



The 2019 Annual General Meeting of Cromar Community Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has seen the conclusion of several long-running sagas and the beginning of others that I hope will be more quickly resolved.

The former include the installation of a footpath to allow the children of Logie Coldstone to move more safely between the school and the Village Hall, and we are immensely grateful to Councillor Gibb, the officials of Aberdeenshire Council concerned, and the staff and PTA of the school for all their hard work in bringing this about. We are also delighted that both the Migvie and Ordie phone boxes have now been removed to good homes. The former, by courtesy of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Rothesay, has been installed at Abergeldie, where it now functions as a miniature community library, and we thank His Royal Highness for his generous gift of a splendid tree which will soon be planted on the Market Stance in Tarland and lit up at Christmas.

Progress has been made in other areas – in Tarland, the recently-improved drains on the Aberdeen Road are now working well. The garden on the site of the old bowling green has been planted and the 'road signs' on the path round it have been welcomed and enjoyed by small cyclists and scooter users. In Logie Coldstone, the Community Café continues to flourish, and we were pleased to sponsor and help organise an evening to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas lights in Tarland and the subsequent children's party masterminded by Sarah Smith's energetic committee. We were glad, too, to support the Tarland Bee Group's planning application for a community apiary at Oldtown.

But plenty of other issues face us in the year ahead. In Logie Coldstone, we are now pressing for a crossing to take the children safely across the road to the path to the Hall; in Tarland, the future of the playpark pavilion is still not yet resolved; and we continue to be concerned about the state of the Square and the future of the Kids' Club. We plan to restart the process of producing a Community Action Plan when we return in the autumn. And talking of the future, we have contributed to several consultations, the most important of which is the one about the main issues report of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. We hope that the planners and Elected Members will listen carefully to what we have had to say, especially about the settlement

statements for Tarland and Logie Coldstone, which as, presently drafted, will not, we believe, serve our communities well.

We are also working to improve communications and plan a new Community Council website. We are grateful to Janelle Clark, the Marr Area Manager, for her help in establishing better contact with and from officials of Aberdeenshire Council, and to Sgt. Keith Greig of Police Scotland for his reports.

This is the first year that we have been operating under a new constitution, thanks to the revised Scheme for Community Councils. I welcome both the constitution and the Scheme because they firmly establish our position as the voice of our community at its grass roots. I believe that, in these days of dwindling council finances, when communities will be expected to do more for themselves, it is more important than ever that our voice is listened to with respect and care so that everyone can work together effectively.

Finally, I would like to thank our Ward Councillors for their help and advice and we are grateful, too, to the staffs of the Marr Area office and the Marr Area Partnership, and to the many Aberdeenshire Council officials with whom we have come into contact. And I thank you, my colleagues on the Community Council, and all the members of the public who have attended our meetings or raised matters that have helped to improve our lives here in Cromar.

Simon Welfare
26 June 2019.