

Chairmans Annual Report

Carloway Community Council

April 2017

I have a mixture of emotions as I begin to write this annual report for the Carloway Community Council for the year ending April 2017.

Firstly, I like all the other members of this Community Council were shocked and saddened earlier this year to hear that one of our members, Christine Forbes, had passed away. Christine was a popular member of the community and will be sadly missed by everyone. Our sincere condolences go to Christines' husband Iain and members of her wider family.

On a happier note the Council have had minor successes and hopefully the coming year will bring some ongoing projects to fruition. Earlier this year Alex was successful in acquiring two pieces of gymnasium equipment which were of outstanding quality and surplus to the requirements of the Stornoway Sports Centre which was newly re-equipped. This equipment is located at present in the Day Care Centre on a temporary basis until a permanent location is acquired.

In December, Councillor Angus Morrison held a training session in the Carloway Day Care Centre on the use of defibrillators and two defibrillators were bought by the Community Council at a cost of £3000.00 and were located in Tolsta Chaolais and at the Old School Annex in Carloway.

Other Ward Funding and Social Grant was divided amongst different organisations with £350 for the Sunshiners Club, £100 for the Youth Club, £300 for the Community Association for the Old Folks Annual Dinner, and £50 to each of the two churches for youth work. Further funding was provided for the Football Club and the Carloway Agricultural Show for the purchase of equipment, both those organisations receiving over £800.

In August 2016 the Transocean Winner oil rig which was being towed to the west of the Hebrides broke loose from its' towline and came ashore at Dalmore. The owners made a contribution of £60,000 to the community and it was decided to allocate this to the Dalmore Cemetery Committee to repair the coastal erosion barrier next to the Cemetery. Iain MacArthur (Chairman, Dalmore Cemetery Committee) is to liaise with the Community Council and get estimates and further funding to complete this project.

In November Alex and I met with Peter Coldwell from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar to survey the Garenin road in the hope of achieving funds from Sustrans and other funding sources to create a pathway alongside the road from the Carloway Bridge to the Garenin Blackhouse Village. A letter has been drafted to request approval from all those owning land and croft tenants adjacent to this road and will be distributed soon.

I look forward to the coming year with optimism and progress being made on the two major projects mentioned, The Coastal Erosion Barrier at Dalmore and the Garenin Roadside pathways. I also look forward to new projects being proposed and supported. I also congratulate the Carloway Community Association for the work they have done, and yet to do with the Old School project, I wish them every success with their fundraising efforts.

The Carloway Community Council area has much to look forward to in the coming years.

Angus Macleod
Chairman Carloway Community Council