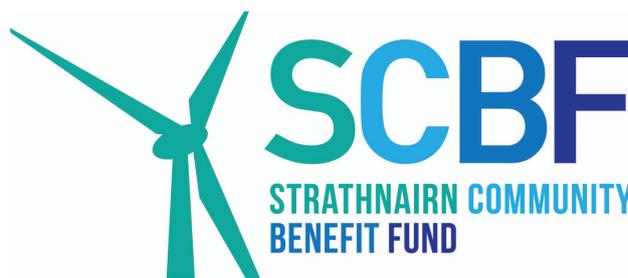


**IMPORTANT –
PLEASE READ**

**AND LET US KNOW IF
YOU DON'T SUPPORT**



Major community investments on the horizon.

In 2011 the Strathnairn Community Council set up a sub-committee to produce a Community Plan, the survey which followed this identified many areas for improvement with several recurring themes. Much has been done since with the refurbishment of the kitchen at Farr Hall; the new play park and the creation of a community growing space at Farr House to name a few but some areas are still to be addressed.

These include:

- Improved provision of Strathnairn wide Broadband.
- Updating of Farr & Daviot (Strathnairn) halls.
- Creation of a community hub or small scale gathering/events space. (Hubs vary from community to community but in the case of Strathnairn could incorporate a café, local heritage displays/information, tourist information for the local area, usable office space, regular selling and exhibition space for crafts and makers, toilets etc).

The Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) will shortly be considering applications for three of these projects and given that the amount requested for each will exceed £200,000 the SCBF Board felt that the community needed to be consulted over the grants involved. Previous consultations haven't identified estimated costs until now.

Broadband – Following the work of several members of the community over the last few years to improve broadband, more recently with the Connecting Strathnairn project, funding was awarded by SCBF for the costs of two initial surveys (Phase 1). A preferred company has now been selected and funding has recently been awarded for Phase 2 which involves consultation with landowners where masts will be located, planning for the masts, power connections and equipment cabinets. **Phase 3 which involves commitment to the installation of all the infrastructure could cost in the region of £400,000.**

This scheme will provide, what is becoming a more and more essential tool for everyday life to those who do not have access to the internet, a vastly improved connection for many more and provide a viable alternative for those wishing to change providers.

Farr Hall - is now in need of refurbishing, SCBF has already funded Phase 1 which involved the replacement of the kitchen ensuring that it met all current legislation to enable it to continue to provide cooking facilities for the various groups using or hiring the hall. **Phase 2 is now under consideration and tenders have been put out to carry out work including: replacement oil fired heating system, roof windows for natural light, replacement of lights with LED for hall & stage, insulation of the hall walls and installation of energy efficient heating panels. The anticipated cost will be in the**

region of £200,000. Phase 3 will be dependent upon available finance and will involve building work to expand the size and number of rooms available.

Daviot (Strathnairn) Hall –also needs refurbishing. Additional land to the right of the existing hall has recently been transferred to the Hall Committee and discussions are underway with the other landowner to enable the hall to be extended by twelve to eighteen feet. **Phase 1, regardless of any work to extend the hall, will involve replacement of existing wiring, installation of energy efficient electric heating, and changing hall and stage lighting to LED. Tenders have been put out for the work which is anticipated to be over £200,000.** Phase 2, will involve the building of the extension and reconfiguration of the existing space to improve and upgrade the toilet facilities and kitchen. It is hoped that the extension of the hall will provide meeting rooms for local residents and private hires, the cost for this work is as of yet unknown.

Community Hub - Although at not such an advanced stage as the above projects and no application on the immediate horizon the creation of a smaller scale gathering space is being discussed. Whether it be incorporated into Farr Hall as part of Phase 3 of the refurbishment plan or a completely new space will be decided by the community, but in either case funding will be needed.

SCBF has c. £1,338,417 reserves invested (at 31/3/18) which gives an estimated annual return of c. £35,000 as well as the money held in its current account for day to day grant-making. In 2017/18 SCBF received c. £231,112 in annual payments from local windfarm and a Hydro scheme operators with another Windfarm (Aberarder) still to be built.

The Board feels all these projects will benefit the community as a whole and the community has already prioritised these in earlier consultation without provisional costs being available at that time. However, in supporting them, the SCBF Board wanted to highlight to the community SCBF's ability to fund any other large scale projects for the foreseeable future will be reduced and offer members of the community **the opportunity to comment if they felt any of the projects should not now be supported.**

If you would like to advise the SCBF Board why you feel any of these projects should **not** now be supported please either write to the Secretary outlining your reasons using the Freepost address: Freepost RTTJ-HBSK-RRUU, SCBF, PO Box 5783, Inverness, IV1 9EW or e-mail cosec@strathnairncbf.com **by 12 September 2018.** You can either do this anonymously or provide your name and address. Adding your name and address will prove you are resident in the SCBF area and will allow us to get back should more clarification be required on your comments. Details on how SCBF processes your personal data can be found in its Privacy Notice at www.strathnairncbf.com/privacy-notice.

The final decision that the SCBF Board makes will take into account comments provided so please **make your views known if you don't support any of these projects as we will be unable to reverse the decisions once an award has been made and contracts have been entered into for the works involved.**

Thank you