

Chairman's Report 2010

This year we have extended our Council year to bring us into line with the Highland Council year and the future requirements of Community Councils throughout the area. Our year now finishes on 31st March rather than in October as in the past. The year just past therefore ran from 1st November 2008 until March 2010 but from now on will run April to March.

Over the last period your Community Council dealt with many of the concerns of village residents and we are grateful that our local Highland Councillor, Stuart Black, attended all our meetings and dealt with the many matters that were raised. In his capacity as a Board member of CNPA he also keeps us informed about any matters, regarding the park authority that may impact on our community.

The 2008 Christmas Party was well attended and was greatly enjoyed by all those attending so thanks to the members who organised it and did all the hard work. This period also included the 2009 party which was equally well attended and successful. As always the Community Council members have all worked hard at the various events that we promote to raise funds for the village. The Duck race raised around £900 towards the various Christmas Parties that the Council helps to fund. The Carrbridge Gathering + Carve Carr-Bridge was again a very successful event and will probably earn around 7.5K this year for village improvements. Other community groups have stalls at this event and make money for their own funds. It takes a huge amount of effort to organise and manage the event and we are greatly indebted to Carol Ritchie who has been taking over the role of Chief Executive of the event from Gavin Gerrard. Gavin is still involved although no longer resident in the village but management of the event is passing to Carol. Linda Jolly once again excelled in getting great publicity for the World Porridge Championships and continues to keep Carrbridge in the spotlight of international media and we also thank the judges who give up their free time to attend the competition and judge the quality of the porridge. The CC members appreciate the large number of village people involved in making all our events a success and we thank all those who put in their time and effort.

The prospect of the Tom nan Clach windfarm stirred many of the residents and so a public meeting was called to gauge the feeling of the village. Whilst the CC members are aware that many people are in favour of renewable energy the meeting voted resoundingly against the development and the council responded to the planners in that vein. The letter objecting can be seen in the community pages of the village web site www.carrbridge.com

Some of the money raised last year went towards a survey of the Riverside Path which we planned to upgrade. This led to discussions with the Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust (COAT) which was prepared to take on the upgrade of the path to start in April but was brought forward. Construction by Ross McGowan took longer than expected due to the difficult conditions this winter but in spite of these problems it is now complete. We have acquired an extremely good path that is effectively an 'all abilities' path although there is one section that doesn't conform exactly to the specification. The CC would like to thank COAT for their hard work and financial investment and Ross McGowan for an excellent job. We would also thank the Carter family who gave up some land in order to allow the path to be widened to make it more accessible to all abilities. In practice it is being used easily by prams, buggies and wheelchairs. The volume of people using the path has increased dramatically and we look forward to the summer tourists getting the most from the walk. The path will be officially opened on June 4th at 10:00 and all members of the community are welcome to join us to walk from the Ghurkha Bridge to the Old Bridge.

We are progressing with an information panel in the car park but it was delayed due to problems with the copyright status of some of the photos however this has been resolved and we hope to complete it soon. Apologies for the building site being there for so long.

Fergus Thom has been instrumental in the creation of www.carrbridgenews.com a new web site designed to offer news and views of our local community and the CC is totally behind this project by the young people of the village.

We are always keen to have new members of the Council and indeed are happy to have new office bearers so if anyone would like to join us or simply try out membership of the Community Council, please come forward

Scott Bruce