

Chairman's Report

AGM 2023

There has been a lot happening in Aberfeldy since our AGM meeting last year, and this is increasingly likely to be the case now going forwards again, with a lot of significant issues around that we need to be aware of.

I am pleased to see the Aberfeldy Development Trust (ADT) becoming well established, attracting good people to make it work, getting support from PKC and now taking on a development officer as well. They have got an initial site at the old slaughterhouse to try and develop their first houses and we wish them every success with that and future projects.

Taymouth castle has emerged as a massive issue over the summer. As a community council, we have been keen to consider the aspects of that which will impact on us. The scale of the project will obviously put pressure on housing and the local labour supply, and these are issues that we need to be very aware of. Moness resort has also now been just purchased by DLC as well. This is a big thing within the town. It may be a good thing, it may not, and there are certainly anxieties, especially among businesses in the town. We are currently looking to survey both businesses and residents to see what people think about how the site is likely to be used. In the very short term, the new owners have offered to help us in dealing with the trees which have been blocking television signal to a large number of houses, affecting over 100 people, and we will be very pleased indeed if that problem can now be resolved.

The Aberfeldy Sports Club development has now received planning permission, with work likely to start in early 2024. This is a really big development in the town, and when combined with the rapidly developing rugby club and the new Feldy Roo fitness trail, we suddenly have a range of excellent facilities that we didn't have before, and it is good to see people using these.

Also on the sports front, we had the Gran Fondo come through Aberfeldy in August, which was a huge national event, and the Aberfeldy multi-sports event attracts a lot of high calibre athletes and reflects well on those involved and the wider area.

On more challenging issues, there has been a lot of low level crime and vandalism in the town this year, seemingly getting better now, and we thank community warden Norma Carr and her colleagues in Police Scotland and other services for helping get on top of that.

The last bank has closed in Aberfeldy now, and there is a threat to our Post Office as well, and this is something we need to pay attention to in the months ahead. Hopefully, there will be some options for dealing with these issues.

Looking forwards, a consultation has begun on having a new national park in this area, and that may well provide opportunities as well if it comes to pass.

Regarding personnel, Rob Stubbs and Susan Craik joined us as new community councillors, and we thank them for their contributions over the year.

Beyond this, CC members have been involved with our usual list of functions. Lorraine has been our main contact with the Griffin/ Calliacher Fund, Pat Spicer has continued to co-ordinate initiatives through the road safety group and has done a good job of the website. Other community council members have attended a range of meetings and helped with various initiatives during the year. Community Warden Norma Carr has continued her good work in investigating and being first point of contact for many issues within the town, and Mary MacDougall has represented us on the Highland Action Partnership as well as taking an interest in how we manage green space in Aberfeldy. Our wildlife gardening competition is starting to make an impact.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped us and contributed to our meetings over the past year or so; residents of the town, the many clubs and organizations that we have, our local authority councillors and PKC staff who support us across a range of initiatives.

As usual, we could do with more help. If you would like to join us, either as a community councillor, or perhaps as a minutes secretary, please get in touch.

Victor Clements

12th October 2023

Chairman