

Westhill Community Council

Newsletter June 2013

Issue No. 4

We are keen to keep you in touch.

People will have noticed the new traffic lights on the city's trunk roads, the Kessock roundabout and the work on the Kessock Bridge. We have our own share in these changes.



*Dr Donald Boyd
Chairman
Westhill Community Council*

The new traffic lights at the Beechwood Campus are part of the plans to improve traffic flow there. There will be additional lanes of traffic between the slip road junction and Caulfield Road North—in total five lanes will be created to help stack busy traffic (see page 3).

However there are only two lanes on the

flyover, which continues to be a bottleneck on the B9006. WCC is actively seeking how the A9 flyover can be better used by traffic, possibly by diverting pedestrian and cycle traffic via an underpass using developer funds from the proposed Dell of Inshes Retail Park development. This may give room for a third lane of traffic. It would be better still if Transport Scotland would replace the flyover with two lanes in each direction.

Inverness city centre has no community council and so WCC has requested Inverness Area Community Councils Forum to take on a monitoring role on behalf of Inverness city centre. Too many things are happening in the city centre without input from the community.

Let us know items of interest for Westhill. Better still, come along to our meetings and join in the discussions. The AGM is this month.

WESTHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM

The Annual General Meeting
of the

Westhill Community Council

will take place in
Cradlehall Primary School
on
Wednesday, 12th June 2013
at 7:15 p.m.

All welcome
Please come along

The more eagle-eyed will have seen this notice on our public noticeboards outside Cradlehall Co-op, beside the Codfather, in Leanach Gardens, and on the Culloden Public Library noticeboard.

Our Newsletter is also posted there. The WCC Minutes can be consulted in the Culloden Public Library and will be available on our new website, which is under construction.

PHARMACY AT CRADLEHALL

We received a reply from Elaine Meade, Chief Executive of NHS Highland Board. We are none the wiser about the distinction in the legal test between "necessary or desirable" grounds for a pharmacy.

We have raised with the Scottish Government our more general concerns about improving the procedure at Pharmacy Practices Committees (PPCs). We think that the relevant community council(s) should or could be interested parties in order to speak to the desirability of a pharmacy or otherwise.

It seems that the opinion of WCC is not sufficient to convince the relevant people. It needs you, the people, to write to them in order to submit "sufficient evidence".

In practice, the demonstration of inadequacy of service or provision must come from residents, unless a new applicant has the means to perform a scientific survey of residents, which is a difficult and costly exercise.

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This means that if Westhill is to have a pharmacy, residents will need to lodge evidence of inadequacy in the current service, such as difficulties in obtaining prescriptions, as well as evidence of its desirability.

Helen MacDonald, Community Pharmacy Business Manager, advises us:

On the subject of **raising your concerns** about service provided by a community pharmacy contractor, you should submit the complaint directly to the contractor; however NHS Highland can process this for you via the NHS Highland Complaints Team.

The Complaints Team can be contacted via:

1. Website: <http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/Feedback/Pages/ComplaintsProcedure.aspx>

2. By post: *The Feedback Team, NHS Highland, PO Box 5713, Inverness IV1 9AQ*

3. By telephone: 01463 705997

4. By email: nhshighland.feedback@nhs.net

The same contact details should be used if your complaint is regarding the provision of NHS Highland services.

LEARNING HOW TO FEEDBACK

The Pharmacy Practices Committee report on the Cradlehall pharmacy application 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.”

The WCC believes that it is not enough that pharmacies deliver prescriptions, because people need to visit in order to seek pharmacy advice. The PPC should have taken more account of the desirability to minimise travel, particularly for older residents and all those without access to a car.

We have written to the PPC for clarification about some matters of interest.

POLICE REPORT

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 our community policeman P.C. McCann.

Suspicious behaviour

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

There have been a number of small fires in Culloden woods. Anyone with any information about these can contact P.C. McCann.

Traffic

One male was charged with driving dangerously at speeds in excess of 100mph on the B9006, the Culloden Moor road.

Bicycles have been marked in preparation for the summer months when thefts increase. This marking will enable the police to identify and return stolen bicycles to their owner.

Cradlehall drop-off zone parking

Several drivers were warned for parking on the pavement outside Cradlehall school, and one person was issued with a fixed penalty for the matter.

Parking on the pavement is frustrating for people with prams, and confusing and dangerous for blind people.

ADVERTISING IN THE WCC NEWSLETTER

We wish to make space available for advertising local businesses which may be off the beaten track. If you need local custom for your business, you might want to consider advertising here. Please contact Donald for details: 01463 796952.

I will start you off

Donald offers **Free Health Evaluations** to assist people with their nutrition. If you want to lose weight, or you know someone who does, or if you simply want a review of your nutrition, then simply phone Donald on the above number.

CROSSROADS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BEECHWOOD CAMPUS

Work is progressing on the B9006 junction at the entrance to the new campus site of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The crossroads is at the sliproad coming off the A9 southbound carriageway.



Widening the road layout at the Beechwood Campus.

Viewed from near the A9 flyover.



Three lanes to increase the volume of traffic going through the crossing. The same layout is on the other side of the junction, giving a total of five lanes.



View from Culloden Road. Now nearing completion.



The Dell of Inshes Retail Park development

This development is proposed for the site beside Tesco on the west side of the A9.

Westhill Community Council has been in conversation with the developer and HIE to facilitate pedestrian and cyclist traffic between the two sites. We have asked **HIE to discuss with Transport Scotland** how to use the opportunity to improve the A9 flyover for vehicles at the same time.



Five lanes become two lanes on crossing the A9 flyover going towards Inshes roundabout.

Something needs to be done about this.



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 3rd 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 been booked for 2013. The next meeting will be on Thursday 5 Sep 2013. Just come along and enjoy a cuppa. Contact June Alexander 01463 790620 or George Stewart 01463 793181.

Further contact details can be obtained from the school janitor.

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

YOUR FEEDBACK OR INPUT TO WCC

Matters for our agenda, contact our secretary, Neil Hornsby: admin@westhillcc.co.uk

Website feedback to our webmaster Allan Simpson: allan@allstrat.co.uk
A new website is under construction.

Feedback about the newsletter should be addressed to Dr Donald Boyd.

If you would rather discuss matters, contact Dr Donald Boyd on 01463 796952 or any other community council member. You can speak to them at our meetings, and they don't bite. In fact, they are very friendly and approachable. They can even get things done—after all, they are there for you.

Culloden Youth Forum: contact Lita Leslie, Youth Development Officer: lita.leslie@highlifehighland.com

Inverness Area Community Councils Forum: Chair: Catriona Johnson, who is also a member of Westhill Community Council.

Westhill Senior Citizens Club Outing

A group of nearly 40 senior citizens made their way by coach to Lossiemouth on 17th May.

All were in good spirits on this enjoyable trip. During the journey, the bus-driver kept us well-informed about places of interest and local farming matters.

Arriving in Lossiemouth, we had a walk about in the good weather to stretch our legs, and to take in the views as well as a breath of fresh air.

We had a meal and hearty conversation in Skerry Brae Hotel overlooking the Old Moray Golf Course and the Moray Firth.

We are grateful to Westhill Community Council for assistance.

If anyone would like to sample this homely company on the next occasion, contact June Alexander 01463 790620 for information.

Elizabeth Boyd