

Morvern Community Council Annual Report to the AGM for the past year to 31st March 2023 (and questions from the floor).

This is a short year to report on as our last AGM was delayed until October 2022 as we were required to hold interim elections. At these elections all current councillors (Angus Robertson, Morven Gemmill, Annie Tordoff) were reappointed, while two co-opted members (Tom Finlay and Janette Cameron) were elected as full councillors. Douglas Taylor remains as a co-opted councillor, and we welcomed Henriette Laidlaw as a newly elected Councillor. Thanks go to all of those for their hard work and dedication to the community throughout the year and to Kenny McLaughlin who stood down from his role as councillor in June 2022. We would also like to thank all those other members of the community who have joined with us in so many various ways to help.

Our main efforts this year have concentrated on a few key subjects including:

- Retirement of our GP, Dr Taylor and replacement strategy. We have sought to work with our wonderful health team at the surgery as well as the NHS Highland primary care team, whose job is to provide healthcare in the area. We have helped organise various public meetings on the subject, liaise between the various parties and promote the local issues of concern and get the best we can out of the situation for our community. We have had a year and more of locum doctors which has been quite successful but are now entering a new phase, sharing our GP service with the Acharacle Practice, formally from 1st July.
- Falling School Roll and Housing. Predictions are that, unless something good out of the blue happens very soon the school roll will drop significantly over the next couple of years to a level which many of us think may not be sustainable. MCC has been seeking to raise awareness of this crisis and encourage all who can do something about it to get going. We really need more kids in the school. We need to learn from other communities how to make that happen, then make it happen here. MCC are encouraging and supporting any initiatives to create more affordable housing, including the conversion or use of suitable second or empty homes. We are also supporting MCDC who are working hard to deliver more affordable housing, to break the log jam - kids need parents who need **affordable housing** as well as jobs. We are hoping to hold a community workshop on this subject in the near future.
- Village Maintenance - Thanks again goes to Morvern Community Trust for providing funding support for the programme of grass cutting and maintenance work that will go ahead throughout the current year. Thanks also to Morven Gemmill for organising the contract and to our new local contractor for taking on the hard work this year with the support of the Lochaline Grassmen who were too busy by the time we got ourselves organised.
- Corran Ferry crisis. MCC has represented Morvern on the Ferry replacement working groups for several years, were quick to react to the crisis when the Maid of Glencoul finally collapsed and worked hard to get Highland Council to put best possible mitigation arrangements in place as soon as possible. Our thanks go to Henriette who is leading on Ferries with Annie Tordoff in support. We are now working as part of a formal group of six Community Councils (five west of the ferry plus Nether Lochaber), in meetings with Highland Council and others over both short-term mitigation and resilience planning for the ferry and also longer term solutions.
- Road Repairs. We had great success last year with the surfacing work on the Drimnin Road and the council's thanks go to Morvern Gemmill who lead on this. We have been less successful, so far this year, in getting the Highland Council to complete the sections of the

road at the wishing stone and Sruthan to Kirkbrae, which were in last year's contract and expected to be done this spring. We will keep chasing for this.

Generally, I would also like to thank all those individuals and groups in Morvern who each do their bit in their own way to make Morvern the wonderful place that it is.

Lastly - please note that the four yearly Community Council Elections take place in November this year (2023). There will be places on the council that need filling and opportunities for people to join in and make our community better. Please have a think about it, come along to one of our meetings to see what we do and get ready to apply - either now as co-opted places are available or in the autumn.

Thank You.

Angus Robertson (Chair MCC)
12th June 2023