

# Westhill Community Council

## Newsletter February 2013

We hope you will find the newsletter interesting and helpful for keeping you in touch.

WCC has pioneered joint action with other community councils and this is taking shape in revitalising the Inverness Area Community Councils Forum. We hope to use this to discuss community issues which affect multiple areas of Inverness.



*Dr Donald Boyd  
Chairman  
Westhill Community Council*

Both David McGrath, chair of Smithton and Culloden CC, and Richard Crawford, chair of Inverness South CC, have attended recent meetings of WCC to discuss issues of common interest, such as the role of Ward Forums.

We have written to the new chair of the IACCF with five items of interest for collective consideration:

1. The Southern Distributor Road,
2. Transport Scotland's plans for the A9,
3. Inshes Roundabout,
4. plans for Broadband provision for Inverness, especially upgrading the Culloden Telephone Exchange, and
5. the energy from waste/incinerator facility earmarked in the draft Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan for the Longman area.

The new chair of IACCF is Catriona Johnson, one of our co-opted WCC members, and Richard Crawford is the vice-chair.

Let us know of items of interest for Westhill and for Inverness. Come along to our meetings and join in the discussions.

### Contacting your Community Council

If you wish to contact us or to receive the newsletter by email, please email the secretary at [admin@westhillcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@westhillcc.co.uk)

The Minutes of previous meetings are published on our website after they are approved at the subsequent monthly meeting.

We meet in the Community Lounge of Cradlehall Primary School on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.15 p.m. (except July and August). You are welcome to attend.

For more information, agendas and other documents, see our website at:

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

### PHARMACY AT CRADLEHALL

WCC has written to Elaine Meade, Chief Executive of NHS Highland Board requesting her "urgent review of the decision by the PPC (Pharmacy Practices Committee) that a Cradlehall pharmacy was neither necessary nor even desirable."

The PCC report says: "There have been no complaints to NHS Highland about current pharmaceutical services within the neighbourhood" and "the Committee felt there was not sufficient evidence submitted to judge the current service inadequate."

If you have reason to register your concerns or difficulties, such as in obtaining prescriptions, you can write to:

Helen MacDonald  
Community Pharmacy Business Manager  
NHS Highland  
John Dewar Building  
Inverness Retail & Business Park  
Highlander Way  
INVERNESS  
IV2 7GE

## WCC Donations

### Westhill Senior Citizens Club:

We donated £200 towards their end of year festivities and meal.

### Culloden Academy £32k Sports Hall Improvement

We have heard from John Munro of the **Highland Bears Basketball Club** that they have purchased all necessary equipment, which along with £70k flooring makes Culloden Academy a prime basketball venue, even for primary school children.

Culloden Academy has seven International basketball players. There are younger players in Balloch and Cradlehall Primary schools.

### Cradlehall Park play area

The Ward Discretionary Fund and TEC Services of The Highland Council have paid for a climbing item for children of primary school age, installed at the Cradlehall Park play area.

## POTHOLES

You can report potholes to Highland Council TEC Services by phoning 01463 703111.

### GRASS CUTTING OF ROAD VERGES

Some residents enquired about the policy on cutting the grass on road verges. The Area Roads and Community Works Manager writes that:

“Given the intended rural feel of the development our normal regime of cutting the grass once a year applies.

“It is evident that some of the residents are cutting the verges on their frontage to a higher standard than that and that is their choice and to be commended.

“It may be mentioned that the B9006 out to Culloden receives more cuts than once a year and this is simply a long standing arrangement related to the use by tourists of the route to the battlefield and an attempt to keep the area looking tidy for them.”



### Westhill Community Council meeting—Summer 2012

Left to right: June Alexander, Ken Cox, Neil Hornsby (Secretary), Dr Donald Boyd (Chairman), Bill Dougan, Kath Fraser, Brian MacGregor and John Thompson.

### Groups using the Community Lounge Cradlehall Primary School

For your information, there are a number of groups using the community room:

Cradlehall Scottish Women's Rural Institute:  
Meets at 7.30 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month between September and May.

There are guest speakers or demonstrations each night, with a welcome cuppa at the end of the meeting. Anyone wishing to join can just come along on the given night or contact Alix on 01463 792154.

Westhill Indoor Bowling Club:  
Meets from 7.30-9.30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for bowling and a cuppa. Bowls available. Contact Gladys on 01463 790834.

### Westhill Senior Citizens Club:

Meets during term-time from September to May from 2-4 p.m. Interesting speakers have already been booked for 2013. The next meetings are: 7&21 March, 18 April, 2&16 May. Just come along. (Ed: I think they provide a cuppa too!).

Further contact details can be obtained from the school janitor.

It would help us if these groups would assist in distributing the WCC newsletter.



**The other side of the table:** members of the public and our local Highland Councillors listening and contributing. Come and join us in the Community Lounge on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.15 p.m.

### PLANNING MATTERS

You are invited to express any concerns about planning issues to your ward councillors:

Thomas Prag: 01463 791697  
Jim Crawford: 01463 794941  
Carolyn Caddick: 01463 792951  
Ken Gowans: 07557 744401

### POLICE REPORT

Our community policeman P.C. McCann is consulting with colleagues about installing traffic-calming measures in the 20mph area outside Cradlehall Primary School.

A police report is part of WCC business each month, so you have the opportunity to report and discuss personally any concerns you have with P.C. McCann.

#### Suspicious behaviour

You can report suspicious behaviour to P.C. McCann on 01463 715555.

### PARENTS' COUNCILS

The chairman of Westhill Community Council will be pleased to meet with parents' councils to explain our role and to improve dialogue with the community.

They can contact Dr Boyd on 01463 796952.

### Culloden Youth Forum (CYF)



Two representatives from the Culloden Youth Forum (CYF), Eithne Barnes and David Caulfield, have attended a number of our monthly meetings, giving a lead to other residents of Westhill to come and find out for themselves what we are doing at WCC.

Eithne writes: "Culloden Youth Forum is a group of young people who meet once a week at Culloden Library and discuss things that we would like to change or improve in the local area. We have already organised an art project in the Culloden Avenue underpass, and will be doing a lot more, so give us any of your ideas via our Facebook page, or even come along, and we will see what we can do!"

### RE-OPENING RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE

#### CRADLEHALL/SMITHTON

Ward Councillors are discussing the proposal to re-open this bridge to help children and others attending Smithton Primary School.

A decision appears to be some way off, with some important outstanding issues that need resolution.

While WCC agrees in principle that the bridge could usefully be re-opened, first we want to see a detailed report on the proposal which is being prepared by the Highland Council.

WCC is interested in learning if there is potential for increased pick-up and drop-off traffic using the residential area to the south of the railway footbridge, and if so, what safeguards are suggested.

Comments or concerns can be discussed with the chairman, Dr Donald Boyd 01463 796952, or any other member of the community council.

## ALLOTMENT PROJECTS

### Smithton and Culloden

Are you interested in having an allotment in the east Inverness area?

Highland Council facilitated a working group to take forward an allotments project east of the river Ness. If you would like to know more about it, contact the secretary Su Cooper: [s.cooper333@btinternet.com](mailto:s.cooper333@btinternet.com)

### Inshes Retail and Leisure Park

There are plans for 21 allotment plots in the proposed development at Inshes, currently out for consultation.

## KIRKING THE COUNCIL

The Chairman took up the invitation on behalf of Westhill Community Council to take part in the Kirking of the Council in the Old High Church on 9th September 2012, a practice which goes back to 1602.

## TRAFFIC AND TUNNELS

The timetable for upgrading the traffic lights at the entrance to the new UHI slipped from September to November, but now approaches. It coincides with the remedial work on the Kessock Bridge. With the Flood Alleviation Scheme on the river Ness, and a Charette exercise for developing the 'Western Gateway' to the city of Inverness, the face of Inverness is changing.

Local resident Brian MacGregor's Torvean Tunnel is being considered by Highland Council, and WCC member Bill Dougan has costed some revised options for crossing the canal. Inverness Civic Trust also has alternative proposals, all pointing to the undue haste in Highland Council's decision on the West Link option.

We cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel because we don't know which tunnel or bridge is in the best interests of Inverness. We are discussing these matters at the Inverness Area Community Councils Forum.

## NEW SECRETARY FOR WCC

We are delighted that Neil Hornsby has agreed to be the new secretary of WCC.



*Neil Hornsby  
Secretary  
Westhill Community Council*

Neil has been the Minute Secretary for several years, and he takes over from Allan Simpson who resigned from pressure of other commitments. Allan continues to manage the website.

Feedback about issues concerning Westhill is welcome. Please send them to:

Neil Hornsby: [admin@westhillcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@westhillcc.co.uk)

Feedback about the newsletter should be addressed to the chairman, Dr Donald Boyd on 01463 796952.

Feedback concerning the website can be addressed to [allan@allstrat.co.uk](mailto:allan@allstrat.co.uk)

## BUS ROUTE TO CULLODEN

Stagecoach has withdrawn the bus service on the B9006 which went to Croy via Culloden battlefield.

This means that residents between Culloden Road and Tower Road need to walk uphill from Tower Road with their shopping instead of downhill from Culloden Road. It also means the residents of Croy take about 45 minutes reaching town via Balloch, Smithton and Westhill. Stagecoach say that the direct route is not used enough.

WCC is investigating whether Stagecoach will consider re-introducing a twice per week service to Croy via Culloden battlefield, which used to exist. WCC will be pleased to hear from residents if they have any other suggestions.

Ideas are welcome, and we will investigate if it is possible to use the Dial-A-Bus system which operates in more rural districts.

Come along to our monthly meeting and give us your ideas.