

Chairman's Report to Stromeferry and Achmore Community Council May 2014

Another year of lively debate and a lot of work by people on the committee has seen 2013 through. A lot of issues have been worked on and watched over by the council.

These include the following:

A890 upgrade/ rerouting.

We continue to attend meetings in the process to decide the eventual route for the proposed road and a public meeting and presentation was held in Achmore by URS & Highland Council to outline the possible scheme and to hear people's fears and thoughts; since one of the routes take the road just to the North of the village.

Mary has attended and contributed to many of the meetings regarding the future health services to the area and the provision of what we hope will be a new hospital facility which will serve the needs of Skye , Wester Ross & Lochalsh .

She has also taken on the project to provide a defibrillator to the village. This is being done in conjunction with Lucky2Bhere who are to supply the unit. In October 2013 we held a training course in the hall for anyone who was interested in learning how to operate the unit. A big enthusiastic turn out ensued and our thanks go to Alan Main and Lanny Alexander for their comprehensive and amusing demonstration. It is hoped that the unit will be here soon and perhaps some more training to ensure people are comfortable and confident in its use.

The Road fault spreadsheet continues to work for both the community and the council. It enables us to have an input and also to be able to hold the TEC services to account whilst ensuring they have the proper information to fulfil their duties. This has been recognised as being such a success that we have been asked if we are happy for the spreadsheet system to be regarded as best practice for other councils by Robbie Bain our Ward Manager.

We signed up to join the winter resilience scheme, where the council provide us with protective clothing and shovels etc and provide salt enabling us to be the first line of defence in keeping local paths, pavements and side roads snow and ice free through the winter. The winter this year was mild so we were not needed but the scheme continues and will be operational again this winter.

In February we heard of the impending closure of a number of service points throughout the Highlands and so gave our support to the campaign to keep them open. Audrey Sinclair, our councillor, is on the committee created to look into this and with a lot of public support this committee managed to at least stall closures and so things will stay as they are at least until June 2015.

As well as Community council work, Phil leads the broadband project, and his knowledge and communication skills were called upon in October when the BT exchange in Achmore stopped providing the already laborious signal it was delivering. After many hours of phone calls to a very unhelpful BT , cajoling and hair pulling the signal was resumed. We are very grateful to his patience and resilience (winter and summer).The broadband project it is worth noting, continues to progress and we look forward to a much improved system for the village on its completion.

The council continues to liaise with all relevant bodies to try to ensure the community is represented and informed on as many pertinent issues as is practicable and I would like to thank all members for giving their time ,effort and thoughts to all issues.

Committee numbers were depleted by the resignation of Wilfar Matheson who had taken over the role of treasurer and who's input gave a different dimension to discussion. Our thanks must go to Dawn who immediately stepped in to fill the treasurers vacancy and continues to do so.

Particular thanks to Audrey Sinclair who has performed all her duties with professionalism and to Biss Cambell who although this year has not been with us; but always gives her support

Neil MacRae

