



BROADFORD & STRATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Chairmans Report July 2019

The Broadford and Strath Community Council (BSCC) members had an active and productive year dealing with a good number of issues within the community including cementing relationships with many partners in both the public and private sectors. We continue to receive a reduced annual allowance of £519.00 from Highland Council and that means we have had to seek top up funding to be able to move some projects forward over the next few years

We have co-opted one new member and another active member of the community has joined as an associate member. We have operated throughout the year with the full number of nine members and that is encouraging. We have held nine meetings during the past year and over and above that we have represented the BSCC at many external meetings throughout the year. Members of the public are always welcome to attend our meetings.

We continue to support the school parent council in their endeavours to secure a new school in Broadford. As part of the proposal to build a much-needed new school, there is an aspiration to build a new fit for purpose community hub as part of the overall project and as a result a new working group was set up to steer that aspiration, with the Community Company being the umbrella organisation. The working group has representatives from all the local groups and is being further supported by Highlife Highland, NHS Highland, Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association and West Highland College and others who may have a requirement to make use of a school and hub in the future. The group is the main point of contact for discussions and communication with Highland Council and is chaired by the Community Council Chairman. The work of that group to date has been both productive and positive, with a survey being recently published to seek community views on the Hub element of the proposal. I would take the opportunity to thank all who have contributed and supported the group over the past few months.

Over the past year the CC has engaged with Bear, Police Scotland, Transport Scotland and the Strategic Road Safety department, regarding road safety and the speed limit through the villages in Broadford and Breakish. That dialogue continues and we are actively seeking the maintenance of the electronic speed indicators at the hall and at the north end of the village, including further speed restrictions and extra signage at various points on the A87.

We also continue to keep a close eye on the state of the Skindin layby and it is pleasing to note that all the hard work by volunteers, to clean up the area, has proved effective and the layby remains accessible and clean.

Over the past eighteen months, we have engaged with the HC regarding parking charges at the Broadford north carpark and it now appears, from the consultation process currently being advertised, that we have secured an extra half hour free parking and increased free parking time up to an hour.

We were eventually heavily involved in the new Cooperative refurbishment and while the community had not been notified or officially consulted, regarding this important proposal, the Community Council stepped in to try and secure some community participation. As a result, we feel that we played a major - and we hope helpful - role with our continued and regular attendance with the project manager who embraced and actioned most, if not all, of our concerns and suggestions.

The CC took part in the Community Councils Governance Review and will attend a final meeting in the next few months; at the moment the feedback from Community Councils around the Governance Review supports the general findings from the review of the Scheme, namely that Community Councils are supportive of greater involvement in decision making and having a say on local spending. The majority of Community Councils are not however suggesting significantly changing their role but supporting greater involvement and improving the relationship with the Council. Feedback does not suggest that there is any strong support from Community Councils to create new structures or provide them with greater powers locally. The changes suggested, can be met within the existing powers and structures currently in place. However, there have been changes suggested to the current legislative context through this Review and should be included as part of the Council's response to the Local Governance Review. These are:

- Code of Conduct and support for a complaints process that is independently overseen
- Changing the legal status of Community Councils to provide them with incorporated status
- Providing Community Councils with a more formal role as statutory consultees for other areas of public service e.g. adult health and social care, policing, environmental issues.

We also completed a questionnaire regarding Ward 10 Elected Members Engagement and Communication with Community Councils.

We have recently again joined up with the Community Company to look at the opportunity the Town Centre Fund may have in relocating the public toilets in Broadford across to the carpark and along with that the opportunity to secure the carpark itself for the community benefit. An application to the fund has been submitted and we await the outcome of that.

Over the year we have also worked with the Community Company to secure funding to help to get village benches renovated, facilitating the funding from Compass and LSHA for path repair work in the Community Garden and Repairs to the stone walls, and secured an extra £300 from the Ward 10 discretionary fund to put towards purchasing two new community noticeboards which will be erected at the Cooperative.

In June of last year, we met with the Police Inspector to discuss drug and alcohol issues in the village including underage drinking. That was a productive meeting and we are grateful for the ongoing attendance of police officers, at as many of our meetings as they can possibly attend.

We are delighted that NHS Highland signed the £40 million contract with hub North Scotland Ltd to build the 2 new hospitals in Aviemore and Broadford as part of the modernisation of community and hospital services in Badenoch & Strathspey and Skye, Lochalsh & South West Ross. There will be ongoing work in relation to the redesign of health and social care in Skye, Lochalsh & South West Ross and the extra good news is that the new hospital build in Broadford will begin in mid-August.

The above is a very brief outline of the work of the CC over the past year and if anybody wishes further information, that can be accessed on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Broadford-Strath-Community-Council-186330311575421/?fref=ts>, our website or by contacting us by email at broadfordandstrathcommunitycouncil@googlemail.com

We are also grateful to Norma McKenzie and her team for organisation of the Old folks Xmas dinner. Thanks also to all the BSCC members who organised and put on another excellent fireworks display and to Angus Macphie for auditing our annual accounts.

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteer members of the CC for giving freely of their time to promote and support this community and for supporting me and keeping me right over the past year.

Hamish Fraser
Chairman Broadford and Strath Community Council