

# **Kinlochbervie Community Council**

AGM – 30th June 2015

## **Chairman's Report**

At the time of my first election as chairman of the Community Council (4<sup>th</sup> October, 2011), I stated that it was my intention to chair meetings of the Community Council, but, in as far as it was possible, to delegate all other tasks to other members of the Council.

Over the past 12 months, I have had chaired most of the meetings of the Community Council, but was relieved of this task by Gary Sutherland, who chaired meetings when I was incapacitated due to loss of voice. I am grateful to Gary for being prepared to take on this responsibility, and for the way he so ably chaired those meetings. In addition to chairing meetings, I have, in my capacity as chairman, received numerous emails. Where appropriate, I have forwarded these emails to other members of the Community Council.

Subjects discussed at Community Council meetings include Core paths and repairs to bridges that form part of these paths; dog fouling, livestock on public roads and deer management; improving road safety at Laxford Bridge; the proposed Creag Rhibhach wind farm; the North West Highlands Geopark, noticeboards and tourist information; the matter of access to the High School gymnasium; the Community Company's progress toward acquiring the former teacher's house on Manse Road and land at Loch Clash; storm damage; Highland Council's winter gritting programme; the future of High Speed Broadband in the area; mobile telephone reception in the area; possibilities for public transport to Lairg and Inverness; the improvement of the local football pitch; and medical, dental, and ambulance services.

While Community Councils hear many reports from other bodies, and discuss many matters, it is often more difficult to point to things that Community Councils achieve. Since the last AGM we can point to the fact that, partly due to our lobbying efforts, trees were felled beside Laxford Bridge, resulting in much improved visibility of oncoming traffic for motorists, and warning sign-age has been put in place. In the past few months, the Scottish Ambulance Service has agreed to provide increased staffing for the local ambulance crew, which will undoubtedly lead to better emergency ambulance provision. We would like to think that our lobbying was, in part, responsible for this decision of the Ambulance Service.

When I was first elected chairman of the Community Council, the then secretary suggested to me that it was a good idea for individuals not to hold such a position for too long. It is now almost four years since I first took office, and I do not intend to seek re-election.

John Mann