

# strathnairn news

## COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

SDC are in a fresh round of consultation and promotion for the Community Action Plan.

## STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

Milton Woods  
Workdays  
continue for the  
benefit of all

## FEATURE

# GETTING + TWITCHY

EVENTS, CRAFTS,  
FUNDRAISING,  
ACTIVITIES AND  
COMMUNITY ISSUES  
AND HELP

TAKING CARE OF OUR  
FEATHERED FRIENDS





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Issue 122

COVER: Editor



HOT  
CHOCOLATE  
AND  
MULLED  
WINE

# Bonfire

# NIGHT

FARR LOCH PARK  
IN RUSHY PARK, ON THE LEFT  
SIDE OF THE DRIVEWAY

Friday 5th November 2022

BONFIRE LIT AT 5PM

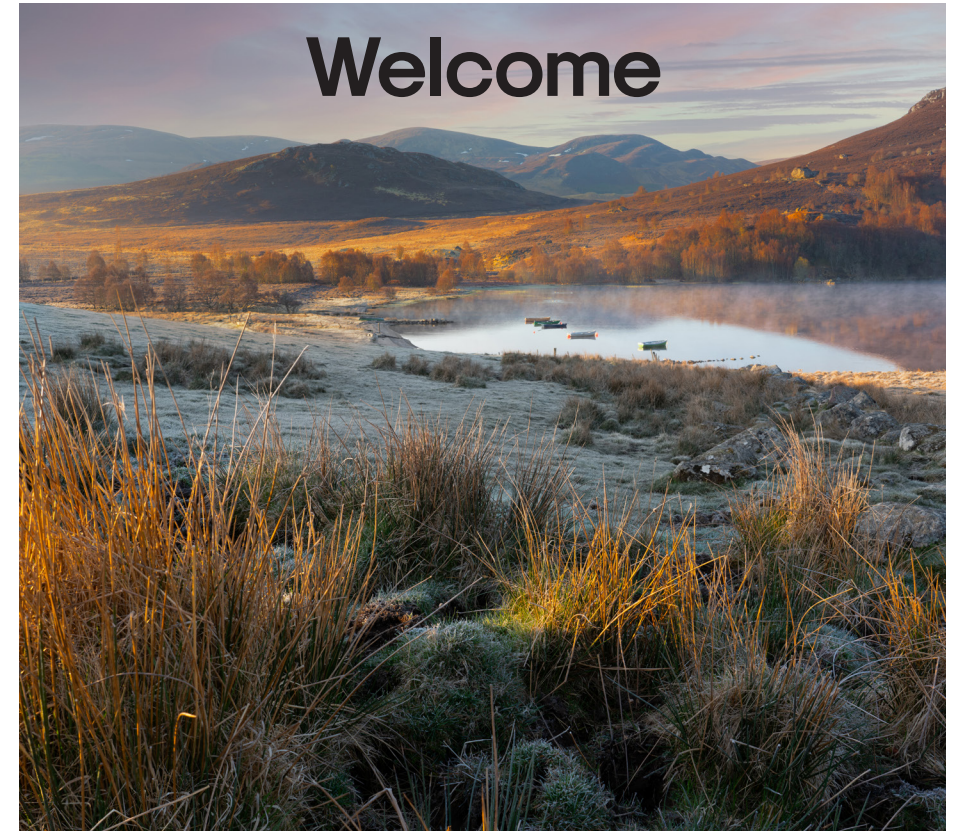
Fireworks 6:30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME  
NO CHARGE

Any food or firework  
donations welcome

FREE  
SPARKLERS  
FOR THE  
KIDS

Contact: Lucy Ogilvie - Farr Estate  
+44 (0) 7904075361 - enquiries@farrestate.co.uk - www.farrestate.co.uk



## Welcome

Welcome page photo: Editor: Designer: Editor

## Seasonal change

In this issue don't miss the details of the community Bonfire night at Farr. There is information on how to take care of your garden birds as the weather changes. Keep a note of the Community Action Plan discussion events which need your input and find out how to help maintain our community woodlands.

Thank you for Prof R Paxton and Lloyd Roberts for their time and energy in getting the Tordarroch bridge article together for the last issue it has inspired further discussions on the

topic with community members. I am always grateful to anyone who takes time to write and contribute to this newsletter. So please keep the ideas, articles and photographs coming.

**The next newsletter deadline  
- Thursday 24th November 2022.**

Please note all dates and times published are correct at time of going to print, and please ensure all submissions are non-political and unlikely to offend.

Editor, David Reid,

We are here to help, so please do not hesitate to contact our Editor, David Reid, and he will try and help. If he is not able, he will try and assist by finding a more suitable contact. Keep safe!

Get in touch:  strathnairnewsletter@gmail.com  07580 299165



**Are you over 16 and live in Strathnairn?**

**Are you interested in helping your community?**

**Do you want to help decide how community funds are invested?**



The Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) is looking for engaged community members to grow their team of Directors. There is one meeting a month on a Thursday, currently online, with the hope to be in person when possible.

*If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to: [cosec@strathnairncbf.com](mailto:cosec@strathnairncbf.com)  
Website: [www.strathnairncbf.com](http://www.strathnairncbf.com)*

## Your Community Councillors

The Community has a website – [www.strathnairn.org.uk](http://www.strathnairn.org.uk) where full details are available. There is also a closed group <Strathnairn> on Facebook where useful day to day information is posted. As a closed group access is restricted to locals and once you have visited the page you will need to ask to join. That way your Facebook page will enable you to be notified of any disruptions and latest news.

Phil Mackintosh Chair	07787 155390	<a href="mailto:phil.mackintosh@strathnairncc.com">phil.mackintosh@strathnairncc.com</a>
Neil Spence Hon. Secretary	01808 521311	<a href="mailto:neil.spence@strathnairncc.com">neil.spence@strathnairncc.com</a>
Ian Maclean Treasurer	07843 685619	<a href="mailto:ian.maclean@strathnairncc.com">ian.maclean@strathnairncc.com</a>
Ian Hunt	01463 772094	<a href="mailto:ian@strathnairncc.com">ian@strathnairncc.com</a>
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James Murray	01808 521205	<a href="mailto:murrayjames@hotmail.co.uk">murrayjames@hotmail.co.uk</a>

### Your Highland Councillors

Strathnairn is part of Highland Council Wards 12 (Aird and Loch Ness) & Ward 19 (Inverness South). Addresses & telephone numbers are available at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

#### Ward 12 Aird and Loch Ness

Cllr Helen Crawford	<a href="mailto:helen.crawford.cllr@highland.gov.uk">helen.crawford.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Chris Ballance	<a href="mailto:chris.ballance.cllr@highland.gov.uk">chris.ballance.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Emma Knox	<a href="mailto:emma.knox.cllr@highland.gov.uk">emma.knox.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>
Cllr David Fraser	<a href="mailto:david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk">david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>

#### Ward 19 Inverness South

Cllr Colin Aitken	<a href="mailto:colin.aitken.cllr@highland.gov.uk">colin.aitken.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Ken Gowans	<a href="mailto:ken.gowans.cllr@highland.gov.uk">ken.gowans.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Andrew Sinclair	<a href="mailto:andrew.sinclair.cllr@highland.gov.uk">andrew.sinclair.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Duncan MacPherson	<a href="mailto:duncan.macpherson.cllr@highland.gov.uk">duncan.macpherson.cllr@highland.gov.uk</a>

### Local Strathnairn Police officers

**PCN0162** Laura Kerr, **PCN0953** Jo Barclay, **PCN0348** Katie Johnstone

They can all be contacted on:-

[HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

#### Other useful numbers:

Daviot Primary School	01463 772226	Daviot Hall booking	01463 772228
SCATA Bus	01808 521321	Police - Non-Emergency	101
Farr Primary School	01808 521246	Farr Hall booking	01808 521346
NHS 24	111		

SCBF – [www.strathnairncbf.com](http://www.strathnairncbf.com), [cosec@strathnairncbf.com](mailto:cosec@strathnairncbf.com), 07858 688355

Care in Strathnairn: TBC

Derek Rose (Community Contact Officer) – 07800 796106/ 01463 772240





# Strathnairn Churches

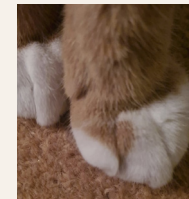
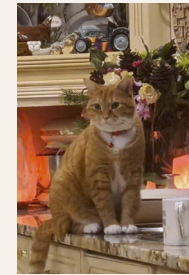
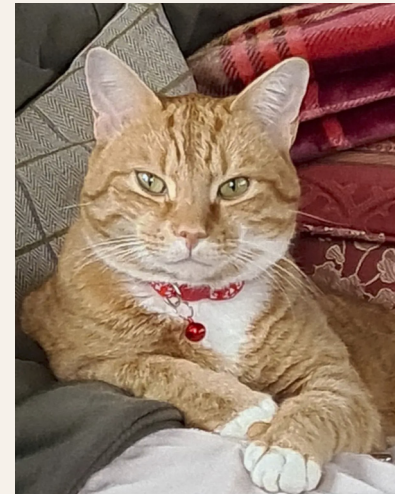
Croy, Cawdor, Daviot & Dunlichity, Tomatin & Dalarossie

**S**ince the last Newsletter in August, we have held our joint service where all four congregations came together for worship. The church was full to hear the Rev Robert give an uplifting and encouraging service, after which food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. The weather was kind when there was a picnic and singing at Dunlichity in August where again food and fellowship were shared. The theme of sharing continued in August when all the congregations had the opportunity to meet in Cawdor church hall for a Pot Luck Supper where a plate of food was shared together with people starting to get to know one another. These meetings will

be a regular feature in different venues around the parishes. There will also be opportunities for children and adults to join the fun as Messy Church Goes Wild when the Churches of Tomatin and Daviot come together to encourage Messy Church to meet God outdoors, love the natural world, experience a sense of awe and wonder there, and to be more eco-aware in all we do, both inside and out, as gathered and dispersed church for the good of the planet. The next Messy Adventure is at Daviot Church at 2pm on Sunday 6th November, (for more information, look for the notices around the parishes.) Now that Autumn has arrived, we have restarted our regular activities such as the popular

Coffee & Crafts on a Friday morning at 10.30am, the weekly Prayer Meeting at Tomatin on Thursday morning at 10.30am, the Guild at 2.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month and a monthly book club. At the time of going to press, we are looking forward to having the next Pot Luck Supper at the Strathdearn at 7pm on Friday 30th September, and harvest meal at the same venue on Saturday 8th October. Harvest Thanksgiving will be on Sunday 9th October and Remembrance Sunday 13th November. Look out for the notices, or follow us on Facebook for more information. We pray for God's blessing on Strathnairn and all that goes on in His name in the community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Whiskey Missing

Our cat called Whiskey has been missing from the Daviot West / Faillie area since 28th July.

He is a lovely boy and is neutered and microchipped. He is just under 5 years old and was in good health when he disappeared. We have searched and put posters up and also put his picture on every social media page we can think of. We are heartbroken. There is a reward for information leading to his return / whereabouts. My contact number is 07501 224886.

Many thanks  
MacRitchie Family

**Woodlands, Faillie, Daviot West, Inverness, IV2 6WG  
mhdhome@btinternet.com**

### There is one thing

SCBF is having its AGM on Thursday, October 27th, 1900 hrs at the Farr Hall  
We would like to invite members of the SCBF to attend  
Further information on the agenda will be sent out prior to the AGM

#### LIKE A LOCAL

#### Your newsletter needs you!

If you want like to contribute to the newsletter regularly or with a one off article then please do get in touch. You can email on: [Strathnairnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Strathnairnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Strathnairns Little Silver Bus

The minibus continues to collect residents to take them to medical appointments in town, Tesco for shopping, and Friendship Group for days spent socialising. The 'bus has also been booked for a variety of excursions by residents in Strathnairn who need to hire a little more room to drive around.

The bus is funded by The Highland Council, Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund and ongoing hire charges paid by those who wish to make use of the 'bus privately at a cost of 60p per mile.

However, the greatest success is due to the volunteer drivers who freely give their time to help others in our area – Could you help too, please?

The 'bus can be driven on a normal car licence and anyone >25 can apply to be a driver. I am always on the lookout for additional drivers so if anyone has any spare time to help – even only now and again

*– please contact Donna on 01808 521321*





# INVERARNIE STORES

## CONVENIENCE STORE

GROCERIES AND FROZEN FOODS,  
HARRY GOW BAKERY, A & I QUALITY BUTCHERS CULLODEN, ICE CREAM  
NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, SECOND HAND BOOKS, CIGARETTES, TOBACCO  
CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS, WRAPPING PAPER, GIFT BAGS  
FLO GAS, SMALL BAGS OF COAL, KINDLERS  
REPEAT PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION POINT  
RECYCLING, PUBLIC NOTICEBOARD, COLLECTION POINT FOR FARR HALL KEY

**OPEN LOCAL HOLIDAYS  
CLOSE TO FARR & DAVIOT SCHOOLS**

### LOCKDOWN OPENING HOURS

7:30am - 12 noon – Mon-Sat / 9am - 12 noon – Sunday

Inverness IV2 6XA

*Pop along and say hello!*

Strathnairn Development Company

**What should our community  
look like?**

Lead by Lindsay - Lego serious play facilitator. Snacks too!

**A meeting for young people in  
Strathnairn (12-18)**

**please come along & share  
your ideas!**



**Farr Hall**

**Tues 25 Oct 6 - 7:30pm**

# Farr Primary

**Primary 7 class.** This term primary seven have been finding out about life in the 17th century as part of their history topic.

They have learned about artists and composers as well as the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London. We all feel very grateful to be living in a time of medical innovation after finding out about some of the practices of the 1600s! In maths they have carried out a budgeting project, using their knowledge of adding and multiplying

monetary values, to create a plan for a birthday party. They used websites to research good deals and have learned about different methods of payment. In literacy they have been learning about using a "toolkit" to enhance their writing and we have been adding "tools" such as similes and metaphors to the class toolkit. Some of the character

descriptions created have been outstanding! We have budding authors in our midst! Finally, P7 have enjoyed a block of swimming lessons at the Aquadome and we have been very fortunate to have a PE specialist for their PE lessons this term too. It has been a hard-working first term, jam-packed with fun and learning!



**'room of wonders'** Andrea Fitter P6 teacher in Farr Primary.

We have settled into the first term superbly. This term Primary 6 have been focusing on a novel study, The Nowhere Emporium. We have enjoyed analysing the characters, setting and plot. We created our own room of wonder and accompanied our illustration with a detailed imaginative story. Our class have also had an opportunity to go swimming each week. We are thoroughly enjoying learning and consolidating new strokes as well as completing challenges in the water.



# Balvraid Hennels



## Happy Hens Holiday Home

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[www.balvraidhennels.co.uk](http://www.balvraidhennels.co.uk)

Find us on Facebook, Instagram & WhatsApp



True care when you can't be there

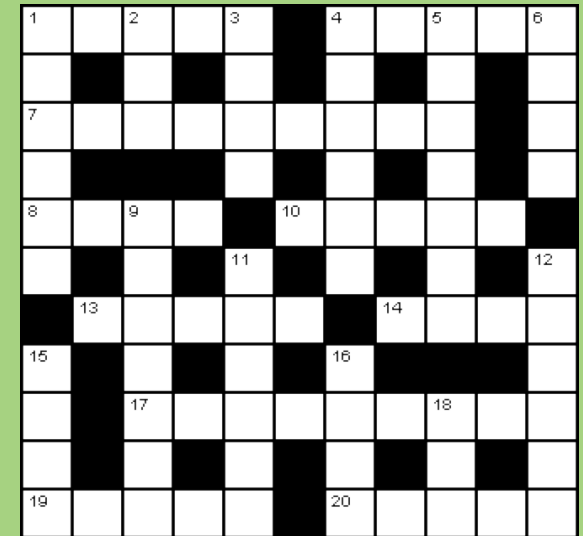
# Quiz Page

Crossword puzzles are a good exercise for the brain and puts your vocabulary to the test.

### Sudoku

9	8	4	1	5	6
1	4		9	8	
2					1
6			3		
	8	3	5		
	9		2		
	5	7			
	3	9	8		

### Quick Crossword



### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

SOME QUESTIONS TO GET THE GREY CELLS WORKING. TRY NOT TO CHEAT WITH THE INTERNET.

1. What is the Papaver Rhoëas flower better known as?
2. How many Olympic gold medals does Sir Mo Farah have?
3. What are the three water signs in astrology?
4. How many elements are there in the periodic table?
5. What was the name of Britney Spears' first single?

#### Across

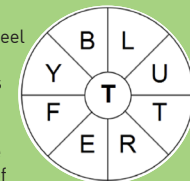
1. Aquatic mammal (5)
4. Striped equine (5)
7. Watered (9)
8. Flows back (4)
10. Tennis stroke (5)
13. Assumed name (5)
14. Disparaging remark (4)
17. Essential (9)
19. Rear part of a ship (5)
20. Smooth fabric (5)

#### Down

1. Relinquished (6)
2. Atmosphere (3)
3. Boundary of a surface (4)
4. Stringed instrument (6)
5. Confound (7)
6. Desiccated (4)
9. State of equilibrium (7)
11. Bird of prey (6)
12. Implement for writing or drawing (6)
15. Optical device (4)
16. Small snakes (4)
18. Colony insect (3)

This Minibeasts themed word wheel is made from a 9 letter Minibeasts themed word.

Try and find that word, then make as many words of any length as you can from these letters. You can only use each letter once, and each word must include the letter T.



### Answers

Wordwheel  
Artichoke

1	8	7	4	5	3	6	9	2
2	5	9	1	6	7	4	3	
4	3	6	7	2	8	5	1	8
6	2	5	3	8	4	9	7	5
5	7	1	3	9	2	6	4	
9	4	8	7	2	5	3	1	
7	6	5	2	3	1	8	9	
3	9	4	5	6	8	1	2	7
8	1	2	3	4	7	5	9	

S	I	M	P	L	E	T	T	P	E
H	E	O	A	A	N				
E	A	N	N	O	U	N	C	E	D
R	N	E	D	H					
I	O	T	A	W	I	N	T	E	R
F	A	C	I	L	E	B	A	L	M
R	O	V	V	P					
C	R	O	C	O	D	I	L	E	A
U	W	M	S	R	G				
B	U	N	K	B	A	T	T	L	E

Last issues  
crossword  
answers

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE.



# Taking care of feathered friends

Many people put food out for birds, but fewer provide a regular supply of clean water.

Birds need water for drinking and bathing. Water is particularly important during the winter when natural supplies may be frozen and in dry, hot weather during the summer when water can be hard to find.

## Water for bathing

Water to bathe in is just as important for birds, especially in winter. It is essential that they keep their feathers in good condition. Bathing is an important part of feather maintenance. Dampening the feathers loosens the dirt and makes their feathers easier to preen.

When preening, birds carefully rearrange the feathers and spread

oil from the preen gland so they remain waterproof and trap an insulating layer of air underneath to keep them warm.

## Keep the water clean

Keeping a bird bath clean helps to prevent birds catching diseases.

You should clean your birdbath regularly and change the water. A layer of algae, dead leaves or bird droppings will soon build up, so give the bath a thorough clean every week or so. Scrub the sides and bottom to remove algae and other dirt.

There are non-toxic products on the market like Enviroclens, which can be used to clean bird baths.

## How to keep the water ice-free

Birds need to drink regularly, whether the weather's hot or cold. They'll even bathe in the depths of winter. In freezing conditions, bird baths and garden ponds become even more important, since many natural sources of water are frozen over.



It can be difficult to stop a bird bath from freezing, but try these simple methods:

- A light ball floating in the water will be moved by even a gentle breeze, and will keep a small amount of water ice-free
- Pour on hot water to melt the ice
- Line the bath with a polythene sheet that you can lift out along with the ice
- Put a metal container on three or four bricks with a night light candle underneath, sheltering the flame from the wind with extra bricks
- The ultimate is the Solar Sipper, a bird bath that uses solar energy to prevent the water from freezing.

## Avoid chemicals

Never add any chemicals (such as glycerine, anti-freeze or salt) to the water. It could stop the birds' feathers from being waterproof, or poison the birds themselves.



## Keep your bird table healthy

Taking care of your feeders, bird table as well as your birdbath will reduce the chances of spreading diseases. When a large number of birds are attracted into an area to feed, the danger of disease increases.

Good hygiene is particularly important during the summer months. The warmer weather can make food go off quicker, and can provide ideal conditions for harmful bacteria.

- Monitor your food supply carefully. If the food takes days to clear, reduce the amount of food you're offering.
- Use a bird table or hanging feeders. Food on the ground should all be eaten

before nightfall. Rats are attracted to leftover food and often carry diseases, which can affect birds or humans.

- Keep your bird tables and surrounding areas clean and free from droppings or mouldy food. Try to avoid accumulating large amounts of droppings.
- Clean and wash your bird table and hanging feeders regularly, and move feeding stations to a new area every month to prevent droppings accumulating underneath.

• Personal hygiene is also important. Don't bring your feeders into your house to clean them - do it outside, using separate utensils. Wear gloves when cleaning feeders and bird tables, and particularly if you need to handle a sick or a dead bird in your garden. Always wash your hands when you've finished.







### Feed the birds

At this time of year, put out food and water on a regular basis. In severe weather, feed twice daily if you can: in the morning and in the early afternoon.

Birds require high-energy (high-fat) foods during the cold winter weather to maintain their fat reserves to survive the frosty nights. Use only good-quality food and scraps.

Once you establish a feeding routine, try not to change it as the birds will become used to it and time their visits to your garden accordingly.

Don't put out salty foods. Birds can't digest salt and it will damage their nervous systems.

Only leave enough that can be eaten in one day – otherwise you may attract unwanted visitors, such as mice and rats.



Feeding garden birds doesn't need to be expensive - many of the things you throw away provide suitable food for birds.

• **Bacon and other fats-** You can put out fat from unsalted cuts of meat in large pieces for the birds. Make sure they are well anchored to prevent large birds flying away with the whole piece! Careful this kind of food can attract magpies and gulls, and also neighbourhood cats. As long as you can be sure the bacon is not salty, you can put it on your bird table. Since bacon can be too tough for many birds to tackle, chopping it finely will allow a wider variety of birds to eat it. Please avoid polyunsaturated fats.

• **Bread-** All types of bread can be digested by birds, but ideally it should only be just one component in a varied diet. Bread does not contain the necessary protein and fat birds need from their diet, and so it can act as an empty filler. Although bread isn't harmful to birds, try not to offer it in large quantities, since its nutritional value is relatively low. Soaked bread is more easily ingested than stale dry bread, and brown bread is better than white. During the breeding season, make sure bread is crumbled

into tiny pieces so that it is safer to eat. Dry chunks of bread will choke baby birds, and a chick on a diet of bread may not develop into a healthy fledgling.

• **Cheese-** Mild grated cheese is a favourite with robins, dunnocks, blackbirds and song thrushes. It will also help wrens if you place it under hedgerows and other areas in your garden where you've noticed them feeding.

• **Potatoes-** Baked potatoes (cold and opened up), roast and even mashed potatoes with added real fats are all suitable food for birds. Chips are rarely eaten by birds.

• **Fruit-** Dried fruits, such as raisins, sultanas and currants are particularly enjoyed by blackbirds, song thrushes and robins. As some dogs and cats react badly to these fruits please do not put them out in areas where these animals might get to them. Apples, pears and other fruit, including bruised and part rotten ones, cut up, are very popular with all thrushes, tits and starlings.

• **Pastry-** Pastry, cooked or uncooked, is excellent - especially if it has been made with real fats.

# Your Strathnairn Community Action Plan.

## The next steps: Putting the plan into action



Come along and find out about your new Community Action Plan.

Format: Here is the plan / Quick Q&A / Table discussions on themes / sharing back & next steps. Teas and baking available.

All welcome. Be part of the conversation!

Special meeting for younger residents (12-18) Farr Hall 25th Oct 6-7.30pm - to be advertised in detail on Facebook / Instagram pages soon.

SDC are in a fresh round of consultation and promotion for the Community Action Plan. **Drop by the latest open discussion session at Farr Hall on the 8th Oct 2022.** A special meeting for young people in the community is coming soon too (25th Oct). Please encourage any young folk you know to come along - we will provide snacks and a warm welcome!



# Fridge and Freezer savvy skills

Fridge and freezer etiquette and tips to help with storage and energy saving consumption

## Fridge

**Shut the fridge door!**- The temperature inside a fridge rises every time you open the door. It can also take hours to cool down again. Plan what you want to get out before you open it so it isn't open longer than needed.

**Adjust the temperature-** Adjusting your fridge temperature so that it's between 0-5°C can keep your food fresher for longer by up to three days longer than usual.

**Use a fridge thermometer-** If you want to test how cold your fridge actually is, an easy way is to use a thermometer. For an accurate temperature reading, pop your thermometer into a glass of water and leave it in the fridge for a few hours.

**Use the right shelves-** Storing your food in the right place is the easiest way to stop it from spoiling too

quickly. The general rule of thumb is to keep fruits and veggies in the salad crisper drawer, right at the bottom. Meats, poultry and fish should be covered and put on the bottom shelf and ready-to-eat foods can be put on the middle and top shelf.

**Keep your food cool on the way home from the store-** The journey from the shops to your home can be bad news for your fresh foods. Use a cool bag to keep chilled food cool on the way home from the shops. This will help to keep your food fresher for longer and regulate your fridge temperature.

**Don't put hot food in the fridge-** Cool cooked food at room temperature and place in the fridge within one to two hours. Not only will this help to prevent your fridge heating up, but it will also stop the growth of bacteria on your food.



## Freezer

**Keep the freezer full-** When your freezer is full, there is less room for warmer air to take up, and the items that are in there help to cool down any air that does sneak in. You don't have to buy masses of food to do this. If you have a fridge or freezer with plenty of unused space, you can always fill it with bottles of tap water or screwed-up newspaper.

**Freeze it and store it: Potatoes-** One of the country's most wasted foods. They can be frozen no matter how they're cooked, and uncooked potatoes just need a 5-minute boil before they're ready to be frozen too.

**Eggs-** If you've bought a box of eggs but aren't going to use them all straightaway, you can freeze them by cracking them into a sealable container. If you're likely to need just the yolks or just the whites for a particular dish – you can also freeze the two separately.





**Dairy-**

Here's how to freeze different dairy products:

**Milk:** freeze in plastic containers – small ones work best, as big ones take ages to defrost and take up a lot of space in the freezer. Remember to pour a bit out before putting the lid back on, as milk expands when it freezes! Ideally, freeze it as soon as possible after buying and put it in the fridge to thaw out when you need it. Give it a good shake before pouring, and use it within 24 hours.

**Yoghurt:** freeze in their plastic containers or in lolly moulds for a delicious summer snack.

**Butter:** freeze in cubes and add them straight into the saucepan when you're cooking. Alternatively, defrost in the microwave in short bursts on a low setting.

**Cream:** whip fresh cream and freeze in a plastic container (double cream freezes better than single).

**Cheese:** the easiest way to freeze cheese is to grate it first – then it's ready and waiting for a quick and easy topping.

with the filling staying nice and cool. You can also pop a slice of frozen bread in the toaster. If you're freezing cake, cut it into slices and put greaseproof paper between the slices so that you can easily take out a piece at a time.

**Rice-** You can freeze cooked rice. Simply cool it quickly by placing the container of rice in cold water, cover it and pop it into the freezer within an hour of cooking. Before eating, defrost the rice in the fridge and then reheat it until it's piping hot before serving straight away.



**Fruit and veg-** Pretty much all fruit and veg freezes well. Plunge sliced apples into boiling water for a couple of minutes and then freeze them in a single layer, packing them into bags once they've frozen. You can freeze cooked carrots in a sealed container labelled with the date you froze them or par-boil uncooked carrots for a few minutes and cool them in iced water before freezing them.



**Baked goods-** The freezer is great for loaves of bread, packets of croissants, cakes and any other baked goods you're not going to get through. You can pop a loaf of bread in the freezer and take a slice or two out at a time whenever you need bread. You don't even need to defrost it – you can make sandwiches from frozen bread in the morning and they'll defrost by lunchtime



**FOOD SIMPLE**



# Plum Charlotte

**A Warm Autumnal Treat**

## Plum Charlotte - Serves 4

*Here's a super frugal wartime recipe made out of stale bread and fruit that's going a little soft. You can easily half the recipe for a smaller dessert of 2 servings.*

**Ingredients**

- 450g Fruit, weight when prepared (eg. several plums and 1 large apple)
- 75g Sugar (any kind)
- 225g Bread (white or wholemeal but stale is better)
- 50g Margarine or Butter
- Splash of milk
- Splash of water

**Instructions**

- Step 1** - Cut apple into small slices, no need to peel. Half and stone the plums.
- Step 2** - Pre-heat oven to 180C.
- Step 3** - Place fruit into a saucepan with half the sugar and a couple of spoonfuls of water and simmer for 5 minutes.
- Step 4** - Heat margarine/butter up in a saucepan until melted and hot.
- Step 5** - Break up the bread into coarse breadcrumbs with your fingers and add to the margarine/butter in the saucepan.
- Step 6** - Add the remaining sugar and a couple of spoonfuls of milk to ensure bread is mixed and slightly damp.
- Step 7** - Place fruit mixture into pie dish, cover with breadcrumb mix.
- Step 8** - Place in oven and cook for 30-40 minutes until top is brown and crisp.



# Sing and Feel Good

**A new singing group is starting in Farr Hall**

**- Wednesdays 8-9pm -**

Just come along or Email  
[strathnairnmusicinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:strathnairnmusicinitiative@gmail.com)  
for more info



**If you love to sing, or have always wanted to try, this is the group for you. Run by Julie Harvey, an experienced song group leader, the emphasis is on fun, feeling good and enjoying singing together.**

**Open to all, no singing experience or music reading skills needed. Mixed voices and all ages welcome.**

**We will sing a range of song styles, explore singing in harmony together and learn breathing and voice warm ups to help you discover your voice.**

It is over a month since Julie Harvey took the reins of the SMI Singing group 'Sing and Feel Good'. The new weekly Wednesday night slot has been popular, with original members and new folk coming to give group singing a go.

Feedback from those who have been so far has been great with one new singer saying, 'This was my first time having some real 'me time' and it was so appreciated'. And everyone mentioning they look forward to the next session and what new songs they will learn.

There have been comments that some songs have been too 'catchy' with singers complaining they have songs going round their head all week after a session. A good sign for sure. Only a few weeks in and already we have been tackling harmonies, a great sign of the confidence within the group and a testament to Julie's teaching.

Thank you to Julie, everyone who has already come along and the SMI for organising.

Details of the group and how to get in touch are on the poster.

## Strathnairn Community Woodlands

Our workdays are continuing in Milton Wood with a variety of jobs to suit all fitness levels. We will also be having some work days in School Wood later in the season. These will be after the alterations to the car park and the installation of the new link path which will extend to the crossing point to the play park.

The newly planted orchard (phase one) in Milton Wood field is doing well despite the lack of rain this summer. You can reach the orchard from the new path which branches off the main path to the pond area. The fruit trees are in Milton field which also belongs to the community woodland. There are plans for a picnic area with benches in the orchard area. Funding for benches has come from Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund.

### Dates for you diary :

The next workdays are Saturday 29th October  
Saturday 19th November

And our popular Christmas Spruce Busters family event on Saturday 10th December. Come along and cut a free spruce tree to take home.

All events are from 10 - 12 noon. Meet at Milton Wood car park. Don't forget to wear suitable clothing and footwear. Bring gloves as well.

For more information contact :  
[strathnairncommunitywoodlands@gmail.com](mailto:strathnairncommunitywoodlands@gmail.com)  
Or tel. 01808 521207.

Thanks,  
Davy Thompson  
SCW.

## Are you interested in being more Eco, Green, Sustainable?

We are looking for like minded local community members who are interested in helping steer the Strathnairn into a more sustainable future. We are a new group and are keen to have you join us to help give a voice to a greener, more sustainable option on local decisions.

If you are interested in hearing more, or have some ideas please get in touch on:

[sustainablestrathnairn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestrathnairn@gmail.com)





## Strathnairn Community Council 2022

### Meetings - August - September 2022

#### General Meeting Number 300

#### Farr Hall

#### 7.30PM

#### MONDAY 15th August 2022

#### Minutes

Present:

**SNCC Members:** Phil MacKintosh (PM, Chair), Neil Spence (NS, Hon Sec), Ian MacLean (IM, Treasurer), Ian Hunt (IH), Tim Rose (TR), Lorna McConachie (LM, Minutes)

**HC Members:** Cllr Ken Gowans (KG)

**Associate Member:** Allan Martin (AM)

**Members of the Public:** Mark Bessell (MB), Neil Dawson (ND) (mentioned in the minutes), 1 other.

#### 1. Apologies

Jayne Brinkworth (JB), James Murray (JM), Jonny Porteous (JP), Cllr David Fraser (DF).

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022: Proposed (IM), Seconded (NS).

#### 3. Declaration of Interest

IH advised the CC that as a member of the Community Benefit Fund he would not take part in discussions relating to the SCBF unless he deemed it pertinent to do so.

#### 4. Matters Arising from minutes: None

#### 5. Community Policing Report and local issues

The community beat police officers are A/PS Cailean Macleod, PC Katie Johnstone, PC Joanna Barclay, PC Laura Kerr and PC Stuart Connell and PC Keith Whitelaw who is the current school link officer working within the secondary schools in Inverness. The community beats team can be contacted on the following e-mail address [HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk](mailto:HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk).

[scotland.police.uk](mailto:scotland.police.uk). (This e-mail address is not monitored 24/7 therefore any crimes should be reported via 101 or 999 in an emergency). A discussion ensued on the relevance of the report to the rural area of the Strath. **Action: PM to extend an invitation to the community beat officer to attend a CC meeting.**

#### 6. Financial Report

No change since last meeting, balance £5775.10. Pending payments for minutes due.

#### 7. Planning Application and updates

##### a) New

- i. Erection of extensions. Rise Park, Daviot, Inverness. IV2 5ER.
- ii. Erection of storage/workshop building. Lios Nan Giuthas, Farr, Inverness. IV2 6XG. Agreed.
- iii. Peatland restoration project. Land 3600M SE of Aberarder House, Aberarder, Inverness.
- iv. Erection of extension. Flichity House, Flichity, Inverness. IV2 6XD.
- v. Erection of service wind extension. Flichity House, Flichity, Inverness. IV2 6XD.
- vi. Erection of house and garage. Land 35M SW of The Willows, Balnafoich, Farr. Inverness.

##### b) Updat ed

- i. Alterations and extensions. Woodend, Westhill, Inverness. IV2 5BS. **Agreed.**

- ii. Erection of manager's house and holiday pods. Land 300M Southeast of Windy Hills, Achlaschoille, Farr, Inverness. IV2 6XG. **Withdrawn.**
- iii. Formation of access and access track (in retrospect). Land 50M north of Fir Chlis, Daviot, Inverness. **Refused.**
- iv. Erection of house. Land 345M South of Easterton of Duntelchaig, Farr, Inverness. **Withdrawn.**

##### c) Other

A concern has been raised concerning a change in land use on land adjacent and to the left of the application 21/04441/FUL. (Formation of access and erection of shed. Land 60M West of South View, Daviot, Inverness). The committee unanimously agreed that further investigation is necessary to ensure that all appropriate planning procedures and regulations are followed. **Action: IH to submit a letter to planning department.**

#### 8. Windfarms

##### a) Aberarder

MB and PM continue to negotiate with RES. A meeting with representatives from Stratherrick CC is to be arranged. Good progress is being made and updates will be provided when appropriate. **Action: Cllr KG to discuss status with Malcolm McLeod.**

##### d) Corriegarth 2

No further information available.

#### 9. Red John Hydro Scheme

Currently no information is available. **Action: PM to issue letter requesting the community liaison officer to provide feedback re community benefits.** Additional transport concerns were raised by the proposed Loch Kemp Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme near Whitebridge. (Staterra Energy). The strain on the road infrastructure was discussed at length. The impact of windfarm, hydro and logging traffic cannot be underestimated. **Action: Cllr KG to discuss with Tracey Urray and extend invitation to next CC meeting.**

#### 10. Strathnairn Development Company

ND provided an update on the Community Action Plan. The CAP has now been published and feedback from the community is to be collated by the autumn. A draft proposal to the Benefit Fund for a Development Officer will be submitted in due course. All agreed that some "quick wins" should be implemented this year. A roadmap showing what the SDC could achieve would be beneficial to create clarity and to allow other projects to be established. It was stated that SDC require to be transparent and to declare any conflict of interest as appropriate. IH informed the meeting of the proposed sale of Dunlichity Church. Interest from the Heritage Association (need to reform prior to any application) has been noted.

#### 11. Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund

MB provided the following updates;

- ◆ Application from the Heritage Association to purchase Dunlichity Church to be added to SCBF meeting agenda.
- ◆ Budget revenue of £350k for next year.
- ◆ Christmas meal/party contribution will be made up to £2500. (CC balance standing at £1491). PM requested increase to £3k. **Action: MB to add to SCBF meeting agenda.**
- ◆ Development Officer funds available.
- ◆ Video Conferencing facilities in Farr Hall will be installed during September and ready for use in October.
- ◆ SCBF AGM to be rescheduled in October. The committee will resign, and new officers (re-)elected as four-year tenure reached.

#### 12. Community Halls

- a) Strathnairn Hall: nothing new to report.
- e) Farr Community Hall: A request has been made for Farr Hall to host the glass and clothing recycling bins. It was unanimously agreed that the bins should be relocated to a suitable area within the Farr Hall grounds. **Action: NS to contact Farr Hall committee.**

#### 13. Strathnairn Newsletter

Finances to be discussed and a new Community Council logo to be developed. **Action: PM to review with Editor.**



**14. Roads**

- a) Farr village improvements: No new updates. Work continues with white lining and narrowing at the playpark. **Action: IM to request traffic lights to be checked/removed as they have been reported to be malfunctioning.**
- b) Some jet patches may be provided on the Brin/Dunlichity road. It was stated that money is available for this to go ahead.
- c) Tordarroch bridge: Due to delays the bridge is now scheduled to reopen week of 5<sup>th</sup> September.
- d) Beachan Bridge: Repairs to the bridge require a temporary road closure with traffic diverted over Tordarroch Bridge. Access/turning into the Tordarroch road from the B851 may need to be widened. **Action: NS to contact Colin Ross to request repairs be carried out during October school holiday.**
- e) Littlemill poor visibility: Growth of vegetation has obscured visibility at Littlemill. **Action: IM to contact John Taylor and cc Cllr KG.**

**15. Correspondence received. (via email unless indicated otherwise.)**

- a) SCBF – Minutes of recent board meetings.
- b) Highland Council – Community Resilience Briefings, 13/05/2022,
- c) MGL Daviot – Offer to present MGL masterplan for Lairgandour
- d) Scottish Community Councils - Newsletter
- e) Forestry Scotland – Consultation on Woodland creation at Old School, Brin.
- f) Inverness Cycling Club. Reply on road safety and etiquette.

**16. List of Events, Meetings and dates for attendance and interest: Nil****17. Questions from members of the Public: Nil****18. AOCB**

- a) Lee Thomson, MGL Daviot has offered to present the MGL masterplan for Lairgandour. The CC has requested a briefing document to be provided prior to attendance at the meeting. It was also suggested that the MGL sign

on the A9 should be relocated due to safety/visibility concerns. **Action: NS to invite Mr Thomson to the next meeting.**

- b) The community liaison manager for SSEN Transmission is to provide an update on steps being taken to find a resolution for the noise issues that are being experienced with the new 275kV overhead line that was installed in 2019. **Action: NS to contact Joanne Poyner.**
- c) The destination manager at Visit Inverness Loch Ness would like to attend a CC meeting to introduce themselves and provide information on what they do and how they could help destination communities. **Action: NS to contact Bryony Beck.**
- d) What does the community want for a hub? A lengthy discussion took place concerning the importance of trying to meet expectations and outcomes. However, it was noted that this requires skilful negotiations to support all residents; we can learn from Strathdearn projects and ensure that young people are involved.
- e) To improve the evening bus service back to East Daviot/Moy it would be preferred if the 37 (17.10 hrs) and X37 (17.45 hrs) bus routes be switched to use the B9154 rather than the A9. **Action: NS to contact Stagecoach.**
- f) A need to have a single source of sharing all information and live updates from Daviot and Farr Halls was discussed. Funds to create and run a website to be researched. **Action: PM to identify costings.**

**19. Next Meeting – Monday 19th September 2022.**

The Community Council is required to issue the agenda 7 days before the meeting. To be certain that an item can be included please make sure that it is submitted ten days before our meeting is due to take place. Copies of this agenda and the minutes of Community Council meetings are circulated by email. If you would like to receive a copy your email address can be added to the circulation list by application to secretary@strathnairncc.com.

PM thanked all for their contribution, and the meeting closed at 21.20 hrs.

## General Meeting Number 301 Farr Community Hall/Zoom 7.30pm Tuesday 20 September 2022

**Draft minutes**

Present:

**SNCC Members:** Phil MacKintosh (PM, Chair), Neil Spence (NS, Hon Sec), Ian MacLean (IM, Treasurer), Ian Hunt (IH), James Murray (JM), Jonny Porteous (JP), Lorna McConachie (LM, Minutes)

**Members of the Public:** Mark Bessell (MB), Neil Dawson (ND) (mentioned in the minutes), 2 others.

**1. Apologies**

Jayne Brinkworth (JB), Tim Rose (TR), Cllr David Fraser (DF).

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022: Proposed (IH), Seconded (NS).

**3. Declaration of Interest**

IH advised the CC that as a member of the Community Benefit Fund he would not take part in discussions relating to the SCBF unless he deemed it pertinent to do so.

**4. Matters Arising from minutes: None.****5. Community Policing Report and local issues**

The monthly newsletter for the month of August is available online. The newsletter is due to be published on Police Scotland social media soon. If there are any concerns within the local community contact: HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeat-slnverness@scotland.police.uk. There are two meetings each year open to the public.

**6. Financial Report**

Current balance £5761.18. Payment received from Highland Council of £571.08. Outgoing payments of £585 to cover meeting minutes including the AGM and a pending payment of £65.00 for minutes. The Heritage Association have reformed and funds of £360.48 to be transferred to their bank account. **Action: IM.**

**7. Planning Application and updates**

- a) New
  - i. Erect house. Land 100m East of No Bother, Daviot, Inverness.
  - ii. Erection of house. Land 175 SW of Craggie House, Daviot, Inverness.
  - iii. Conversion of garage attic to form

annex/holiday letting unit. Woodlands, Farr, Inverness. IV2 6XG.

- a) Updated
  - i. Erection of house and garage. Land 35m SW of The Willows, Balnafaich, Farr. Inverness. **Agreed.**
  - ii. Peatland restoration project. Land 3600m SE of Aberarder House, Aberarder, Inverness. **Agreed.**
  - iii. Erection of extensions. Rise Park, Daviot, Inverness. IV2 5ER. **Agreed.**
  - iv. Formation of new access and access track. Land 72m South of Drumlea, Flichity. **Agreed.**
  - v. Erection of two houses, erection of detached garage with self-contained living unit (ancillary use) and siting of temporary static caravan. Land to Southwest of Grouse and Trout, Flichity. **Agreed.**
  - vi. Engineering groundworks to stabilise ground. Lairgandour, Daviot, Inverness. IV2 6XN. **Agreed.**
  - vii. Formation of private way to facilitate Aberarder Wind Farmland at Carn Ghriogair, Aberarder Estate, Aberarder, Inverness. **Agreed.**
- b) Other
  - i. MGL recycling area to be relocated and update to follow. **Action: IH.**
  - ii. Meeting with MGL representatives to be rescheduled. **Action: NS.**
  - iii. Potential breach in planning (see item 18c, minutes 15<sup>th</sup> August). IH awaiting contact details for case officer and case number re planning application.

**8. Windfarms**

- a) Aberarder: No new information.
- c) Corriegarh 2: Update from Jilly Adams stating that the Highland Council Planning Committee voted to object to the application and the project will now be subject to a public inquiry. Construction will be delayed until late 2024/early 2025. It is confirmed that traffic will use the B851 and B862. A traffic management plan will identify any upgrades/widening. **Action: Item to be paused until updates available.**



### 9. Red John Hydro Scheme

ILI are currently waiting to sell, and it was deemed important to establish a community liaison officer.

**Action: JP to establish a contact with IGI.** A lengthy discussion ensued on the need for the community to be involved in the Red John project as traffic concerns and the impact on the community is a major cause for concern. Our interest should be formally documented and discussed with clear expectations for community benefits whether with the current owners or subsequent owners. **Action: NS to issue a formal letter to Highland Council.**

### 10. Strathnairn Development Company

ND gave an update on progress and a robust discussion ensued:

- a) A draft proposal for a development officer is now in place. The application is for an initial 12-month period concentrating on implementing short term to medium term goals referencing the hub, sustainable transport, social and recreational projects. The importance of creating a plan/vision/roadmap for a development officer to prioritise efforts was deemed critical.
- d) Community meetings have been set up to introduce the CAP and seek input. An extended discussion centred on the need for clear and pertinent communication. Frustrations were shared on the absence of any ideas implemented. It was stated that emails had not been received. It was further argued to involve Farr and Daviot School Parent Council to aid with communication. **Action: ND to investigate.** Other ideas proffered included a one stop community website. **Action: PM.**
- e) SDC are working on a scheme for Affordable Housing within the Strath. An application for a stage one funding with the Scottish Land Fund is in place to allow a feasibility study to be undertaken. It was stated that previous schemes in the past had been unsuccessful.
- f) MB raised the point of a need for a budget/running costs to be established.
- g) SDC minutes will be made available to the public via SDC website and communicated to all groups within the Strath.

### 11. Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund

MB gave an update:

- a) IM set up the Farr Hall "What's On" schedule which is now being published

weekly on the Strathnairn Facebook page and has proved to be widely successful. On behalf of all at the meeting thank you, Ian.

- b) Video conferencing facilities have now been installed in Farr Hall. A trial run using the zoom link at the meeting has proved successful and will soon be available to the community. The drive to complete and implement this project reflects the efforts of Darren Reid. On behalf of all at the meeting thank you, Darren.
- c) 2022/2023 budget has been approved.
- d) AGM is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> October. Participation from community council is encouraged.
- e) Christmas gala/meal budget top up approved. **Action: IM to inform MB when balance of funds to be received.** Early communication to advertise the event is important.

### 12. Community Halls

- a) Strathnairn Hall: Due to the success of the Farr Hall weekly "What's On" schedule being published on Facebook the format to be shared with IH. Colour changed to differentiate between Farr Hall and Strathnairn Hall. **Action: IM to provide details to IH.**
- h) Farr Community Hall: Some general maintenance of hall required and hedge encroaching on visibility at entrance. **Action: JP to email Hall representative.** Recycling bins to be relocated near the front of the garage.

### 13. Strathnairn Newsletter

Apologies were received due to the recent newsletter being reprinted; this was due to a printer's error. Next newsletter due 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### 14. Strathnairn Heritage Association

- a) The Heritage Association have reformed. It was discussed that the Community Council should obtain a copy of the constitution and names of the office bearers. Information to be copied to the Benefit Fund. **Action: NS.**
- i) Proposal to acquire Dunlichity Church: Pros (museum status, storage of artefacts, historical significance) and cons (maintenance, long term management, no water, sewage, parking) were discussed concluding that whatever the decision the Church would remain within the auspices of the community.

### 15. Roads

- a) Farr village improvements: work at the school continues.
- j) B861 (Feedback from John Taylor, Roads Operations)
  - i. Verge works were carried out between Leys and Tomfat but many areas still with large potholes and several very large potholes in or on the newly painted white line. **Action:** Selected edges to be repaired. Currently carrying out widening at the Inverness end of Leys Brae and some more widening further uphill at the moor is scheduled.
  - ii. Passing places on the B861 from Tomfat to Balnafoich and with only 2 signposted passing places (in poor state of repair) in that whole section (1.8miles). Extra money from the tourism budget for passing places on the B861 has been confirmed. Work is scheduled for October/November.
  - iii. Cutting back of the encroaching shrubbery particularly around the Gask area. **Action:** will be added to work programmes.
  - iv. Many in the community raised concerns why the 600m section of resurfacing North of Balnafoich crossroads was done: this was a section of road of adequate width but with a significantly deteriorating and dangerous road surface.
- k) Dunlichity to Brin Road: Jet patching operations will be carried out as soon as possible. The road is in a poor state and really needs to be fully repaired. In addition, diversion routes which will impact road usage need to be clarified. **Action: IM to email Colin Ross and A Johnstone.**
- l) 2022/2023 budget has been approved and no further funding for 2023/2024 has been allocated.
- m) Trees encroaching B851 at Littlemill will be investigated as poor sight lines are a safety concern.
- n) Beacham bridge works are scheduled to commence 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- b) Tordarroch bridge is now open with a reduced weight and width limit. **Action: NS to email Highland Council (Andrew Tyron) for emphasis to be made on reduced width.**

### 16. Correspondence received. (via email unless indicated otherwise.)

- a) SCBF – Minutes of recent board meetings.
- b) Highland Council – Community Resilience Briefings, 26/08/2022,
- c) DOT Surveying- Consultation on proposed upgrade to telecommunications mast at Lairgandour.
- d) SSEN – Consultation on Beauly-Blackhillock- New Deer-Peterhead 400kV line.
17. List of Events, Meetings and dates for attendance and interest: Nil
18. Questions from members of the Public.
  - a) Status of roadworks at Croachy questioned. Current priority is to complete the works at Farr primary school. It was noted that due to a lack of funding the footpath link at the crossing would not be fully completed.
  - b) Confusion about the positioning of white lines as the road in some areas appears to be reduced. **Action: IM to discuss with Colin Ross.**

### 19. AOCB

- a) Speed sign at Croft Croy is not operating. **Action: IM to email Colin Ross.**
- o) Entrance to the car park at the Church Hall, Daviot, is subject to flooding and erosion. Breedons (supplying tar), Eddie Noble, ACE Surfacing (laying tar) and Ross's Garage (civil works) have volunteered to complete the work free of charge. **Action: NS to issue email stating that the Community Council endorse the donation to complete the work.**

### 20. Next Meeting – Monday 17th October 2022.

The Community Council is required to issue the agenda 7 days before the meeting. To be certain that an item can be included please make sure that it is submitted ten days before our meeting is due to take place. Copies of this agenda and the minutes of Community Council meetings are circulated by email. If you would like to receive a copy your email address can be added to the circulation list by application to secretary@strathnairncc.com.

PM thanked all for their contribution, and the meeting closed at 21.10 hrs





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