

Chairman's Report 2012

The Community Council year running from April 2011 to March 2012 has been a very busy year for us with a number of changes to our situation. We adopted the new codes of practice and the new constitution as required by The Highland Council.

Over the year your Community Council (CC) 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. Sadly, Stuart has now retired from the Highland Council and we hope that his successor will be as assiduous in attending meetings and dealing with our concerns. We will miss Stuart for his hard work on our behalf and also for his ready wit at meetings.

We had an election for members of the CC in October 2011 as this was one of the few CCs to have more people standing than places on the Council which is a great testament to the community spirit and interest in local affairs that Carr-Bridge has always shown. It was also a measure of the community involvement that 78% of the voters responded, almost double the number casting votes in recent local authority elections and the second highest poll in the Highland Council area. After the election we re-elected office bearers at which time David Ritchie, the longest serving member of the council, stood down as Vice Chairman but remains as a member of the council. We also welcomed a new member Andrew Kirk who you elected to the council and he became our new Vice Chairman. All the other office bearers remained in post.

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, that is held in August, raised around £1100 towards the various Christmas Parties that the Council helps to fund. The Carrbridge Gathering + Carve Carr-Bridge was again a very successful event and contributed almost £9K this year for village improvements. Some of the money raised will go to improvements and repairs for the Village Hall which will protect a valuable asset to the village and we have built a community shed to house the various marquees and furniture plus CC equipment that all goes towards managing these events. It takes a huge amount of effort to organise and manage the event and we are greatly indebted to Carol Ritchie who has taken over the role of Project Manager of the event from Gavin Gerrard. Gavin is still involved although no longer resident in the village. Shona Rankin took over the running of the 2011 World Porridge Championships and showed herself to be an adept project manager and people manager. She faced many difficulties and obstacles but overcame them all to produce an excellent event which, for the first time in many years, showed a profit and we will reinvest that in future events. We must 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 effort that is put into these events by a large number of local people and their involvement is essential to make all our events a success. Our thanks go to you all.

The CC recently organised a public meeting to gauge the views of residents on the proposed Tulloch houses and submitted a pre planning application response to the developer.

Fergus Thom and his team have continued to operate the highly successful web site www.carrbridgenews.com which has taken over from our printed news sheet as the main information vehicle for the community..

Finally I must thank all the members of the present council who put in a huge amount of unpaid work for the benefit of the community. Each year we have more and more to do and I can assure you that every member of this team works hard in your interests.

Scott Bruce