murchison's book (Chair of Lochcarron CC for many years) and keep my report short but not as short as hers (read hers).

We have, as always had many strings to our bow this year. Never let it be said Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council do take onboard current community concerns.

At the beginning of our latest session, we were visited by Dave Mockett, one of our local police officers, who gave us an outline of current policing in the area. We had a specific query regarding Achmore and reducing perceived speeding through the village – what could we do and how could the police help.

Dave was very helpful, suggesting we could put up signage of Go Slow on the approach to the village. He proposed to have extra patrols through the village during summer. We also decided to ask Highland Council for a traffic survey and to determine any other resources available.

This was done in August and the average speed was found to be 21-22mph so no further action was taken.

The defibrillator for Stromeferry has taken up some considerable time and we are still looking into how this is going to be achieved.

Early in the year Lucky2BeHere told us that there was a shortage of defibrillators so we decided to ask ScotRail if as well as installation of the power supply, they could also supply one of their defibrillators. I can find nothing further on this apart from Lucy2B Here now saying they can supply one, for a donation of approximately £2000. We are in the process of applying to Scottish Salmon (now Bakkafrost) for a donation towards the defibrillator.

Training for the defibrillator is another concern. Originally the paramedics said they were to do the training for the twenty-two volunteers but now we have been referred back to Lucy2BHere.

Another ongoing discussion has been around the Stromeferry and Achmore Community Website, regarding the responsibility of the various groups over content and also, more recently, a discussion about sharing the costs, which have in recent years been dealt with by the CC. This is ongoing.

After approaching Tesco, Asda and Morrisons regarding food deliveries, Morrisons started delivering to the square on the 30th November. There have been a few tweaks to the delivery times and days but all seems to be going very well.

The September meeting was taken up by an online meeting with Alcohol Focus Scotland, on alcohol licencing for communities. The Took Kit was distributed to the community with the CC minutes.

The barriers at Ardnarff were finally moved in November and taken away in March this year, very timely considering the huge amount of traffic we are already seeing this year.

We have supported the Sky Group chaired by Hamish Fraser, in their challenging effort to get a CT Scanner at Broadford Hospital.

Following the interest shown in having a footpath connecting Stromeferry and Achmore, we sent round a questionnaire to the community to access support and received twenty one positive replies. We have forwarded this to the Access Officer in Portree, his reply can then be used by those forming a committee working to take the matter further.

We continued to liaise with Scottish Water regarding the loss of pressure in Stromeferry. After several delays the new system was installed, and we thought this matter was complete. However, a couple of concerns have been raised in the last few weeks, we will continue to monitor Scottish Water's response.

We have continued to liaise with Forestry Land Scotland about the Stromeferry Viewpoint. This now seems to be working well, although personally I have a few concerns about the number of people walking across the road between parking areas.

We are in the process of setting up an archive of CC material in a filing cabinet in the village hall, to be shared with the Fernaig Trust.

We continue to participate in the Lochalsh Collaboration Group.

Finally, can I say many thanks to you all for supporting the Community Council, in particular Mary for all her hard work as secretary and Dawn as treasurer, making sure we don't overspend our meagre allowance from Highland Council.

And finally, truly a special thank to our local councillor, Biz Campbell for all her support, engagement and knowledge throughout the last year.