

## Chairman's Report

### AGM 2024

As usual, there has been a lot going on in the town over the last year or so. As a community council, the biggest thing that we need to be aware of is the purchase of Moness Resort by the Discovery Land Company who own Taymouth Castle, who will be converting a proportion of the timeshare cottages in to full time residential use for their staff. The CC had leafletted the town and businesses in late 2023 to get feedback on this, so that we would have some information to work with when a planning application was submitted, which may now be in the near future. The result of the survey was that the town was fairly evenly split between those who were broadly supportive of the initiative, and those who had concerns about it, but people did say that if DLC did what they suggested they would do, then there would be no real problem. There was support for the potential to upgrade Moness as a resort/ holiday destination and to make better use of the facilities there. The concern was in losing current provision for visitors, many of whom had been coming to Aberfeldy for several decades.

There were lots of other things going on in the town as well. The Community Action Planning exercise had received a lot of replies, collating suggestions about how Aberfeldy might be improved. The Feldy Roo fitness trail had been completed, and is now looking well. The old golf club house has now been demolished, and we await a new version to arise. This is not without significant challenge in the current financial climate, but there are a lot of capable people involved in that, and hopefully they will be able to take things forwards. The Farmers Markets were taking place as usual, as was the Aberfeldy multi sports event. The Christmas Market went well, as did Hogmanay. We thank everyone who is involved in all these initiatives and others, for the opportunities and entertainment they bring to the town.

Aberfeldy did have a lot of unwelcome attention this year, with the death of Brian Low, and more recently again with a body being found below the bridge. These were traumatic events, but hopefully they can be resolved in a way that allows the families to come to terms with what has happened.

Our community councillors continue to input to a range of local initiatives, from the Griffin/ Calliachar Panel and the Taymouth liaison group, to efforts to preserve Wade's bridge and contacts with the school. The Tayside Waders worked very effectively with PKC to protect the lower parts of the town in the floods last October, and have recently strengthened their equipment store which will help with our resilience efforts in future. The caravan park getting flooded was very traumatic at the time, with a lot of damage done, and some people deciding not to return to the town. We do however believe that things are in a stronger position now, and hopefully we don't have to endure that again.

At one point, it looked like we may have a national park in Highland Perthshire, but that opportunity has been given to Galloway. We should however be mindful that if that does not work out, that we may be having the discussion here again in future.

During the year. Karen Mackay stood down from the CC, and we thank her for her inputs. We also heard about the very sad passing of Mary MacDougall in July, who helped with a lot of initiatives within the town, including our wildlife gardening competition and the Aberfeldy Development Trust, and was a regular attendee at our meetings.

As always, we are looking to have more people join us, with the CC being down to six members at present, with Pat Spicer helping us with the website and road safety group in the background. Pat is also likely to be moving away from Aberfeldy this year as well, and we thank him for all his inputs on our behalf.

As Chair, I would like to thank all our members, the councillors that have attended our meetings, the PKC staff who help us with a range of problems, members of the public who bring issues to our attention, and the many people who make a range of activities work well within the town.

Thank you all.

Victor Clements

8th September 2024

*Chairman*