

St Fillans Community Council AGM Chair's Report October 2021

St Fillans Community Council has continued to carry out meetings online due to Covid19 restrictions. We finally opened the doors of The Sandison Hall on August 11th of this year, and very refreshing it was too.

Again, my sincere thanks to the CC members, The Community Trust, and the Church who without these three working together I feel St Fillans would not be a totally functional place.

My thanks also to volunteer groups, village volunteers who have worked so hard to maintain, improve and keep our village, not only for ourselves but for visitors to enjoy. The council has retained the same four members for this year, me as Chair, Ulrika Hollas as Vice-Chair, Rico Hollas as treasurer and Colette MacLeod as secretary.

There is also a special thank you to Don Forrester for his tireless work not only maintaining the village website but in keeping the CC documentation system Government compliant. This he did before the specified deadline and before P&K and the Government.

Buses

Buses are continuing to run albeit at a very reduced service, after hearing and seeing plans from Bear that we were going to have hard standing for bus stops, nothing further has appeared yet.

Camping and jet skiers 'PWC'

We gained feedback from residents this year, it seems to have been a much-improved season with regards to both Campers and PWC users. A lot of work by the CC went into interactive meetings with multi agencies. This has resulted in new signage, parking restrictions and code of conduct for visitors and loch users. Increased patrols by the Rangers and police took place with them working more closely and with a better understanding of issues. A central hub has also been developed for information to be gathered and shared between all agencies.

The introduction of a bylaw restricting the use of alcohol on the Perth and Kinross side of the loch may not appear as it would have needed to be evidenced based. There were not that many issues reported this year.

There were other factors contributing to less problems with campers and PWC users. The loch was continually high as there was a lot of maintenance work being carried out by SSE and the better management of craft after the sale of The Drummond Arms Hotel.

Policing

We are in correspondence with the local constabulary via PC Donnie Florence in Crieff but are waiting for an actual visit from them. This after the local Sergeant Ross retired and PC Steve Mitchell went on to pastures new which left a bit of a void. I will reiterate that through meetings and a visit from Inspector Craig Stephen, Police Scotland are now better

informed of local bylaws and our issues and how they can deal with them. This does not always work but it is improving.

Bridges

Dundurn Bridge has finally been repaired. Although with concrete cement and not lime mortar, which as a grade B listed structure it should be!

Paths Group

The next section for the LERP is all but ready to go with all funding and planning permissions in place. The paths group have been diligently maintaining the path from Tynreoch to its current end point behind Foxknowe.

Gardening Group

The Field of Hope site has now been completed, it looks terrific and has transformed what to all intents was a piece of waste land. After a successful application with "Take a pride in Perth and Kinross Association" steps are being taken to return the artwork 'Still' to the Village.

Festive committee

Almost immediately after Covid restrictions lifted the Committee organised a free to all party with some exceptional prizes being won at the free raffle draw. This was held on the usual festive weekend in the play park area and was very well attended.

Sandison Hall Groups

The Sandison Hall also reopened with two new clubs set up: a book swap club open to all in the village, at the Fire Exit annex, (no restrictions) and a table tennis club. Yoga remains on Saturdays; however, two clubs have gone those being Music Circle which is now held in Comrie and the Scottish dancing club.

Community Action Plan

The CAP 2017-22 is coming to an end next year, to be replaced with 'The Local Place Plan.' This is being head up by Carol Graham.

There have been two new village groups started this year.

The Cultural Heritage Group

This group headed by Jim Brierley has focused mainly on Dundurn Cemetery but has also established the exact position of the old village of Morell and held a meeting at the War

Memorial on its hundredth anniversary. We learnt the history and placement of those who had fallen on our behalf. Followed by some heartfelt emotional words from Alan Milne.

The Community Centre Feasibility Study Group

This was set up as the village is full and going to be expanding. More on this later.

Other Projects

There are three large new construction projects happening within the village that have involved the CC and invites were sent to attend a presentation and Q&A meetings.

The sale of The Drummond Arms Hotel (I can't remember its previous name), resigned to the Annals of St Fillans perhaps. This was attended by Crieff Hydro Project Manager Ollie Braithwaite-Exley and Hotel General Manager Christian Campbell. Early stages and updates to follow in due course.

Drummond Estates also attended the same meeting and presented on the final phase of Dundurn Road project. A lot of interest for both presentations.

Lastly the Caravan Site (Caledonian Lodges) Station Road. They were also invited to present to the village, however, there has been no reply. More to follow in the Council meeting.

Welcome to New Villagers

Again, Paula Linton has been kept busy with meeting and giving out welcome packs to even more new residents. I extend a warm welcome to you all and hope you all get as much pleasure from living in St Fillans as I do.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for making the Village what it is and for supporting the community throughout these exceptional times, (sorry for the cliché). A big thank you to my fellow councillors for their support and hard work, and for the support of the Community Trust.

In conclusion we have had another busy year. Again, I thank all involved and look forward to another busy, busy year 2021-22.