

AND HELP

Issue 121, August 2022 - www.strathnairn.org.uk



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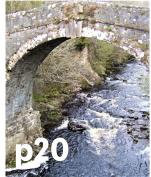
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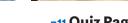
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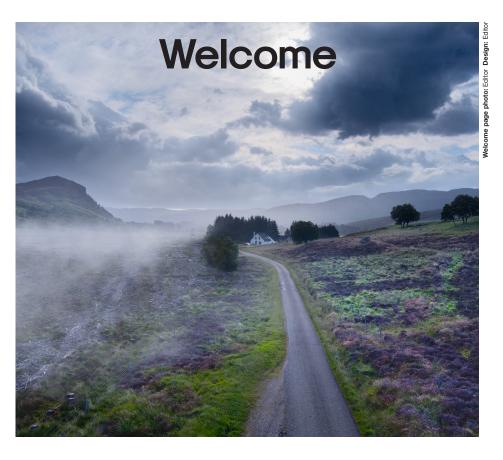




Issue 121 COVER: Editor



The Strathnairn Farmers Association gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance received from the Strathnairn community benefit fund, towards the event. Culchunaig@aol.com



Coming Soon

Coming soon: Announcements page

Following a suggestion by a local reader we are going to run a new regular item in the Newslet-

From next issue we will be including an 'Announcements' page, this will contain details of Births, Deaths, Anniversaries or similar news sent in by family and friends in the Strath.

So if there is a significant occasion you would like marked in print please get in touch and we will be sure to include it.

Send your Announcements to: strathnairnnewsletter@gmail.com

The next newsletter deadline

- Tuesday 24th September 2022.

Please note all dates and times published are correct at time of going to print, and please ensure all submissions are non-political and unlikely to offend.

Editor, David Reid,

We are here to help, so please do not hesitate to contact our Editor, David Reid, and he will try and help. If he is not able, he will try and assist by finding a more suitable contact. Keep safe!



Get in touch: ☐ strathnairnnewsletteragmail.com ☐ 07580 299165





Are you over 16 and live in Strathnairn?

Are you interested in helping your community?

Do you want to help decide how community funds are invested?



The Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) is looking for engaged community members to grow their team of Directors. There is one meeting a month on a Thursday, currently online, with the hope to be in person when possible.

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to: cosec@strathnairncbf.com
Website: www.strathnairncbf.com

Your Community Councillors

The Community has a website – **www.strathnairn.org.uk** where full details are available. There is also a closed group <Strathnairn> on Facebook where useful day to day information is posted. As a closed group access is restricted to locals and once you have visited the page you will need to ask to join. That way your Facebook page will enable you to be notified of any disruptions and latest news.

Phil Mackintosh Chair 07787 155390 phil.mackintosh@strathnairncc.com Neil Spence Hon. Secretary 01808 521311 neil.spence@strathnairncc.com Ian Maclean Treasurer 07843 685619 ian.maclean@strathnairncc.com Ian Hunt 01463 772094 ian@strathnairncc.com Jonny Porteous 01808 521303 jonny.porteous@strathnairncc.com Tim Rose 01808 521370 tim.rose@strathnairncc.com Jayne Brinkworth jayne.brinkworth@strathnairncc.com James Murray 01808 521205 murrayjames@hotmail.co.uk

Your Highland Councillors

Strathnairn is part of Highland Council Wards 12 (Aird and Loch Ness) & Ward 19 (Inverness South). Addresses & telephone numbers are available at www.highland.gov.uk

Ward 12 Aird and Loch Ness

Cllr Helen Carmichael helen.carmichael.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Margaret Davidson margaret.davidson.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Emma Knox emma.knox.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr David Fraser david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Ward 19 Inverness South

Cllr Carolyn Caddick carolyn.caddick.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Ken Gowans ken.gowans.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Andrew Jarvie andrew.jarvie.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Duncan MacPherson duncan.macpherson.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Local Strathnairn Police officers

PCN0162 Laura Kerr, PCN0953 Jo Barclay, PCN0348 Katie Johnstone

They can all be contacted on:-

HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Other useful numbers:

Daviot Primary School 01463 772226 Daviot Hall booking 01463 772228

SCATA Bus 01808 521321 Police - Non-Emergency 101

Farr Primary School 01808 521246 Farr Hall booking 01808 521346

NHS 24 111

SCBF - www.strathnairncbf.com, cosec@strathnairncbf.com, 07858 688355

Care in Strathnairn: TBC

Derek Rose (Community Contact Officer) - 07800 796106/01463 772240

FANS

On Saturday 11th June FANS hosted the community gala at Farr Hall and it was an amazing event with fundraising stalls from the school and the wider community groups

t was fabulous to see so many people chatting and a room full of happy smiling faces. It was great to see so many local groups and businesses having stalls. The event was also supported by the Police, Cairngorm mountain rescue,





Neil MacKenzie Trust, The Strathnairn Development Company, The Community Woodland Group and Strathnairn Farmers all of whom had amazing displays as well as local businesses enjoying showcasing there products in the bustling hall.

Our thanks go to all those that attended, donated and volunteered on the day, including Strathnairn Community Council for the refreshments. And finally a big thank you to Miss Guthrie and Mr Ross for being great, if somewhat wet, sports. It was great to see how happy the children were throwing sponges at them! FANs raised an amazing total of £1200 which is going towards the new school library project which will hopefully be completed over the coming months.







Daviot & Dunlichity Church,

In the last edition of the newsletter I reported the plans Inverness

hese plans have not yet been finalised, but we expect they will go through. To that end, as again I mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be having a joint service of worship at Daviot Church on 31 July where all four existing parishes will worship as one - one family in the church. We look forward to it immensely. Depending on the weather there will be a picnic or a lunch afterwards - bring some and share some.

We also hope to have a picnic up at Dunlichity on 17 August at 5.00 pm – again bring some and share some – with a keyboard and hymn singing, hopefully not in the rain!

You will read elsewhere in the newsletter, that the Strathnairn Heritage Association is keen to acquire Dunlichity Church now that it is to be sold. This is exciting news, as the building is ideally suited for the purpose of an archive centre, with the possibility of other groups and uses besides, so we



updated news

Presbytery have for our parish.

hope the community of Strathnairn will appreciate the tremendous benefit its acquisition will be!

Meantime, down at Daviot, Coffee and Crafts on a Friday morning has been a great success, though it will close down for a few weeks in the summer as so many people are away. It will, however, restart in the autumn. Later in the autumn too, the film that was made for 'Out of the Box', will also become available – probably in October – check their website for details.

As we move forward into a new era for our parish, we pray for God's blessings on Strathnairn and all that goes on our great community.

Kathleen Matheson Session Clerk Daviot & Dunlichity Church 01808 521767 kathleen. daviotanddunlichity@outlook. com

Strathnairns Little Silver Bus

The Community Bus is available for the residents of Strathnairn to get out and about.

The minibus continues to collect residents to take them to medical appointments in town, Tesco for shopping, and Friendship Group for days spent socialising. The 'bus has also been booked for a variety of excursions by residents in Strathnairn who need to hire a little more room to drive around.

The bus is funded by The Highland Council, Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund and ongoing hire charges paid by those who wish to make use of the 'bus privately at a cost of 60p per mile.

However, the greatest success is due to the volunteer drivers who freely give their time to help others in our area – Could you help too, please?

The 'bus can be driven on a normal car licence and anyone >25 can apply to be a driver. I am always on the lookout for additional drivers so if anyone has any spare time to help – even only now and again – please contact Donna on 01808 521321



Strathnairn Community Woodlands

As in the last newsletter we are doing work days in Milton Wood, Farr.

Activities will be on Saturday mornings 10 - 12pm at Milton Wood. Meet at the car park there.

There are a range of jobs such as path maintenance, spruce removal, checking tree guards, pond cleaning, litter patrols, checking on our new orchard. There's a range of activities to suit all.

Wear suitable clothing and boots. Bring gloves if you have them.

Dates:

Saturday September 17th
Saturday October 29th
Saturday November 19th
Saturday December 10th.Christmas trees will be
available on the day.
All dates at 10am - 12noon.

For more information contact: strathnairncommunitywoodlands@gmail.com Or tel. 01808 521207.

Thanks,
Davy Thompson
Strathnairn Community Woodlands.

LIKE A LOCAL

Your newsletter needs you!

If you want like to contribute to the newsletter regularly or with a one off article then please do get in touch. It is important that this newsletter remains relevant and useful to the community so please feel free to contribute of offer suggestions on things you would like to be included. You can email on:

Strathnairnnewsletter@gmail.com

Farr Sunday School

We are delighted to invite you to bring your primary school aged children to Farr Hall on Sunday afternoons from 3-4pm for an hour of Bible teaching, games and singing. We plan to meet each Sunday during term time from 4th September 2022

Leaders are PVG checked and have experience in working with children. For more information please email us at:-

Farrsundayschool@gmail.com
Alan & Katie Skea;
lan & Shona Forbes

Strathnairn Heritage Association (SHA)

The SHA was set up in 1999 to collect, collate and archive the history of Strathnairn. It created a website that you can access under the body's name.

Over the last couple of years, the SHA had gone into abeyance as it was difficult to progress without a suitable premises within the glen which could be used to store information, photos, artefacts, memories, genealogy, etc. and one which could be used for small-scale talks and displays.

However, the Church of Scotland has made us aware that it is willing to sell the small church at Dunlichity and we have expressed an interest in acquiring it. Our next, and urgent, challenge is to acquire the funds to purchase it and we are seeking out appropriate funding bodies which might help. The sensitivity of this building, given that it sits in the centre of a graveyard which is still in use and where generations of Strathnairners have been interred, is such that the community should

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own it and use it for a respectful purpose like a heritage centre.

The SHA gives notice that it will be holding an AGM on Monday 14th November at 7.30 pm in Farr Hall, to which all interested parties are welcome to attend.

Alasdair Forbes (Chairman- Strathnairn Heritage Association)'.

Summer Activities 2022

Summer Activities this year was held over two weeks (weeks 1 & 3 of the school holidays). It took place at the Woodlands, using the cabin and the play park.

We did lots of different craft activities, some of these were forest faces, stone painting, making mobiles with natural materials, bird box making and decorating, leaf picture frames amount many other things. We also learnt through exploration using bubbles, balloons and the parachute.

The children that attended

also played tag in the woods and the park as well as their own individual games with each other using the park equipment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and other adults that helped during these sessions as they wouldn't be possible if their help wasn't available,

and a special thank you to Wendy and Rachel for their continued help and turning up for every session. Also thank you to the Woodland Committee for the use of the cabin

Feed back from the sessions has been really good, and it seems like the children had a great time.











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Inverness **Blood Donor Centre** Raigmore Hospital

Monday 2:30pm-5pm and 6pm-7:30pm Thursday 2.30pm-5pm and 6pm-7.30pm Friday 9am-11.30 and 12.40pm-2.20pm

- This session is run by appointment
- To book your appointment call 0345 90 90 999 Mon to Fri 9am - 5pm
- Or online at scotblood.co.uk





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Did you know you can get your copy of the Strathnairn Newsletter by email?

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CONVENIENCE STORE

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HARRY GOW BAKERY, DUNCAN FRASER BUTCHERS, ICE CREAM NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, SECOND HAND BOOKS, CIGARETTES, TOBACCO CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS, WRAPPING PAPER, GIFT BAGS FLO GAS, SMALL BAGS OF COAL, KINDLERS REPEAT PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION POINT RECYCLING, PUBLIC NOTICEBOARD, COLLECTION POINT FOR FARR HALL KEY

> **OPEN LOCAL HOLIDAYS CLOSE TO FARR & DAVIOT SCHOOLS**

LOCKDOWN OPENING HOURS 7:30am - 12 noon - Mon-Sat / 9am - 12 noon - Sunday

Inverness IV2 6XA

Pop along and say hello!

Ouiz Page

Crossword puzzles are a good exercise for the brain and puts your vocabulary to the test.

Sudoku

1				5				2
		9	8	1	6	7		
	3			2			1	
			1		4			
	7		3	9	2		6	
		8				2		
	6		2	3	1		8	
	9		5		8		2	
		2				3		

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

SOME QUESTIONS TO GET THE GREY CELLS WORKING. TRY NOT TO CHEAT WITH THE INTERNET.

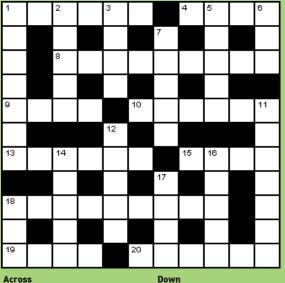
- 1. How many minutes in a game of rugby league?
- 2. Typically, what's the strongest muscle in the human body?
- 3. Name one landlocked country in Europe.
- 4. To a single decimal point, how many kilometres in a mile?
- 5. Who is the highest spiritual leader of Tibet?

This Fruit and Vegetables themed Н word wheel is Ε K made from a R 9 letter Fruit and Vegetables themed word. Try and find that word. then make as many words of any length as you can from these letters. You can only use each

letter once, and each word must

include the letter R.

Quick Crossword



Across

- . Elementary (6)
- . Sort (4)
- . Made known (9) 9. Scintilla (4)
- 10. Season (6)
- 13. Fluent (6)
- 15. Unquent (4) 18. Reptile (9)
- 19. Bed on a ship or train (4) 20. Conflict (6)
- 6. Conclusion (3) 7. Sound (5) 11. Violent disorder (7)
- 12. Flower (5)

1. Law officer (7)

2. Intended (5)

5. Watercraft (5)

3. Solitary (4)

- 14. Diadem (5) 16. Obviate (5)
- 17. Passport endorsement (4)
- 18. Young mammal (3)

Answers

Wordwheel **BUTTERCUP**



ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE.



Strathnairn's Community Action Plan Published

Strathnairn Development Company (SDC) has the pleasure of announcing the publication of Strathnairn's

Community Action Plan (CAP).

he plan sets out what the community thinks are the priorities for Strathnairn over the next ten years, and its thoughts on how they should be pursued, based on perspectives expressed in the 2021 community survey, drop—in events, input from community groups and taking past information into account. This plan is not set in stone

and there will be plenty of opportunities to contribute ideas and shape related actions. The CAP will be reviewed at regular intervals to make sure it remains relevant to the community, plus public meetings will be held to explore some of the proposed projects and how to implement them, and to give space to other ideas not yet expressed in the CAP.



So please read the following summary of the Community Action Plan, and if you have time the full CAP (at the foot of the documents section of SDC's website

https://strathnairndevelopment.scot/documents/). Share your thoughts or questions with us by email (strathnairndevelopmentcompany@gmail.com), on social media through Facebook or Instagram (sn_d_c), or prepare some comments for the community meetings to begin in the autumn. And if you would like to become a member of SDC, then please apply at

https://strathnairndevelopment.scot/become-a-member/ or request a form from strathnairndevelopmentcompany@gmail.com

SDC is grateful to The Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) for funding the work to create the CAP. We would like to thank the consultants, IHI, who were commissioned to carry out the work needed to produce the plan. We also would like to thank the Advisory Panel, a temporary community group formed from Strathnairn community organisations that helped to guide the consultants in their task. And finally, our thanks go to all the community members who contributed their views via the community survey carried out in September/October 2021.

This community action plan is the result of extensive consultation and engagement with people in Strathnairn. Commissioned by Strathnairn Development Company (SDC), funded by SCBF, and carried out by Impact Hub Inverness, the purpose of the work was to generate a 10-year Community Action Plan (CAP) based on community views, establishing what services, facilities and buildings are feasible and have the community's support to meet the aspirations of the people of Strathnairn. Some of the proposed projects and developments will be initiated by SDC itself. For others, SDC's role will be to enable and support other groups and organisations to take on and run to accommodate activities of their own.

This plan is the first to have been created by SDC, and follows the earlier community survey of 2013. While the document itself may have the SDC logo and name on it, its contents reflect what has been – and still is – a collaborative community journey.

Strathnairn, for the purposes of the CAP, consists of the area covered by the Strathnairn Community Council. It is a rural community within commuting distance of Inverness. The Strath is long and linear and split by the A9.

Engagement and consultation were carried out with the community in the autumn of 2021, involving a number of different methods including:

- Stakeholder input through the advisory group and with community organisation representatives who came forward
- A community-wide survey, distributed to every house in Strath and available through other locations as well as being online (152 responses)
- Boosting of a survey of community groups, initially carried out by SDC in 2021
- Surveys and consultation with Farr and Daviot Primary School pupils (59 responses)
- Community drop-in day at Farr and Daviot village halls attended by 46 people, to gather additional feedback on the priority areas identified from the findings of the community survey.

In total 211 responses were received for the community survey and school survey, representing 15.5% of the total population, based on 2011 census figures.

There was overwhelming support for a Community Action Plan with 95% backing the idea. The reasons given included:

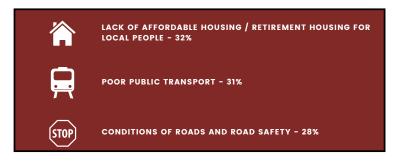


STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A VISION OF OUR FUTURE 2021 - 2031

There was a lot of consistency in what respondents said they liked about the Strathnairn area. Respondents rated the area as a good place to live, in a great location with beautiful surroundings. Key was its rural location, with people mentioning many aspects of this from the quietness, to the dark skies. Rurality was also about safety, especially for children, and a higher quality of life. This was closely linked to the natural environment which was also a key factor favoured by respondents. Proximity to Inverness was also a clear benefit to many, but for some this has been a negative aspect as they believed it has changed the nature of the community, and impacted on the viability of local service provision.

The main challenges that respondents identified for the next 5-10 years in the Strath were:



Other challenges mentioned by a small number of people in the community survey were:

- The environment/climate change
- · Services for older people
- Activities for young people (and from the school survey specifically, the wish for a skate park, café/youth café, clubs and activities for all ages including after school and outdoors/sports)
- Poor mobile reception
- Maintaining existing community buildings – specifically the village halls in Farr and Daviot
- · Community cohesion



STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A VISION OF OUR FUTURE 2021 - 2031

The majority of respondents (58%) said they didn't want to see any major changes to the Strathnairn area, and a further 16% wanted to see no changes at all. Respondents felt that the way it is is what makes Strathnairn an attractive place to live. A very small minority (2%) wanted to see significant changes. A further 24% made no comment. Whether it was a slight change or significant change people wanted to see, the same themes came through. Mostly people wanted to see greater community cohesion, and more community events, activities and facilities. Other changes people stated they would like to see tied-in with responses to earlier questions.

Other important outcomes from the 2021 community survey:

- A community hub
- Housing notably affordable housing for local people
- Better roads
- Paths and cycle route improvements

The process of researching and developing this action plan provides the community with a mandate for taking forward a number of projects over the next decade. The projects identified throughout the process have been consistent across the different methods, but also consistent with historical findings. The projects in the action plan below are a mix of those which could be done relatively quickly – the 'quick wins' – and those which are longer term. These longer-term projects will require further consultation and exploration, and would require a development officer or similar role to take forward, and to work with others to identify potential sources of funding. The action plan also includes developments which are beyond the scope of a local group to deliver, other than through lobbying of other organisations and agencies.

Projects to be taken forward for future consideration:

Project	Feasibility	Changes community wants to see (from consultation)	
Quick-wins			
Reinstate Strathnairn/ Farr Gala	Reinstating the annual gala will depend on getting enough volunteers	Community social events	
Schedule of events	Relatively easy to set up – will need someone to co- ordinate. Minimal funding required	A central space for event organisers/groups to share information with the community and each other on events/activities/news	
Short-term			
Daviot Hall improvements	Upgrade of existing facilities so feasibility is realistic.	Schedule of works likely to include upgrade of toilets, improvements to kitchen and an upstairs meeting room	

Play and recreation: Skatepark	Need to identify potential sites . Will complement the proposed development of the hub	Improve outdoor activities for older children		
Play and recreation: Daviot West Play Park repairs and improvements. Upgrade of existing facilities (equipment) so feasibility is realistic		Survey responses raised improved drainage, repair/replace bench and roundabout, replace football nets, install covered area.		
Play and Recreation: Farr play park/Milton Woods/Farr Upgrade of existing facilities (equipment) so feasibility is realistic		Improved road signs near park. Safe crossing from park to school – e.g. speed bumps or zebra crossing Woodland play area in Milton Woods Other facilities for community and visitors		
Medium-term				
Roads	Other communities have seen improvements of rural roads as a result of lobbying of Highland Council which is responsible for roads.	Introduce speed restrictions on A9 between B851 East and B851 West junction. Consider traffic management measures such as:No parking signs Put either speed bumps or zebra crossing to make a safe crossing from the park to the school, Improve passing spots on B851 and make areas around Flichity Estate more visible on bends and road narrowing in Brinmore		
Medium/long-term				
Will need a detailed feasibility study to be carried out, recognising the limitations in space and considering compatibility with existing uses. Accessible building, Reasonable parking.		Community was in favour of adding to facilities already provided by the halls, with a café, office space, sport and event space, and other developments and services all raised		
Affordable housing	Will need a detailed feasibility study to be carried out.	Locations suggested at drop-in sessions: Land opposite Daviot war memorial with improved footpath access to Daviot village Community wanted housing to be close to public transport and one of the schools, and adjacent to other housing developments Community identified need for small starter/retirement build/those retiring from tied properties		

Public transport/ Sustainable travel Aware of possibility of some changes coming for rural public transport. CT scheme already has a bus, co-ordinator and driver volunteers, so it would be feasible to build on this.

- Lobby to establish a better local bus/transport service. Use the findings of the CAP to support lobbying.
- Improved use of community bus online booking system, larger bus and advertise

 bottor
- Investigate a locally coordinated carshare and e-bike scheme
- Create dedicated cycling trails for functional iourneys and recreation.
- Electric vehicle charge points at the halls

The full document can be seen at : https://strathnairndevelopment.scot/community-action-plan/



Strathnairn Music Initiative

IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR STRATHNAIRN MUSIC INITIATIVE AND WE'RE NOW GETTING READY FOR THE START OF OUR 7TH YEAR!

Music lessons will begin again on Wednesday 17/08/2022.

Some of the highlights of the last year have been

- ◆ Moving back to group lessons in Farr Hall and seeing everyone in person again.
- ◆ The online December Concert
- ♦ Starting the Secondary School Group Music Project in collaboration with Highlife Highland. The group's performance at the Summer Showcase was excellent and I'm sure you've only just stopped singing Cars by Gary Numan!
- ◆ Our Singing Groups.
- ♦ Our amazing students, parents and carers, friends and tutors who have supported SMI during the year.

Summer Concert

The Summer Showcase Concert 2022 was an absolute blast! Thank you to our talented students, teachers and wonderful audience. We had a great time and hope you did too. If you couldn't make it or you'd like to watch it again, then please visit our YouTube Channel – Strathnairn Music Initiative.

Spotlight on the Fun Music Session

These sessions are held every Wednesday at Farr Hall during term time from 4pm to 4.30pm.





The sessions are led by Monica Neeling and are for children from the age of 3 and as well as being fun are also educational. They are a great way to prepare your young child for later learning of an instrument meaning their musicality will become very natural.

What we do in the sessions:

- ◆ Singing
- Musical games
- Poems
- ◆ Percussion instrument playing
- ◆ Movement to live and recorded music
 What the children learn in the sessions:
- ◆ Keeping a beat
- Singing in pitch
- ◆ The difference in fast/slow, high/low and loud/quiet These sessions also help increase children's:
- ◆ Confidence and self-esteem
- ◆ Social skills
- ◆ Help improve their language skills
- Creativity
- ◆ coordination

We asked Finlay, who has going along to the Fun Music Sessions, what he liked best. Finlay said he loved the





singing and playing different instruments. He really liked having fun in the group with his friends.

Thank you Finlay for letting us know what you think about Fun Music. We're really glad you're enjoying it!

Come and join in the fun! Contact **strathnairmmusicinitiative@gmail.com** to find out more and how to join in.

If you are inspired to learn an instrument, find out more about the singing groups or have any questions then just get in touch at **strathnairnmusicinitiative@gmail.com**



Makes 3x500ml Jars

A great way to preserve summer allotment produce for longer. Homemade Piccalilli is great to serve with cold meats and cheese. Once open, keep in the fridge and use within four weeks.

Ingredients

1 kg washed, peeled seasonal vegetables. Select 5 or 6 from: cauliflower, green beans, cucumbers, courgettes, tomatoes, carrots, shallots, peppers, nasturtium seed pods.

50g fine salt, 30g cornflour

10g ground turmeric, 10g English mustard powder 15g yellow mustard seeds, 1 tsp crushed cumin seeds 1 tsp crushed coriander seeds, 600ml Malt Vinegar 200g granulated sugar

Instructions

Step 1- Cut vegetables into small, bit-sized pieces. Place in large bowl and sprinkle with salt. Mix well, cover and leave in a cool place for 24 hours.

Step 2 - Rinse with cold water and drain thoroughly. Blend cornflour, turmeric, mustard powder, mustard seeds, cumin and coriander to a smooth paste with a little of the vinegar.

Step 3 - Put the rest of the vinegar into a saucepan with sugar and bring to boil. Pour a little of the hot vinegar over blended spice paste, stir well and return to pan.

Step 4 - Bring gently to the boil. Boil for 3-4 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and carefully fold in the vegetables. Pack into warm sterilised jars and seal immediately.

Step 5 - Leave in a cool dark spot for six weeks or up to three months before opening.



Tordarroch Bridge, 8 miles south of Inverness, is Fig. 1 Tordarroch Bridge (30ft span) Note 1 in 8 gradient on parapet tops ©Douglas Nelson

Tordarroch Bridge, Farr,

An attractive stone and lime mortar historic Class B listed by The Highland Council and Strath Civil Engineering Ltd., ect offers a welcome opportunity to investigate why and

Prof/Dr Roland Paxton MBE FICE FRSE Engineering historian and conservationist
Hon Professor, Institute for Infrastructure and Environment, Heriot–Watt University, Edinburgh
Emeritus Member, Institution of Civil Engineers' Panel for Historical Engineering Works
Patron, Friends of Union Chain Bridge, Berwick–upon–Tweed

Could Tordarroch Bridge be a 'Military Bridge' of the General Wade/Major William Caulfield era [1726-67], perhaps even crossed by Bonnie Prince Charlie? Or maybe, was it one of the 1,075 single-arch bridges erected throughout Scotland under the epoch-making improvements of the Highland Roads and Bridges Act of 1803? Or, was it a local initiative?

I first saw Tordarroch Bridge many years ago when compiling 'Civil Engineering Heritage Scotland Highland and Islands' [2007] for the Institution of

Civil Engineers' Panel for Historical Engineering Works. My impression then was that the bridge was probably late 18th century with earlier 'Military Bridge' design and build characteristics, perhaps partly influenced by White Bridge [1732], about 20 miles south of Tordarroch. [compare Figs 1 & 2].

From a search of old maps, the possibility of Tordarroch Bridge being a 'Military Bridge' can be ruled out, as neither bridge nor road feature on William Roy's definitive military map of Scotland, carefully surveyed from 1747-55. By this time most 'Military Roads'



Fig. 2 White Bridge (40ft span) on Fort Augustus/Inverness Military Road ©Sandra Purves

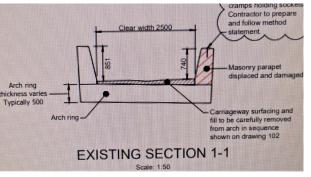


Fig. 3 Tordarroch Bridge 2022 - clear width 2500mm ©The Highland Council

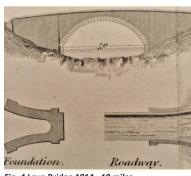


Fig. 4 Loyn Bridge 1814 - 10 miles west of Fort Augustus ©Paxton

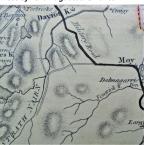


Fig. 5 Ainslie map 1789 - Tordarroch Bridge over R. Nairn [centre-left] ©Paxton

Strath Nairn - its Origin?

structure. Currently it is being painstakingly repaired after parapet damage and displacement. This projwhen the bridge was built?

in that part of the Highlands had been built. Also, Tordarroch Bridge and road is not shown on the parliamentary 'Sketch of Military Roads in the Highlands made, and still kept in repair' by 1814.

The possibility of Tordarroch Bridge being a Highland Roads and Bridges Commission bridge built to its Engineer Thomas Telford's specification was next considered. Perusal of nine published reports of the Commission from 1804-21 relating to its main improvement in Strath Nairn, the 'Inverfarigag Road', did not reveal any mention of the bridge.

The ongoing repair work at Tordarroch Bridge has facilitated a comparison of its details with Telford's 1804 specification for Highland Roads and Bridges Commission bridges, a copy of which was forwarded to the project's Highland Council engineers and contractor. Their helpful response included plans, pho-

tographs and measurements, a comparison of which with the specification, convinced me that Tordarroch Bridge was not a Telford creation. To mention just two of several significant differences. Telford would have required a minimum road width between parapet faces of 12ft [3660mm], instead of 8½ft [2500mm – Fig. 3], also, a vertical curved batter of at least 1 in 12 on wing wall/spandrel facings. In elevation, he would probably have required a bridge top and road surface line in the form of a gentle curve with a minimum gradient of 1 in 12 at the bridge ends, also, tapering pilasters adjoining the arch at each side. An idea of how a Telford designed bridge at Tordarroch might have looked can be seen in [Fig. 4].

The earliest map I could find showing a bridge

and its associated roads at Tordarroch was land surveyor John Ainslie's 'Scotland' published in 1789 [Fig. 5]. It shows a road starting in Strath Nairn 3 miles south of Tordarroch, bridging the River Nairn at Tordarroch, and continuing north along the west side of the river to join Wade's 'Military Road' from Perth to Inverness near Daviot. As this arrangement still featured on the 11th edition of Ainsley's map in 1840, it can be assumed the route existed. It was more accurately mapped by the Ordnance Survey from 1843.

David Lizars's 'Travelling Map of Scotland from the latest and best surveys' published in 1808 shows the same road and bridge arrangement at Tordarroch, probably taken from Ainslie's survey. But, by November 1810, narrow Tordarroch Bridge and the road north from it had been bypassed by the Highland Roads Commission's 19½ mile Inverfarigag Road, and Moy Road improvements, made under Telford's direction [Fig. 6]. Tordarroch Bridge, now with only a local function, is not shown on the Commission's map.

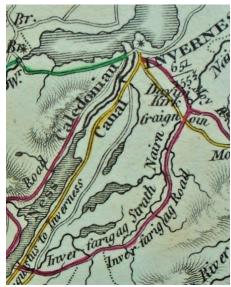


Fig. 6 Highland Roads Commission map showing the Inverfarigag Road and Moy Road improvements operational from 1810 ©Paxton

The improvements shown on Fig. 6 were incorporated into Aaron Arrowsmith's larger scale improved map of Scotland revised to 1810 [Fig. 7]. Bypassed Tordarroch Bridge and the road north from it are not shown but, interestingly, its continuance from Daviot Kirk to Nairn is, by means of a single line crossing the Moy Road and beyond.



Fig.7 Arrowsmith Map 1810. Note the Inverfarigag Road major improvement from Daviot Bridge via Tordarroch to Loch Ness, but without the bypassed Tordarroch Bridge and road north from it ©Paxton

Confirmation of the down-grading in use of Tordarroch Bridge and the road north from it was found on an Arrowsmith map of 1819. It shows a disconnected stub of road over the bridge serving only the immediate locality west of the river [Fig. 8]. Even so, the road north from the bridge on the west side of the river may have continued to exist as a little-used track as the forerunner of the minor road on the west side of the river to Daviot shown on modern maps.

Fig. 8. Arrowsmith 1819 – Tordarroch Bridge & road stub © Paxton

In the New Statistical Account of Scotland [1845] for Daviot and Dunlichity Parishes, the minister, James Macphail, gave a useful overview of communications, but did not mention Tordarroch Bridge. He wrote c. 1835: 'In the east end of the parish of Daviot the Great Highland Road from Perth to Inverness passes through it for nearly 3 miles upon which there is one toll bar in the parish. The Highland coach from Inverness to Perth travels on

Fig. 8. Arrowsmith 1819 – Tordarroch Bridge & road stub ©Paxton

this road. The Inverfarigag Road under the charge of the Parliamentary Commissioners about 24 years ago, branches off from the Great Highland Road near to the church of Daviot, runs through the parishes to the westwards for nearly 13 miles, and continues to Inverfarigag Pier at Loch Ness.'

In conclusion, the bridge's origin probably stemmed from a local community initiative in the 1780s. At this time, the spirit of agricultural and public improvement abroad nationally was beginning to gather pace in Strath Nairn. The 1791 Statistical Account commented on 'improvements made ... either for ornament or utility' by four heritors in the parish of Daviot and Dunlichity. To quote one, 'Mr Mackintosh of Farr, by enclosing, draining and planting, has made his paternal estate both valuable and delightful'. Undoubtedly, he and others would have had an interest in improving road communication with Inverness and Nairn by means of a bridge at Tordarroch and a road northwards on the west side of the river joining the Military Road and beyond. This would have enabled the easier

conveyance of fuel, manure, materials, goods, produce and people, and provided better access to Tordarroch Kirk.

If any reader knows more about the Bridge's origin, please speak!

Postscript. Tordarroch Bridge is an instructive example of an historic Highland bridge well deserving of its Historic Environment Scotland Class B listing. It was undoubtedly built by a competent stonemason, using such suitable local stone he could procure, to achieve a well-crafted structure [Fig. 9]. In elevation, the arch ring is of circular segmental form, rising about 9ft [2770mm] from each side to its top [Fig. 1]. This form, by then well established in use, is close to what Telford would have required for a bridge of Tordarroch's span in his 1804 Highland bridges specification, that is, a segmental arch with a rise of 10ft [3048mm].



Fig. 9 Tordarroch Bridge repair in 2022 after a parapet collapse – Note the traditional, undressed, arch ring top of tightly packed thin stones under the roadway after c.240 years in service ©The Highland Council

Acknowledgements The author thanks Lloyd Roberts for encouraging the writing of this article; Also, for their valuable help, Andrew Tryon and Kulwat Singh of The Highland Council; and Neil Morrison of Strath Civil Engineering Ltd. Also, for the use of their photographs in the first two figures, Douglas Nelson and Sandra Purves, Chair, Scottish Group of ICE's Panel for Historical Engineering Works.

Institute for Infrastructure and Environment, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, 28.7.2022



Strathnairn Community Council 2022 Meetings - June 2022

General Meeting Number 299 Farr Community Hall 7.30PM MONDAY 20th June 2022

Present:

SNCC Members: Phil MacKintosh (PM, Chair), Neil Spence (NS, Hon Sec), Ian MacLean (IM, Treasurer), James Murray (JM), Jonny Porteous (JP), Tim Rose (TR), Lorna McConachie (LM, Minutes)

HC Members: Cllr David Fraser (DF)
Associate Member: Allan Martin (AM)
Members of the Public: Mark Bessell (MB)
(mentioned in the minutes), 1 other.

Apologies

Jayne Brinkworth (JB), Ian Hunt (IH), Neil Dawson (ND), Cllr Helen Crawford (HC), Cllr Chris Ballance (CB).

2. Approval of Minutes 16th May 2022

Minute number corrected from number 295 to 298. Minutes of 16th May 2022: Proposed (TR), Seconded (JP).

3. Declaration of Interest

4. Matters Arising from minutes Matters dealt within agenda items.

5. Community Policing Report and local issues

The new monthly newsletter has been established and the next update will be issued in due course.

6. Financial Report

No change since previous meeting; balance £5775.10. Pending payments for minutes due. A detailed financial report was shared at the AGM.

7. Planning Application and updates

a) New

. Alterations and extensions. Woodend, Westhill, Inverness. IV2 5BS.

- Erection of replacement building. Woodend, Westhill, Inverness. IV2 5BS.
- iii. Erection of self-catering tourist accommodation. Land 415m South of No Bother, Daviot, Inverness.
- iv. Development of recycing facility for inert materials (in retrospect). Land 230m East of Lairgandour, Daviot, Inverness. (SNCC have been granted an extension until 24th. June to lodge an Objection to this application.)

A draft letter was discussed, and it was agreed that it should highlight the need for the applicant to abide by the relevant rules and regulations and to ensure conditions match other applications concerning movements within a quarried site. Action: PM to update IH on comments and minor amendments to be made prior to issuing letter of objection.

- b) Updated
- Alteration and extension, demolition of ancillary building, erection of outbuilding Rose Cottage, Farr, Inverness. IV2 6XB.
- Conversion of loft. Bracken Cottage, Daviot, Inverness. IV2 5ER.
- Cherry Cottage: it was noted that good progress has been made to improve the overall look of the site.

8. Windfarms

a) Aberarder

Negotiations are ongoing, and the following information has been agreed:

- £650k for new bridge at Flichity.
- £350k towards the road network,
- £250k towards the LED scheme (Local energy discount scheme).
 A visibility survey and traffic management plan have been requested. Action: MB/PM to continue negotiations with RES.
- b) Corriegarth 2

There is currently no consent however an agreement is likely early next year. Work is timetabled to start in 2024 with connection to the grid in 2025. It was noted that there

will be a visual impact to some residents, local infrastructure affected with a particular concern voiced on the impact of increased traffic and the demand on the road network. It was discussed that fair contribution and benefits be negotiated.

9. Red John Hydro Scheme

- It was noted that a named contact with Red John would be necessary to ensure good communication and to confirm details of the planning process, road improvements, traffic management and local material acquisition. Action: Clir DF to update when information is available.
- ii. Cllr DF informed the meeting that discussions with Colin Ross are to take place with an investigation of all traffic management concerning the Windfarms, Hydro scheme and planned timber extractions. Action: Cllr DF to share overview when available.

10. Strathnairn Development Company

a) Community action plan.

The following is a statement was provided by the SDC:

"At a meeting on Monday 13th June. the draft Community Action Plan was endorsed by the advisory panel. A draft copy of the 4-page summary version of the CAP was also presented. The panel made comments, in response to which the consultants are now finalising text. As soon as the CAP summary is finalised (imminently), SDC intends to publish the CAP summary, and full version, on the website, which is once again operational at https://strathnairndevelopment.scot. We also intend to publish the CAP summary in the newsletter in early August and invite responses from the community. It is normal and best practice to keep reviewing and revising the main priorities identified in the CAP, so the publication of this 1st version will be followed by opportunities to provide feedback through various channels, plus several community meetings to discuss findings, different perspectives and ways forward"

The following is a statement update from the SDC dated 20 June 2022

"Following discussions at the AGM on the 19th of May, the SDC Board has initiated some changes in the governance structures and processes to ensure these are fit-for-purpose going forward. In particular, we acknowledge recent failings in communication by SDC. We are actively working to improve that situation and to build

better community relationships, to be in the best position to help the community deliver its Community Action Plan (CAP). The Board acknowledges that Paul Robinson has been the main driving force behind the SDC since its inception and has done a substantial amount of work to get to where we are today. However, we are now keen to lighten his workload, so have made a number of changes to the office bearers:

- Professor Mike Danson is the new Chair
- Raghnaid Sandilands, Secretary
- Paul Robinson, Treasurer
- Neil Dawson, Vice Chair (to attend SNCC meetings going forward, though unfortunately his wife is working away tonight).
- Other trustees: Kirsty Adam, Scott MacDonald and we have welcomed three new trustees: Megan Bee, Jillian MacLennan, Janae Wait.
 The Board are collectively and individually looking forward to working with everyone in the community, community groups, SCBF and the CC."

11. Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund

MB stated that the Benefit Fund are researching how best to support the CAP once published. Video conferencing will be discussed at the next meeting.

12. Community Halls

- a) Strathnairn Hall: No update available.
 A discussion ensued regarding a letter received on the misuse of the Daviot Church carpark by campervans. It was agreed that further research be required and to monitor the site. Other nearby sites are available at Brin, Littlemill and The Grouse and Trout.

 Action: PM to discuss with IH.
- b) Farr Community Hall: A lengthy discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of committing resources to implement changes prior to a definitive decision on the HUB and the CAP being published. It was noted that some short term, quick wins would be beneficial to the community. Ideas mooted included key code access, video conferencing, installation of gym equipment, a new website which would interlink all community groups. It was agreed that longer term goals /ideas be prioritised. Action: PM arrange meeting with community groups and SDC to implement short term. goals.

13. Strathnairn Newsletter

Funds have been released by the Benefit Fund to support the next six months.

14. Roads

a) Farr village improvements

- School works have taken longer than originally planned. Work is now planned to start around the playpark in July for a period of six weeks.
- b) The Balnafoich Road and A9 Closure has been poorly managed and communicated. Residents and visitors have been left frustrated by road closures and would appreciate more timely information. Action: IH to email Alastair Brown for details.
- c) It was noted and understood that resources within Highland Council are stretched and that overall, the support and engagement is good. It was discussed that an overview looking at the road improvements and budgets would be beneficial between Highland Council and the Community Council. Cllr DF suggested a workshop for South Loch Ness to review road improvements, closures and communications. Action: Cllr DF to progress.
- d) B861 Potholes/repair to road network
- B861 more passing places to improve egress onto verges and improve passing place signage was suggested.
- i. Encourage everyone to report any issues on the website and to copy in IM. Make repeated reports if necessary. Include, a photo and location. Action: IM to forward website link to PM. Action: PM to update Facebook page and newsletter with relevant information. It was suggested that the community could create a pothole data base.
- iii. Report any fly tipping using the same link. It was stated that all incidents are looked at when reported on the website.
- iv. Further work is scheduled to resurface the road, but it was stated that the most severe potholes have yet to be addressed.
- Discussions are taking place with the forestry to use land to widen road from Bunachton Loch junction to Tomfat woods.
- e) Tordarroch bridge
- Work is underway and is due for completion on 15th August. The total cost of repairs is reported to be £224,136.58. The estimate for repairs to the Beacham bridge is in the region of £30k-£40k.

15. Correspondence received. (via email unless indicated otherwise.)

- a) SCBF: Minutes of recent board meetings.
- b) Highland Council: Community Resilience Briefings, 13/05/2022,
- Scottish Parliament: Consultation on provision of allotments. (Forwarded to Fearnag Growers).
- d) Highland Council: Tordarroch Bridge repair costs £ 224 136.58.

- e) Tabitha Ewing, Bangor University: Research into forestry planting. (Forwarded to Strathnairn Woodlands).
- Mark Burton: Expressing concerns about road safety issues which may arise due to increased HGV traffic during Red John construction.
- g) Scottish Government: Investing in Communities Fund opens for applications.
- 16. List of Events, Meetings and dates for attendance and interest.
- a) Nil

17. Questions from members of the Public.

A concern was raised that cyclists, riding in groups, are blocking the single lane roads causing a build-up of traffic. There are passing places where cyclists should pull over to allow for faster moving traffic to pass. Action: NS to issue letter to cycling groups requesting cyclist to be cognizant of allowing traffic to overtake.

18. AOCB

- a) TR stated that ongoing forestry work, thinning and clear felling within the Flichity area is planned over the next fifteen years. Wood would be harvested and cut every second year. This will have an impact on traffic volume and concerns were discussed on the movement, speed of timber lorries and the effect on the road surface. Action: Cllr DF will include in workshop meeting with Colin Ross. See item 9ii, above.
- Tilhill Forestry have suggested that they may contribute towards road improvements as work is due to be completed soon.
- c) JM made the point that an opportunity had been missed not to hold a Jubilee celebration. It was discussed that the Development Company encourage groups and residents to create opportunities and advertise on the website.
- The community council logo to be updated as soon as possible. Action: PM to contact David Huxtable Reid.

19. Next Meeting - Monday 15th August 2022.

The Community Council is required to issue the agenda 7 days before the meeting. To be certain that an item can be included please make sure that it is submitted ten days before our meeting is due to take place. Copies of this agenda and the minutes of Community Council meetings are circulated by email. If you would like to receive a copy your email address can be added to the circulation list by application to secretary@ strathnairncc.com.

PM thanked all for their contribution, and the meeting closed at 20.45 hrs

Annual General Meeting Farr Community Hall 7.00PM MONDAY 20th June 2022

Present:

SNCC Members: Phil MacKintosh (PM, Chair), Neil Spence (NS, Hon Sec), Ian MacLean (IM, Treasurer), James Murray (JM), Jonny Porteous (JP), Tim Rose (TR), Lorna McConachie (LM, Minutes)
HC Members: Cllr David Fraser (DF),
Associate Member: Allan Martin (AM)

1. Apologies

Jayne Brinkworth (JB), Ian Hunt (IH), Neil Dawson (ND), Cllr Helen Crawford (HC), Cllr Chris Ballance (CB).

2. Approval of Minutes

Members of the Public: 1

Minutes of 21st June 2021: Proposed (NS), Seconded (IM).

3. Matters Arising from minutes There were no matters arising.

4. Receive and consider the Chairperson's report

All members received the report. Report appended. (Appendix 1)

5. Receive and approve the Financial Statement

- IM reported that the accounts were made up to 31st March 20222.
- Unreserved funds stood at £2704.71 excluding Strathnairn heritage funding of £360.48, SCBF events £14.91 and SCBF external support £2500.
- The grant from Highland council was £571.08.
- It was noted that the main expenditure had been the cost on minute secretary and insurance.
- The written statement of accounts was circulated by email and approved by those present.

6. Appoint Office Bearers

All office bearers stood down and Cllr David Fraser (DF) assumed the Chair.

 a) Chairperson: Phil MacIntosh; proposed (TR), seconded (JP).

Having been elected as Chair PM took over from Cllr David Fraser (DF).

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- b) Secretary: Neil Spence; proposed (JP), seconded (JM).
- c) Treasurer: Ian MacLean; proposed (JM), seconded (TR).

7. Date and venue of the next Annual General Meeting

Monday 19th June 2023 in Farr Community Hall.

Appendix 1 CHAIR'S REPORT - 2022 AGM

Introduction. As with everything else, COVID 19 continued to impact on the Community Council. We have met using Zoom which has some benefits as it tends to make meetings shorter and no travel is involved. It is very much hoped that face-to-face meetings will be back after the Summer, with the option to attend on zoom.

Red John Pumped Storage Hydro.

Although this project has been given the green light, not much has happened so far. There was a consultation last month at Lochardil hotel, but this was only to discuss the SSE power line. Although two community councilors attended the event, it did not really involve Strathnairn community. We will be keeping a close eye on this project as it will have a big impact on our community.

Road Improvements. With reduced budgets for road maintenance and winter weather, the B851, the B861 and the B9154 all gave cause for considerable concern. Ian MacLean from the Community Council has been working alongside The Highland Council (THC) and has had some great results. Unfortunately, Strathnairn's community roads continue to degrade. THC's Colin Ross has achieved great improvements to the B851 and more are planned. Improvements are still required to the B861 and the B9154. We would like to thank Ian Maclean & Colin Ross and his colleagues for all their help and great results.

Safe Routes to School. Much thought and time has gone into safe routes to school from the Croft Croy direction. Again, Colin Ross has been a great help with this and

has made suggestions on moving the car park entrance to School Wood out of the dip so that everyone has a better line of sight. He has managed to start work on this phase, and will hopefully have it completed soon as funding is available.

Aberarder Windfarm. RES wish to increase the height of the turbines and therefore have had to apply for an amendment to the original planning permission. They have also had to apply for a new access road to the site. The wind farm negotiators have been working with RES as this project progresses and hope to update the community shortly. We would like to thank Mark Bessell (wind farm negotiator) for all his help to date.

Glenkyllachy Windfarm. Completed. We would like to thank Charles Morgan for his help with the negotiations.

Strathnairn Newsletter. David Huxtable-Reid has taken over as the new editor. We would like to thank David and his team for all their work to date.

Tordarroch Bridge. Work has just started this month on fixing the bridge. Hopefully all work will be completed in the next few months. Unfortunately, the road is closed to all traffic and pedestrians. Strath Civils secured this job from the THC.

Farr Hall. Open. Risk assessments will have to be completed and complied with.

Daviot Hall. Open. Risk assessments will have to be completed and complied with.

Strathnairn Development Company (SDC). The group have nearly completed a Community Action Plan (CAP). Impact Hub Inverness have been employed as consultants to the SDC.

Community groups meeting. SCC organised a meeting of community groups post-COVID to help improve communication, idea sharing and joint working between the groups.

Christmas event for local children. SCC organised a Christmas event with Santa

in his sleigh delivering gifts for school and nursery children in Daviot and Farr schools. This event brought the community together outside of Farr community hall with SCC members serving teas and coffees and hot chocolates. This was funded, with thanks, from the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund.

Christmas dinner for local senior citizens. SCC delivered Christmas meals to senior citizens at their homes in the Strathnairn area as they were unable to meet as a group last year due to COVID. This was funded, with thanks, from the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund.

Presence and involvement in community events. SCC provided refreshments at the Farr Sustainable Community Market and Farr Gala this year - a useful way to engage and hear what our community have to say.

New Members. Lorna McConachie is our new minute secretary. We would like to thank Lorna for all her help to date.

Planning Applications. Ian Hunt continues to monitor planning applications which is of enormous help to SNCC and very much appreciated. Thanks to Ian.

SNCC Secretary. Neil Spence has remained a most effective Secretary to the Community Council and also deserves our thanks.

Summary. Clearly, Red John and Aberarder Wind farm will have an impact on our lives and the work of the Community Council but at least once the projects are completed, we may have better roads and much less HGV traffic. Lastly my thanks to the members of SNCC who all a pleasure are to work with and this would not be possible without you all.

Phil MacKintosh Chair Strathnairn Community Council 12.6.2022

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