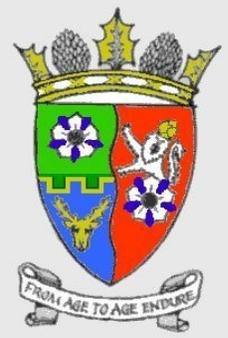


NEWSLETTER

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council



ISSUE 1

Your Community Council is committed to working on behalf of all of us who enjoy living in Fortrose, Rosemarkie and its surrounding area.

We meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose.

Minutes of meetings are posted on our website; in the library, on community notice boards, at the Fortrose Café and on our Facebook page.

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Iain A C Brown



Anne Phillips



Bill Taylor



Archie MacLeod



Gareth Phillips



Lucy Tonkin



Sarah Atkin



Tom Heath



@ Facebook.com/FortrosemarkieCC



www.fortrosemarkie.org (relaunched July '16)



fortroseandrosemarkie@gmail.com or by hand c/o the Fortrose Leisure Centre



Current Issues

Black Isle Community Councils (BICC)

BICC is a new forum set up to address common issues across the Black Isle Ward. For 2016/17 BICC priorities will be transport, road safety and Broadband (or the lack of it!)

Road Safety

Road safety is also a priority for FRCC. We are lobbying for a 20mph speed limit through Rosemarkie and have also raised concerns over the safety of siting a primary school bus pick-up at the top of St Andrew's Walk in Fortrose.

Coastal Erosion

In 2011 a 3-year plan was discussed to address coastal erosion along the seafront between Rosemarkie and Chanonry Point. No plan materialised. In 2013 the late Cllr Billy Barclay raised the issue again. Again, a long term solution wasn't actioned. Environmentally and commercially this has now become an urgent issue. Highland Council is working towards resolving this problem. We are pressing for action before winter makes the situation even worse.

Common Good Fund

The Common Good Fund relates to community-owned assets and income. It is currently managed by Highland Council who also act as Trustees. Our Chair and Treasurer recently met with Highland Council to discuss whether the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 impacts on this arrangement. If practical, we'd like to see these assets managed by the community. A summary of points raised at the meeting can be found on our Facebook page.

Fortrose Town Hall

Fortrose Town Hall is currently managed by High Life Highland. We would like to see the hall managed by the community, for the community and are investigating the possibility of this happening.

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Development Plan

Does our community have a meaningful say in its own development?

We'd like to draw together a strategy for our own future with input from organisations and individuals across the community. Watch out for updates after the summer break.

News



'Like' us on Facebook. It's the best place to access regular news, comment and to leave messages.

Beach Clean



Huge thanks to everyone who helped with the Beach Clean this year, especially the Cub Scouts. Thanks to Rosemarkie Amenities Association for the post clean-up hot drinks!

Salmon Fisherman's Path

Remember this?



Thanks to the Community Council lobbying Tulloch and Highland Council, this popular access path between Ness Gap and Wester Greengates has been resurfaced. Goodbye mud!

Planning Update

Greenside Farm (50 houses)

A decision on this development has been progressively postponed since November 2015. To recap, FRCC's primary objection was because we believe the local infrastructure is already overloaded. Also, this development would block, forever the potential for an alternative road across the Black Isle that could relieve congestion through Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch.

Ness Gap (22 additional houses)

The Ness Gap master plan allowed for 132 homes. 22 additional homes exceeds this plan. We objected to this 'development by stealth' and, again have concerns about the infrastructure.

Parklands 40-Bed Care Home Proposal

There was no argument about the Black Isle needing a care home. The new Community Council supports that principle. There was a lot of argument about the location of this proposal on the protected area between Rosemarkie and Fortrose. The planning application was rejected by Highland Council on 1.06.16. The developer is appealing.

Ship-to-Ship Oil Transfer at Sea

FRCC are fully in support of Cromarty CC's efforts to stop the Cromarty Firth Port Authority license application for ship-to-ship oil transfer **at sea**. We agree that the environmental risks to the Moray Firth coast far outweigh any other benefits. There has been no meaningful consultation with any Cromarty and Moray Firth stakeholders and even the Scottish Tourism Alliance were unaware of the application. Details and updates on the campaign can be found at www.cromartyrising.com

Munlochy Junction

In common with other Black Isle villages we are concerned by the ever increasing traffic flows, particularly the impact of this on safety at the A9/B9161 Munlochy Junction. Transport Scotland had stated that the junction was becoming too dangerous to allow further major development on the south side of the Black Isle. Their position has now changed. We are pressing both Highland Council and Transport Scotland for the reasons behind the switch. We also feel action needs to be taken to make the junction safer.

Your Views



Slow or no Superfast Broadband? It is estimated that 25% of properties on the Black Isle have no Broadband. Are you one of them? If so, we want to know. Please get in touch.



Would you use a regular bus service to Dingwall?

Is there support for this in our villages as there is in Avoch? Please tell us. Also, send in other ideas on how we can improve non-car transport options in our area.



Litter, dog fouling, illegal parking, noise, anti-social behaviour... whatever the issue, big or small, let us know and we'll do our best to help.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Betty Forrester, nee Ross - Rosemarkie

Former World War 2 (WW2) Morse Code expert, Betty has lived in Rosemarkie since 1994 but her Black Isle roots go back generations. Her family is well known in the area and hold a family plot in Rosemarkie Cemetery under the family name Mustard-Ross.

“My grandparents were from the Black Isle. My grandfather opened the first garage in Rosemarkie in 1921, on Bridge Street. He ran it with his two sons until he moved away. It was then taken on by his son Alec 'Ecky' Ross. My father moved to Kirkcaldy where my mother was from and that was where I grew up. We used to visit Rosemarkie regularly for holidays though. I moved to Inverness in 1981 and then Rosemarkie in 1994. My daughter, Anne Arnot and now my grandchildren continue the family tradition of taking holidays here. They love the place.”

During WW2 Betty was a Morse Code expert and instructor in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). She spent 4-hour shifts listening closely to the German airwaves and noting anything down. The information was then sent to the central site for Britain's code breakers, Bletchley Park for deciphering. The vital intelligence work and code breaking carried out at Bletchley Park is credited with shortening WW2 by at least 2 years and for saving thousands of lives. All these operations were kept secret for decades afterwards.

After the war Betty continued to practice Morse Code and worked as a Telegraph Operator for the railways.

What do you like about living here?

“It's beautiful, don't you think? It's my idyllic place.”

What do you like least?

“Well, I don't want any more building around the villages. I love the green space.”



Betty in the ATS

If you or anyone you know would like to be featured in the community spotlight, please contact Gareth Phillips via the Community Council e-mail address or by letter c/o Fortrose Leisure Centre.

Useful Information

Highland Council Customer Services

- **General: 01349 886 606**
- **Roads, flooding, street lighting: 01349 886 601**
- Pot holes and road problems can be reported online via the Highland Council web site.
- www.fixmystreet.com the easy way to report issues in your area or quickly view all recently reported problems.
- Did you know that an e-mail sent to your Highland Councillors via the Highland Council web site is logged and the response will be quicker?

Dates for the Diary

St Boniface Fair

Thursday 11th August 2016
Cathedral Square, Fortrose
1pm - 4pm

Classic Car Rally

Saturday 27th August 2016
Fortrose Academy Playing Fields
From 1pm

Rosemarkie Beach

For events on the beach this summer check
www.rosemarkieamenities.org.uk

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