

Westhill Community Council

Newsletter June 2014

Issue No. 5

THERE is a new team in charge of the new Westhill Community Council.

A new chairperson and secretary were appointed on 12/6/2014 from the newly elected councillors at the recent interim election.

Mrs Catriona Johnson was elected chairperson and Iain Foyers was elected secretary. This will increase the talent available to WCC and spread the load of our busy agenda.



Iain Foyers
Secretary: Westhill
Community Council

Mrs Johnson has been a previous chair of WCC and is the current chair of Inverness Area Community Councils Forum. If you wish to discuss city-wide items, come to our monthly WCC meeting and contribute to this item of the agenda. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like items on the agenda, email Iain (details on back page).

Mrs Johnson said: "I am looking forward to working with the other WCC members and our local councillors in tackling any problems in Westhill. The main issue at the moment seems to be road safety/traffic problems and with your support we can work to improve things. Please come along to our meetings and have your say. Many thanks to Donald for compiling our newsletters and all his hard work as chairman."

Both the University of the Highlands and Islands and the eastern gateway to Inverness, with the Inshes and Raigmore development brief and the Inshes junction improvements, put WCC at the centre of important and long term developments in this area of the city.



Ruaraidh MacNeil, Project Director, HIE, showing Westhill Community Council around the new Beechwood Campus.

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

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.

NEW WEBSITE

For more information, agendas and other documents, see our new website at: www.westhillcc.co.uk/ which has a feedback section.

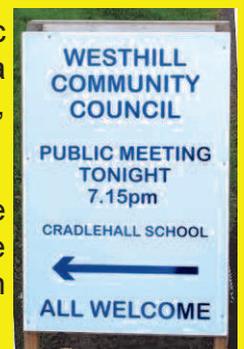
WESTHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM

The last Annual General Meeting of the Westhill Community Council was held in Cradlehall Primary School on Wednesday, 12th June 2013 at 7:15 p.m.

The highest number of public attendees was present as a direct result of the newsletter, which is gratifying.

The Chairman's Report and the Minutes of our meetings are available on our website and in the Culloden Public Library.

The newsletter is posted on our public noticeboards outside Cradlehall Co-op, beside the Codfather, in Leanach Gardens, and copies are available for a few weeks after publication in the Co-op and ScotMid store. It can be emailed to those who request it.



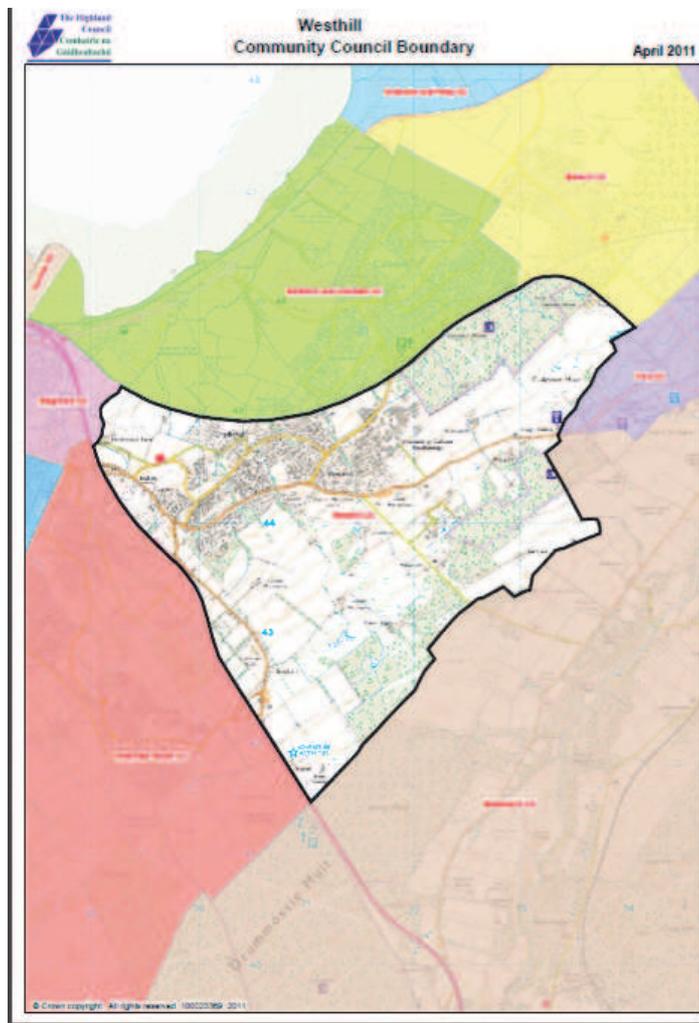
DO YOU LIVE IN OUR AREA?

The map on the right shows the boundary of our Westhill Community Council. The northern boundary is the railway line; the western boundary is the A9; the southern boundary reaches to the radio station at Bogbain farm; and Culloden battlefield is just outside the eastern boundary.

Maps for all community councils are available at www.highland.gov.uk/

QUIZ

Why is Westhill called "West" hill when it is on the east of Inverness? Answer in the next newsletter.



What is the difference between the various councils, councillors and wards?

Westhill Community Council is an elected council of volunteers who are not paid for their work. There are more than 150 community councils in the Highlands, with new ones created and some being dissolved. There are more than a dozen in and around Inverness. They are non-political and a useful place for you to learn what is happening in your area. Elections take place every four years and the next one is November 2015.

Highland Councillors are elected and paid. There are three or four councillors elected to each Ward. There are 22 Wards throughout Highland, and five covering the core of Inverness. Elections are also every four years and the next one is May 2016.

Westhill Community Council is contained within Ward 20 known as Inverness South Ward. It has four elected councillors who all attend the WCC, where you can meet and speak to them about your concerns:

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

You can find useful details about your local community council and your Ward by putting your postcode in the relevant search box on **The Highland Council's new website at** www.highland.gov.uk/

POLICE REPORT

Part of WCC business each month is a police report from our community policeman. So you have the opportunity to discuss personally any concerns you have with P.C. David Elliot.

Monthly feedback from the WCC is fed into the **Ward Policing Plan of Inverness Area Command**, which can be found here: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/highlands-and-islands/inverness/>

Police Scotland has a Northern Division Twitter account, for public interaction: <https://twitter.com/InvernessPolice>
<https://twitter.com/northernPolice>

Suspicious behaviour

Inverness Police remind householders to keep their houses and garden sheds secure and locked.

Any suspicious persons seen in/around houses late at night or early in the morning can be reported immediately to Police Scotland via the 101 non-emergency contact number.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Let us know what local issues concern you.



17 Mar 2014

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The new road layout outside the Beechwood Campus left drivers short-changed until WCC drew the attention of The Highland Council to the omission. The road marking allows drivers to turn left, but the traffic lights did not!



24 April 2014

WESTHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS CAMPUS



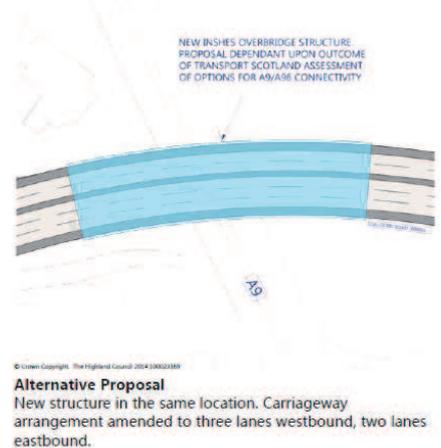
The slip road from the Raigmore Interchange roundabout on to the southbound carriageway of the A9—there is plenty of room to make a prestigious front entrance from the nearside lane of the slip road into the new campus of the University of the Highlands and Islands. This will help traffic management and take pressure off Culloden Road, the B9006.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL FOR THE B9006 OVERBRIDGE OVER THE A9

Inshes Overbridge



The latest plans for Culloden Road's bridge over the A9 incorporates the Westhill Community Council's ideas to increase the number of lanes on the overbridge going towards the Inshes roundabout (see the diagram on the left). Better still is the 'alternative proposal' in the diagram on the right, but this would take a long time to construct.



The overbridge structure is owned by Transport Scotland, but the road and its layout is the responsibility of The Highland Council. Hopefully this means that we can have a solution sooner rather than later.

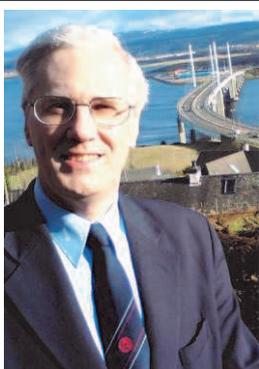
We hope you find this newsletter useful. Its development has been slowed by a huge amount of work on the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan and the abeyance of the WCC.

The development of our new website has the advantages of 1. allowing more up to date information; 2. carrying the more regular information for consultation; and 3. being interactive with the community.

This newsletter highlights the traffic issues that are so central to our lives. The next stage in traffic planning is the Inshes roundabout. The traffic light sequence is being phased all the way from the Caulfield Road North junction, through Inshes roundabout, past Raigmore Hospital to new traffic lights at the Fluke.

The Raigmore Hospital traffic lights have been operational ever since the extra stacking lane was created some years ago.

We look forward to Highland Council increasing the number of lanes on the A9 flyover, which WCC suggested some years ago.



Dr Donald Boyd
Newsletter editor and
webmaster

YOUR FEEDBACK OR INPUT TO WCC

Contact our secretary, Iain Foyers: admin@westhillcc.co.uk with suggested items for our agenda.

Feedback about the newsletter and website should be addressed to Dr Donald Boyd 01463 796952.

If you would rather discuss matters for the Council, or wider issues for the Inverness Area Community Councils Forum, contact the chairperson Catriona Johnson.

Better still, come to our monthly meeting and speak to any community council or Highland Council member. 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

Groups using the Community Lounge Cradlehall Primary School

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

Cradlehall Scottish Women's Rural Institute:

Meets at 7.30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month between September and May, with guest speakers or demonstrations and a cuppa at the end. Just come along or contact Alix 01463 792154.

Westhill Indoor Bowling Club:

Meets from 7.30-9.30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday each week from Sep to March for bowling and a cuppa. Bowls available. Contact Gladys on 01463 790834.

Westhill Senior Citizens Club:

Meets 2-4 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month during term-time from September to May. Next meeting: Thursday 4 Sep 2014. 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.

PLANNING MATTERS

You are invited to express any concerns about planning issues to your Inverness South Ward Highland councillors, who attend our meetings:

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

HIGHLAND COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Highland Council has a new website so many links to the old website no longer work and are taking time to update from our website. However, the facility allowing the public to respond directly online to planning applications has not changed. It is available at:

<http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/>

This and other website links can be found on the Links menu on our WCC website.

The Highland Council telephone number
01349 886606

handles calls from the public and will redirect calls to appropriate officers.