St Fillans Community Council. Chairman’s Annual report 2018.

St Fillans community council has had five meetings and one EGM since the last AGM with a moderate turn out at all of their meetings. The CC membership remains the same as last year.

My thanks to all of our village CC members and village volunteers once again. We are so lucky to continue to have the active, enthusiastic individuals and groups within this village. This volunteer section, who continue to maintain and upgrade it, make it a much more pleasant place to live and they all have the thanks of the village.

I will now outline some of the key achievements of the past year.

Village Infrastructure.

Significant improvements have been gained this year including the following –

The new street lights have been completed, the first bus stop has been installed, the pavements have been upgraded, more bay speed limit signs have been installed, thank you to John Wilkie for his sponsorship. The new telephone directory has been updated, printed and distributed and the new Saturday evening bus service to the village has been secured. Broadband has also been improved by changes to the exchange, whilst we continue to wait for the fibre optic to be connected. The village website was also upgraded for better viewing by mobile devices.

Infrastructure improvement remains the main aim of this community council and although there is much to be done, I hope villagers are feeling the benefit of these improvements.

National Park Bye Laws.

These are working with great effect. Overuse and misuse of the loch side have been greatly reduced with the delightful spectacle of families and genuine fishermen/women returning to our shores. Two ongoing issues are the issue of permits and the low numbers of those fishing. I remain convinced that after the introductory period, these numbers will again start to rise, particularly as over 85% of visitor’s state in the online survey that they would recommend staying within the NP to others.

Loch Earn Railway Path.

Phase three of the LERP has been in place for some time having been opened by the late Cecil Smylie. It is another fantastic addition to this great project and I wish the team all success going forward. I am told that nearly 16,000 walkers, cyclists and other users have used the path so far. An excellent number considering that it is only partially complete

My thanks as always to both Geoff Hardman-Carter and the paths team and Johnston Brown and the Community Trust for all their hard work in making this happen.

Paths group.

The main area of business, as well as the usual work of paths, signage and the continuation of the LERP, has been to attempt to deal with the obstruction of the railway line above Fortrenn. This has now been resolved and will be discussed further in the following CC meeting. Many thanks to Geoff Hardman-Carter and the team, who have once again been very busy.

Gardening Group.

Under the leadership of Eric Kenelly, this group has again been hard at work. The maintenance of tubs and the mowing rota for the East end of the village makes a delightful entrance into our wee village. There has been earth moving by the Field Of Hope, litter picking parties and the clearing of the river bank by the foot bridge. The clearing of the foreshore in front of the war memorial has also been cleared and significantly improved in recent weeks.

Festive Committee.

The Festive committee organised a very successful Festive weekend over three days, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the village. Starting with the unveiling of the cairn, it was followed by a gala of music food and fun and was immensely successful, with all events being sold out. Thanks to the committee and all those who helped erect marquees, lay flooring and take it all down at the end.

They also ran a very well attended Bonfire Night and fireworks, with generous donations by those in attendance helping raise some very needed village funds. Thanks to all those who helped in any way.

This year the committee raised a marquee for the boat race finish. Within it was music, a tombola and a BBQ, which transformed the finish. More of the boat race to follow at the general meeting.

My thanks to all those who retired from the Festive committee this year for their hard work and I wish Bruce and his new team all success going forward.

Great Loch Earn Boat Race.

Again, there were a small number of entrants, with only four boats being taken. The weather was good and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, particularly as the start and finish were so much improved. Thanks again to Brad and all at the Achray, to the sponsors Strathearn Gin and to the festive committee.

St Fillans entered two boats, the Gents team named Zeroes Not Heroes and the ladies team named Mama Mia. The gents team won the event and the ladies won the veterans trophy. Significant funds were raised by both teams for MND Scotland and thank you to all who sponsored both boats.

Brad is organising boats for next year and I am told he has about eight booked already. As always, thanks to Russell and Liz for their annual BBQ, it was a late one!

Neighbourhood Watch.

We have been quiet this year, which is a good thing as there wasn’t much to report. I will continue to send out Hints and Tips if anything does occur.

Poppy Scotland.

The Poppy Scotland appeal made £180.32 in the village last year. Although this is an improvement on last year, much of that was donated by the MPS Long Distance Walking Team, who paid a visit.

Golf Club

This looks like a good year for the club with some great appointments having been made. These include the very popular new caterers Julie and Jo and of course, the new green keeper John Myles, who they managed to poach from Gleneagles.

All other village groups have been active this year, and include the music group, the Scottish country dance group and the ladies lunch club. The ladies and gent’s supper clubs have also been very active and my thanks to Daisy Murray and Isobel Howell, plus Don Forrester for organising them. These groups are of great benefit to our village, especially during the winter months. Please continue to support them.

I would like to take the opportunity to remember those of our community who are no longer with us. We have lost some important members and they are missed. To those who have left the village and moved on, we wish you well and look forward to seeing you again. To those who have recently moved to our village and I am delighted to say that there have been quite a few, it is great to have you living with us and we hope you enjoy St Fillans as much as we do.

For me personally, my sincere thanks to all those residents and volunteers who make this great wee village the wonderful place that it is to live and visit. I would also like to thank my fellow Community Councillors for all their hard work.

To conclude. We, your Community Council, wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year

Richard Graham.

Chairman,

St Fillans Community Council.

9th May 2018.