**Strathglass Community Council**

**22 January 2025 at 7.30pm @ Community Room, Cannich Hall**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome, apologies and conflicts of interest

Georgina Parker (Chairing for HC)

David Tulloch

Leeson Carlisle

Gordon Buckley

Apologies:

Humphrey Clark

Karl Falconer

In attendance:

David Fraser

21 members of the public

1. Partner Updates
   1. Soirbheas: Grant funding meetings end January and end of March for anyone interested in funding bids.

ACTION: LC to re-send request for defibrillator consumables to Soirbheas

* 1. SACC: Unable to attend today but will attend in March. New trustees are required following Alan Hood and Nigel Fraser standing down. GP urged members of the public to consider applying to be trustees.

1. Major Energy Infrastructure Updates
   1. Windfarms Update  
      Blairaidh Extension – build delayed due to financial terms not being favourable currently.

Fiodhag-above Tomich – No update this month. Discussed proximity to Tomich and potential impact on NNR.

Cnoc Farasd – above Cannich to Bunloit as discussed at previous meeting SCC will submit objection at an appropriate time.

Loch Liath Objection – GP confirmed that a further objection has been submitted by SCC as agreed at the last meeting.

Ballach -access via Cannich to Kilmorack Road. Close to Struy/Strathfarrar. Discussed implications for traffic, size of turbines and cumulative impacts. SCC to object at appropriate time.

* 1. Fasnakyle BESS – no decision as yet. Expected to be on the agenda for February HC planning meeting. [DF confirmed a few days after this SCC meeting that it was not on the agenda].
  2. Bingally Substation – Planning application expected to be made in March / April (4th February webinar). Concern re decision not to require EIA discussed at our November meeting, particularly given the proximity to the NNR, SSSI and conservation village of Tomich.
  3. Tomchrasky Connection – no update this month
  4. OHL consultation dates are listed on the SSEN website. Nearest ones to Cannich are Beauly and Kilmorack.
  5. 4CCs Meeting with Kate Forbes

ACTION: HC to provide update at next meeting

1. Planning - General
2. SCC Member Updates:
   1. Forestry (including FLS) - DT
   2. Beavers: GP has spoken to TFL representatives following concerns raised by members of the community since our last meeting.

Tobias Leask (TL) of TFL advised that there were approximately 20-30 beavers already in the rivers between Beauly and Affric. Support is being provided to any concerned landowners, including: (funded) tree planting, measures to discourage beavers from damaging particular trees, advice and information. Members of the community in attendance to discuss beaver issues were encouraged to make use of the support available from TL concerns. Members of the community confirmed that there had been one incident where a tree had apparently been felled by a beaver, resulting in it landing on the road. **GP urged attendees to engage with TL in relation to providing support for immediate concerns where required and that they could also contact Naturescot.** The following points were made by attendees:

* + 1. Questions whether an EIA been undertaken regarding potential licenced release
    2. Perception among the community that riverbanks are being damaged by beavers ‘burrowing’
    3. Perception among community that there have been further illegal beaver releases and questions regarding whether DNA could be checked to establish this (or eDNA)
    4. Questions as to why FLS is pursuing the application alone, with the previous interested landowners having withdrawn
    5. Concerns regarding potential/unknown impact of Beaver upon river banks and salmon spawning

**ACTION**: SCC to write to Naturescot regarding above concerns and actions required. SCC to update TL regarding concerns

* 1. DMG – DT – no contact
  2. SSEN – HC chasing SSEN regarding online meeting
  3. Email / website – GB supporting members with issues regarding SCC email access

1. Treasurer’s report –
   1. Balance £2,200 (after contingencies £1,400)
   2. Finance report to be signed off by the end of February
2. Additional items/community communications:
   1. Hazardous road conditions:
      1. emails unsswereed DF will follow up
   2. Funding Proposals – SCF open
   3. Community Action Plan
   4. Gravel Bike Race – no update
   5. Signal switch off – communications between members of the community from Tomich, SCC and Kate Forbes office following up.
   6. Lack of 4G coverage in Tomich being pursued by SCC and Kate Forbes’ office, particularly in light of upcoming landline switch off – DF advised that this had been delayed and is not now planned for June 2025.
3. AOB
   1. Speed limit between Kerrow hill and Tomich will be reduced to 30mph
   2. Overtaking signs needed on A831
4. Date/Time of the next meeting