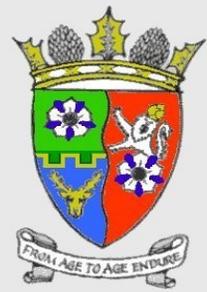


NEWSLETTER

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council



ISSUE 3

AUTUMN 2017

Community Council Annual Review

This newsletter is a summary of the past year's activity.

Although the Community Council has no substantial budget and very little power we can make a difference. We are statutory consultees on licensing and planning; we inform the community about issues and provide a voice to those in positions of power. The infrastructure to take on the running of big projects isn't practical but we can facilitate activity, help create opportunities and/or support others with ideas on how to make our villages better places to live. The latter is what we hope to do more of in the upcoming 2017/2018 session.

In the meantime, we hope this Annual Review, although not exclusive provides a useful insight into what's been happening during the past year. A full version (as presented at the AGM in June) is available on our web site.

Your Community Councillors (from September 2017)



Sarah Atkin



Anne Phillips



Iain A C Brown



Archie MacLeod



Lucy Tonkin



Tom Heath



Russell Mackenzie



Douglas Stuart

Regular Events in the Calendar

Remembrance Sunday Service

(Laying a wreath)

Christmas Eve Carols in Fortrose Cathedral

Thanks to Tom Heath & Wilma Downie. Money raised was donated to Black Isle Cares.

Senior Citizens' Lunch

Special mention to Anne Phillips for her tireless commitment.

St Boniface Fair

Thanks to the organising committee Libby Brown, Emma Dalseme, Wilma Downie and Iain Brown for keeping this event going.

Annual Beach Cleans

A great turnout this year. Thank you.

Your Community Council

Membership

Our new co-opted members sadly realised the time commitment involved in being a Community Councillor was too great and stepped down. It is also with regret that an elected member – Gareth Phillips – resigned for similar reasons. As Highland Council will not pay for a by-election we decided to co-opt members based upon their skills and experience. Douglas Stuart and Russell Mackenzie have agreed to join. Each has extensive links into the community and a desire to get things done. Bill Taylor continues as an Associate Member for coastal protection and Chanonry Point.

Minutes Secretary : we are delighted to welcome Isla Mackay as the first ever (paid) Minutes Secretary for this Community Council. Isla is a former pupil of Fortrose Academy, resident in Fortrose and currently studying for a Business Degree at UHI.

Rosemarkie Volunteers is now a sub-group of the Community Council. Latest project: Manse Brae, Rosemarkie (clearance/restoration.) So far the overgrowth at the top of the Brae has been cut back and re-grassed and the trees cut back up the steps to Courthill Road. A fantastic effort. Thanks to SSE volunteers for their hard work and to Highland Council officials for their help. In addition, Rosemarkie Amenities ran a series of 'Brighten Up Rosemarkie' litter picking/weeding days. Thanks to everyone who turned up to help.

Improving communication remains a priority:



Facebook is the best place for news, views, pictures and updates. [facebook.com/fortrosemarkieCC](https://www.facebook.com/fortrosemarkieCC)



fortroseandrosemarkie@gmail.com



The improvement and rationalising of the web site has begun. Take a look at www.fortrosemarkie.org



Our monthly surgeries have proved popular and will continue.

Events Organised

'Share Your Thoughts' w/end and online survey.

Held over a week-end in February 2017 to hear what residents think is good and bad about living here.

A full summary available is available in hard copy at Fortrose library and on our web site.

Thanks to The Plough Inn and Seaforth Lodge for use of the venues and to Vikki Treffer for the idea and organisation.

Council Election Hustings

We organised the Black Isle Ward hustings in May 2017. It was fantastic to see such a large turnout. Thank you to Rory Mair for chairing.

We look forward to working with our 3 Ward Councillors Craig Fraser, Jennifer Barclay and Gordon Adam.

NO to Ship-to-Ship Oil Transfer at Sea

FRCC supports the Cromarty Rising campaign **against** the license to allow oil transfers at sea off the Cromarty coast.

We co-organised a public meeting with Avoch & Killen Community Council held at Avoch Primary School.

For regular updates on this campaign see [facebook.com/saveourhighlanddolphins/](https://www.facebook.com/saveourhighlanddolphins/)



Beyond the Community Council

Highland Council: this past year our meetings have been regularly attended by Councillors Jennifer Barclay and Craig Fraser. Thank you to both for their support and encouragement. In addition, our ward manager Di Agnew has proved an invaluable source of knowledge and wise counsel. We are in regular contact with Highland Council officials.

MSPs/MPs: we have established good relations with the offices of both Kate Forbes MSP and Ian Blackford MP. They have responded very quickly to requests, correspondence and have supported our efforts on local issues. This is something to build upon next year.

Police Scotland: thanks to PC John Murphy who is always quick to respond to our communication. Attendance at meetings is rare due to shift work and the nature of the job. Monthly reports are sent which are useful but not as useable as we'd like so we have discussed ways to create more engagement from the community on police matters.

Speeding through both villages remains a major concern and is an issue regularly raised with the police. Speed checks are carried out but this hasn't altered driver behaviour. This is a priority issue.

Media: we continue to build on already good working relationships with the four local newspapers and Chatterbox.

Some key local issues

Possible loss of podiatry services at Fortrose Surgery: a meeting was held with a representative from Fortrose Surgery. Local MSP Kate Forbes took up the issue to ensure a workable solution was found.

Reduction in bus services: cuts were implemented at short notice and with no consultation. Concerns were raised with Cllr Fraser. Since our AGM, funding has been secured **for a year** to return the service to half hourly from Fortrose.

Bank of Scotland closure/loss of ATM: we have lobbied our MP and MSP about this issue and did gain press coverage. Bank of Scotland has made no effort to consult with the community. Our view is that not having an ATM anchored at this end of the High Street will impact on businesses. A minimal mobile service will visit Fortrose from next month.

Community

Bag It and Bin It

In response to complaints about dog mess we now providing free emergency dog poo bags at outlets in both villages.

Keeping Our Spaces Tidy

We supported the Fortrose Academy/Highland Council initiative to promote litter awareness. We've also met with Highland Council about an additional bin on Marine Terrace.

The Annual Village Tidy/Beach Cleans were well attended. We are currently organising community brown bins for 'green' waste to support volunteers in Rosemarkie and in Fortrose when a group is established.

Mother and Toddler Group

We were asked to help and support their move from the Leisure Centre to the Town Hall. We're delighted the change of venue has proved a huge success.

Black Isle Education Centre (closure)

We contributed to the consultation process in writing and had a meeting with Education Scotland. The Raddery site will close as a school but re-locate to Killen as an outreach centre (remaining on the Black Isle.)

Planning and Licensing

Planning considerations during the year were dominated by the granting of permission by the Highland Council for two further phases of house building of the Ness Gap (Chanonry Park) and the approval of the 50-home development at Greenside Farm Rosemarkie.

The Community Council had objected to all of these developments mainly because of the inadequacy of local infrastructure to service the additional homes. Also, the applications for Chanonry Park will result in many more homes being built on the site than was originally agreed on the master plan (in fact, the total number will be what was originally refused permission.)

All issues raised by the Community Council and by interested local people appeared to have been dismissed, in our opinion without reasonable justification by the planners. So, with regard to the Greenside Farm development application this resulted in a formal complaint from the Community Council being registered with the Highland Council regarding the apparent developer bias. As we go to print this complaint is currently the subject of the Highland Council disputes procedure.

A further significant planning issue was the re-submission by Parklands Home Care to build a 40-bed care home on agricultural land to the North East of Ness Road in Fortrose. This had previously been rejected under the delegated responsibility of Highland Council planners.

Ahead of the new Parklands planning application, the Community Council agreed to take an impartial stance. We made time to find out the views of local people as well as those working with the elderly (notably Black Isle Cares.) In addition, the Community Council invited Parklands to a meeting; Community Council representatives attended the Parklands presentation and the Community Council Chairperson visited the Parklands home at Muir of Ord. At a specially convened meeting on Tuesday 6th June we voted by a majority to support this application. As Community Councillors it is our job to reflect the community view before our own. The majority felt that the overwhelming view of the community was to support this application. As we go to print this application awaits consideration by the North Area Planning Committee.

Last, but not least we are delighted that Marine House in Rosemarkie is getting a new lease of life and were wholly in support of this project.

Licensing: we did not object to the license extension application from The Tavern, Fortrose or from the soon to be opened IV10. Both were legally entitled to apply for these licenses and wouldn't have been refused. Also, similar local establishments hold the same licenses. If problems do emerge then the Community Council can make representations to the licensing authorities.

Chanonry Point

Sarah Atkin, Community Council Chairperson assumed leadership of the Chanonry Point Stakeholder Group. The priority this year was better traffic management and a number of traffic calming measures were discussed. One, yellow lines on Ness Road, was implemented. Others are longer term. Ahead of this season it was agreed a short term measure to ease congestion was for Jaki's free Shuttle Bus to continue. All were in support and appreciative of the offer. However, the arrival of a hot food outlet in the car park disrupted this plan. A bad situation escalated into a far worse one. This has been frustratingly beyond our scope to resolve. Traffic chaos has blighted the season again and massively impacted on residents, Fortrose Golf Club and jeopardised public safety. It is clear a radical solution is needed going forward.

Coastal Protection/ Rosemarkie Caravan Park

After many years of lobbying significant progress in addressing this issue has been made. Highland Council commissioned a new report earlier this year to include recommendations and costs. A finance package is currently being worked on. The target is to complete the work ahead of the 2018 tourist season.

Common Good Assets

During the upcoming year we will take a more proactive role in decisions relating to Common Good Assets, including exploring the possibility of Fortrose Town Hall becoming a community-run facility and facilitating an upgrade of the Academy Street picnic area.