



Share Your Thoughts Events 2017

Introduction

Over the week-end of February 25th/26th Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council held 2 events and during that week also conducted an online Survey Monkey. The main focus of the events and survey was to capture the thoughts and concerns of residents and to draw out what they love about living in these communities; what they want to protect and sustain; what they felt could be improved; what ideas they had for who could help and what they themselves could do.

We also asked what people would like their Community Council to do for them.

Here is a brief summary of the results followed by more detailed one accompanied by *wordles* illustrations (the more a word was mentioned by respondents the bigger it is!)

1. What's great about living here?

The comments can be broadly grouped under "quality of life" – a sense of community, being in the countryside but with good access to facilities; a friendly atmosphere; the beach.

2. What Could Be Better?

Concerns were raised around the scale of recent and proposed developments and the impact of these on local infrastructure and sense of community. The lack of a care home was brought up with support for the recent proposal, even if it meant building on land between the two villages. Public transport was raised, especially cuts to the bus service. Dog mess remains an issue for many people.

3. What Would You Like from Your Community Council (CC)?

There was a broad recognition that the powers of the CC are limited, although several responses suggest a lack of clarity about what the powers / remit of the Community Council are. Several respondents expressed a desire for more consultation events like this where people can engage.

4. How Can You Help?

Beach cleans, path clearing and working on a funding bid to benefit the whole Black Isle were put forward as suggestions, as well as the easiest one for all of us to carry forward: smile!

PLEASE NOTE: all views contained in this document are those of individual residents and not Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council.

1. What's GREAT about living here?



Summary of Responses - What's GREAT about living here? (Remember, the more the word was mentioned by respondents the bigger it is on the above illustration.)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The countryside, views, wildlife Beach cafe Swimming in the sea Everything! Food Beach Good community spirit Secondary School Pre-school Library Toddler group Family Friendly people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convenience of medical care Recreation Social networks Book bug Small village community Sailing Climate / air Cycling Fairy Glen Paths, walking, countryside Leisure centre Open spaces and beautiful scenery/landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to walk & cycle Community A safe environment Dolphins My roots are here The environment, the situation Leisure centre Friendly people & community Great local shops Great pubs/places to eat and drink

What's GREAT about Living Here? Summary Responses from Online Survey

Everything. The location, weather, community, talking to the campers in the summer, they all want to move here.

Beauty of the place, sense of community, climate, excellent services. Close to everything we need but still small country village

The beach and walks up the glen.

Kindness of locals, sense of community, plenty of community activities.

It's a great community of people willing to help each other

The community, the people, I was born here

Love the beach and the surroundings

Friendly place with a fair sense of community

The sea

The village feel. Friendly community. The beach and countryside.

The peace and quiet too is a must

The fact that it is quite rural but only 25 mins from Inverness

Friendly....no sense of them & us (i.e. incomers). The ability to walk everywhere: for leisure or to go to shops. Fantastic activities available for children. Great schools, great library.

I like that most people are welcoming, all shops etc. are in walking distance, great beach walks!

Summary Responses from Drop-in Events - What could be better?

Bike parking
 ATM in Rosemarkie
 More visits by dog warden
 More dog poo bins
 More availability of dog bags
 Better walkway / cycle path on road between villages & Bridge St
 20mph speed limits
 Less housing development
 Coastal protection
 Care home
 More support for older / disabled people to live in their own homes
 More sheltered accommodation
 The roads! Especially at caravan site in Rosemarkie
 Cut back bushes by caravan site
 Transport to suit community needs & times
 Community bus?
 More benches – strategic places for people to rest, especially Rodger Court, Anderson Drive by the cherry tree. Replace the bench removed from the back of the Police Station
 Greater support from HC for what CCs are doing
 Bigger GP surgery & bigger Co-op
 Developer planning gain – what happened to High St improvements from Tulloch development?
 We need a care home – even if it's on the site between the two villages

People picking up after their dog!
 More Christmas lights
 Christmas decorations – can we use the trees we have & decorate them?
 Speeding coming into village – can we get a smiley face sign?
 Speeding generally
 Less rubbish
 The roads – especially Marine Terrace
 Community allotments – more please!
 Community garden – perhaps on land beside proposed care home
 Clear “the wedge” at top of road to Fortrose Harbour – we could plant a tree & decorate it at Christmas
 More flowers in public spaces
 Loss of green space in villages with infilling of houses & shrinking gardens
 More engagement events like this
 Limit amount of new housing we can absorb – infrastructure implications
 Seagulls on Station Crescent are attacking people
 Stop folk using Rosemarkie High St for long term parking.
 More smaller houses (that we need!)
 Tidy up Fortrose Car Park & mark bays properly

Summary from Online Survey – what could be better? :

Buses. Losing the late bus from Inverness is bad for young people. Not having one around 10/10.30 means it's impossible for the rest of us to go in for an evening by bus. Sundays are abysmal and will continue to be. Buses are very expensive for people on low incomes without passes. Reliability is more important than frequency.

The potholes in the roads, dog dirt on the footpaths, the recycling that stops in November and does not resume until March, so there is no more room for hedge trimmings and leaves.

The Highland Council officials who do not answer the phones and ignore emails.

More evening events or clubs, such as music / theatre events / yoga classes.

Cycle path / footway between Black Isle villages, from Fortrose right through to Munloch along the old railway track. It would encourage healthy lifestyle choices while being safer than the dangerous fast road. Would be a tourist friendly too.

Traffic management and safety for pedestrians walking through the village particularly with children.

Fortrose is horrible to drive through, bad parking and too much speeding makes it very dangerous for everyone.

Lack of parking. Dog mess

Fewer drunk shouting people late at night

More community involvement in decisions.

Fortrose High Street is looking dowdy. Not sure if there is much sense of community if you work full-time as everything is on during the day when out at work.

It's a real shame there can't be more employment within the vicinity that prevents the commuting.

The roads.

Not building 50 houses opposite me!

Housing availability. Roads need improvement, shop could open later, possible reinstatement of a Post Office in Rosemarkie?

Access through Fortrose High Street not good.

Street lighting could be better. It would be good if the community were more involved in the decisions to do with the running of community facilities in Rosemarkie

Roads

Lots more dog poo bins! Improved roads. Reduced traffic through village main streets. Better building for GP practice. Improved building for the Academy.

Some Ideas for what / who could help make things better:

Council tax should be spent on these essentials. Individuals should pick up their dog dirt.

More community interaction

Fundraising and sponsorship for a cycle path/footway between Fortrose and Munlochy.

A footpath along Bridge Street and traffic calming through Rosemarkie. A footbridge across the river at the Fairy Glen Car Park.

30mph from Fairy Glen to just past entrance to Rosehaugh Estate. Disabled and elderly parking bays only in Fortrose; traffic wardens and some police presence.

Removing dog mess or restricting dogs

A platform to share what's on and what's happening.

Deal with late night noise out of pubs

We also need traffic calming - as there is now more and more traffic and speeding.

To the relevant body fixing roads - bad patches everywhere.

Community groups to task force.

Safer crossings for children going to school and traffic calming measures between Fortrose and Rosemarkie

Additional street lights & litter bins would be great.

Councils: Community Council & Highland Council, place out more dog poo bins.

Different traffic routes?

Summary of Responses from Online Survey:

Be a voice that is listened to.

Organise more evening events or festivals, such as the ones which Cromarty organises (but not the same of course!)

Keep the village a village by not turning it into pub / bar night life. I don't want late opening and loud music with lots of drinking and anti-social behaviour that comes with that.

Improve the traffic calming through the village and put in a footpath along Bridge Street and a bridge over the river at the Fairy Glen Car Park.

Have a bit more 'clout' with local police.

Represent us against the people who look to turn a profit from our community in ways that will negatively affect us, such as potential flooding from housing developments or stress put on public services.

Communicate more about what's happening in a more open and inclusive way

Ask the Highland Council to do something about the traffic and to stop granting planning permission to all of these new houses as slowly the extra volume is overwhelming the villages and there is not enough infrastructure to meet needs and too many cars.

Stand up for the area. Be the voice of the community. Provide feedback to the residents. Provide a focus and catalyst.

Keep up with what you're doing already.

Keep Rosemarkie a beautiful town to live in by improving facilities.

Help object to any more major house building or the care home being built on the Rosemarkie side of Fortrose. The Black Isle is a big place with plenty other available/suitable spaces for houses and care homes.

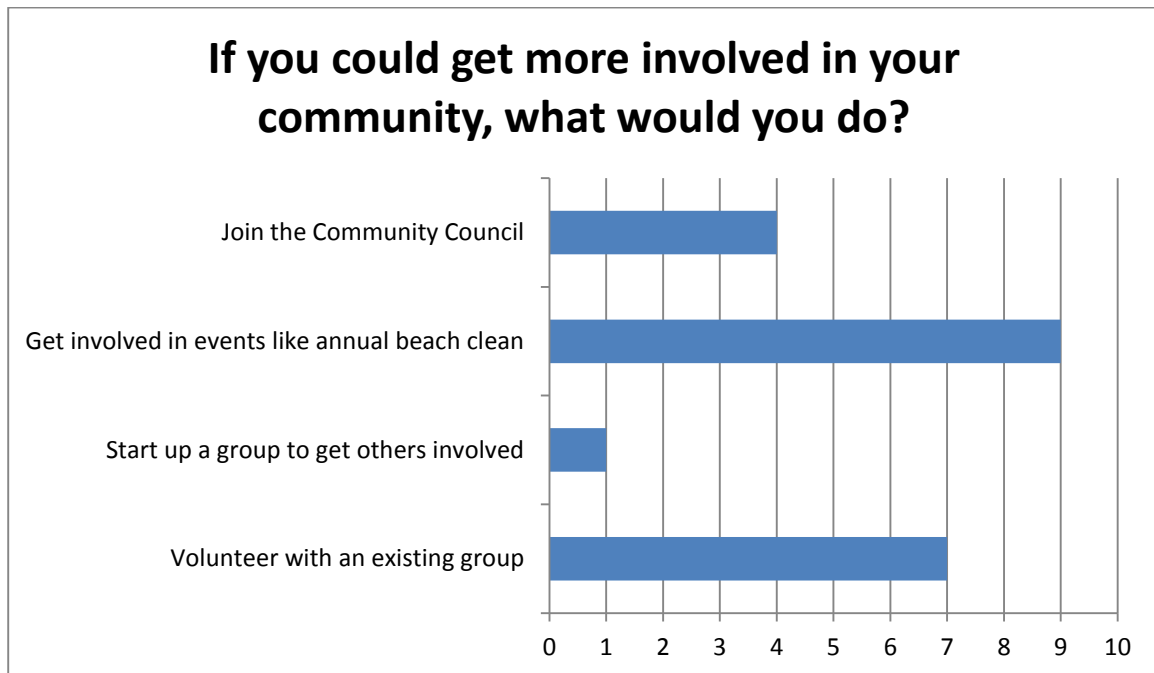
Make the streets and community greener and cleaner

4. How can you help?



From the Drop-in Events:		
What do you enjoy doing?	How can you help?	What are you good at?
Drinking coffee Cinema Theatre Walking Running Cycling Skipping Eating & drinking locally Walking the dogs	Smile Beach cleans Path clearing Volunteer	Listening Organising Speaking to people Making people happy

From the Online Survey:



Comments:

“I used to get involved, but approaching 80 I will leave involvement to the next generation.”

“I did not know about annual beach clean and not sure of existing local groups. Think they need better advertised, both locally and online. Annual Ceilidh or Sausage Sizzle BBQ to do fund raising for investment back into village and build community togetherness.”

“We could do some with some more activities that do not involve going into Inverness - such as an evening writing/painting/pottery group. A running/jog Scotland club. A monthly community event/activity.”

“I am limited as I work full-time, but it would be good if there were more groups at weekends - and more on Facebook so that you could keep up to date.”

“I’m sorry but I’m not proactive. Like many I like to enjoy the area but when it comes to action I’m not one to put myself forward. If the Community Council provides the focus and makes it easy for me to become involved then I will. But many things take place during the working week and having energy to be involved isn’t something I have.”

“A lot of people are willing to help and do so when approached or volunteer their services, however some people cannot be in committees due to work and family commitments but still enjoy helping on occasion.”

“Happy to help when I get time available.”

Ends.

Report compiled by Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council.

Many thanks to everyone who came along or helped on the day(s) and to The Plough Inn and Seaforth Lodge for providing the venues. Thanks also to those of you who couldn’t make it but helped out behind the scenes. Finally, special thanks to Vikki Trelfer for making this initiative happen. May 2017.