

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust – Biannual Report.

During the last six months the Trust has held its meeting at approximately 6 weekly intervals. One member has retired and we have recruited two new Directors one of whom will be of non voting status due to not yet meeting the 8 year residency qualification required by the Community Council at the time the Trust was set up.

Our membership is as follows:

Chairperson: H. Grainger, Inverfarigaig.

Secretary: A. Sutherland, Aultnagoire.

Treasurer: F. Ellam, Easter Boleskine. (non Voting)

Directors:

W. Fraser: Gorthleck.

M. Houston: Knockie.

M. Bateman: Glenbrien

A. Holt: Inverfarigaig.

H. Parrot: Errogie.

S. Ferguson: Knockie.

The Trust currently has £25,400 in the bank which should rise to approximately £130,000 when the Scottish Community Foundation releases and brings up to date the Glendoe monies which it has been holding. We have now persuaded them to grant us complete autonomy to award grants of up to £10,000 and this is a welcome development.

There are no additional community benefit monies to be awarded in the immediate future, but there is significant potential for further payments from proposed green energy schemes within our area.

During the last six months we have made the following awards:

South Loch Ness Access Group, Path Improvements: £2,500

Community Council, firework display: £450

Heritage Group Publication: £2,500

We are currently considering an application for funding for a community web site and there is a prospect of group taking forward establishment of a community mini bus

service. A representative of Strathnairn Community Trust has been invited to our next meeting to specifically talk about their experiences.

The Trust has been considering the potential for longer term investment of the Community funds and have had talks with Albyn Housing Association about joint development of their Gorthleck site for key worker housing and also very preliminary discussions with the Forestry Commission about the potential for investment in their proposed hydro electric scheme on the Farigaig.

We still await a meeting with Scottish and Southern Energy and Fort Augustus Community Trust on how best to invest the £135,000 which has been allocated to our area for “Energy Efficiency” and for which we have already canvassed households who are interested in having an energy audit carried out on their properties.

A. Sutherland

Secretary.