

## **St Fillans Community Council - Outgoing Chairmans Report.**

Dear Villagers,

As you will be aware, your new community council and office bearers will be formally elected at an EGM to be held on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month. There are strict guidelines and timelines that must be adhered to, and unfortunately these do not allow for a closing report by myself the outgoing chairman, nor Don Forrester the outgoing treasurer. Nor does it allow you, the community we serve, to examine those accounts and ask questions as appropriate. I find this situation highly unsatisfactory.

To this end, and in agreement with the incoming chairman, both myself the outgoing chairman, and Don the outgoing treasurer have decided to circulate closing reports for your perusal. We are both happy to answer any questions you have, and will ensure that should there be any, that they are answered.

### **Outgoing Chairmans report.**

When I assumed the chair of St Fillans Community Council in 2014, I held a meeting with my fellow councillors and asked whether they thought we ought to set ourselves targets, so that in future, we could judge how successful or otherwise our time in office had been. After some positive conversation, we concluded that rather than set specific objectives, our role should be to support the village working groups and try to improve the overall infrastructure of the village.

How successful we have been is of course a matter of opinion, but I leave feeling confident that we have worked hard and "done our bit".

### *Village Working Groups.*

The support of these groups was one of our primary aims. To this end we, both as councillors and as individuals, have tried to constantly support each village group.

By their nature, some groups required more practical assistance, whilst others required councillor intervention. So as well as humping marquees, bonfire materials and lawn mowers, we have planted trees, litter picked, strimmed and put up Christmas lights.

As councillors, amongst other things, we have changed the village constitution to allow the play park to progress, we have argued to adjudicating panels that the path should be allowed to continue through disputed land, and we have taken the views of these groups to our MP's and MSP's and the National Park, in order to fight their corners.

So I hope we have played a small part, and I wish to thank all volunteer individuals and groups in this village for their hard work. It helps to make St Fillans the outstanding place that it is in which to live and speaking personally, I will always continue to do my bit. Thank you also to those groups for their positive comments regarding our involvement and support.

### *Village Infrastructure.*

Again, this was seen by us as an important part of our role. We have a great village, but it is not without its issues. We have had quite a bit of success in trying to improve various areas of infrastructure, but I can also tell you that attempting to make improvement is not without its challenges, and can be extremely frustrating.

I will outline below some of the areas of improvement to infrastructure we have achieved, partially achieved and some that are ongoing. In some areas we have directly influenced outcome, in others we have played a more supporting role by encouraging, pushing and cajoling.

Here are some of those achievements -

- National Park Bye Laws and Warden Service.
- Purchase of new village Christmas tree lights.
- Participated in, and supported the Community Action Plan.
- Arranging the village Christmas Carols service.
- Drainage and flooding. We have had some success, but many frustrations in this area. Much has been promised over several years, but less has been delivered.
- Bus stops. One of two has been replaced.
- Snow clearance.
- High speed broadband.
- Road re-surfacing.
- Pavement re-surfacing.
- Village glass recycling facility.
- Great Loch Earn Boat Race.
- BLISS art trail.
- Village phone directory.
- Village website.
- Salt bins.
- Speed indicators.
- Street lighting.
- Bay speed limit signs.
- Saturday late bus service.
- Community Payback.
- Public toilets.
- Neighbourhood Watch.
- Loch Earn Water Sports.
- Poppy Scotland.

- Pavement cleansing.
- RBS meetings to represent village views.
- General Data Protection obligations fulfilled.
- Supported villagers buildings at risk concerns.
- Brought in speakers with expertise in funding streams to attend CC for the benefit of interested villagers.
- Sat on Community Investment Fund panel.
- Various speeding issues and potential solutions.

These are some of the matters that spring to mind. Some have been fully achieved, some less so, and some are ongoing. What I can say is, we have certainly tried to improve the infrastructure of this village.

### Conclusion.

Before I close there are a number of people I must thank.

Firstly to my fellow villagers for your support. There have been some bumps along the way, but we have always had overwhelming support from you, and for that we are very grateful.

Secondly to my fellow Community Councillors. We have never had a bad word and have always worked hard together for the benefit of our community. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside you.

I must give a special mention to my Vice Chairman and Treasurer, Donald Forrester. I say without fear of contradiction, that few people in this village have any idea of the hours and hours of work that Don quietly puts in on your behalf, without ever seeking recognition. I do know Don, and you have my sincere thanks.

To our Councillors Rhona, Stewart and Roz. You are all dedicated people, who attend our meetings regularly and are always there to support us when needed. I wish you all success.

Finally, to our new Community Council. I wish you all success, you will always have my support, I am sure you will do great things for this village.

Should any villager have any questions regarding this report, matters omitted or outstanding matters, please let me know. I have been told by the incoming chairman that I can answer them from the floor at the next Community Council meeting.

Very best wishes,

Richard Graham.

6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.