



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

### **Chairman's Report 2022/23**

It has been a busy year for our Community Council with four significant achievements. The 20 flats at Ferguson Court are now occupied, we have a new Pharmacy, a re-vamped Spar Shop and an Outdoor Classroom at the Primary School. We are especially pleased to welcome Mhor Health to our community having supported Jen and Gillian from the outset.

Dialogue with the roads authorities both national and local have brought some improvements to our road network, but not as quickly or comprehensively as we would wish. We will continue to pursue the agencies to improve our roads.

The likely disruption caused by the construction of the Coire Glas Pumped Storage Scheme has already manifested itself in the work of the Community Council. We have attended all of the Liaison Group Meetings, and had a number of meetings with SSE Renewables and Strabag UK their Preparatory Works Contractor. We have concerns about consent variations and amendments without public scrutiny, and SSER's unwillingness to name the final two civil engineering contractors who are making decisions on the disposal of rock and spoil which are critical to us. With Gilkes Energy looking at a site on the Adverikie Estate adjacent to the A86 for a 900MW Pumped Storage Scheme it is imperative we make sure developers are held to account to minimize damage to our environment.

The Community Council took over the administration of the Stronelairg Windfarm Community Fund Micro Grants from Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry SCIO in September 2022 and have made 4 awards totalling £2000. We are grateful to both the SCIO for administering the funds during our period of abeyance, and to SSE Renewables for the overall funding.

Next year will bring new challenges for us to tackle, as well as the issues that we have so far failed to find acceptable solutions for, but I am confident that the Community Councillors will all strive to make a difference for our residents.

I am most grateful to the Oban Times for their support in publishing our Minutes and any articles of local importance. My thanks also to our Highland Councillors and the Ward Manager's staff for their contribution, advice and support. Particular appreciation must go to my fellow Community Councillors, all volunteers who give of their time willingly to discuss the problems that affect our lives, and find solutions. It can at times be a thankless task, but we are fortunate to have such community minded individuals looking after our interests. I would like finally to thank all who have contributed in any way in the past year to assist us.

**John Fotheringham**  
**Chairman**

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