



MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 154

OCTOBER 2016



Manor & Castle Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Chairperson's Comments
- Councillor's Comment's
- Local information

Chairman's Comments

Hello everyone and welcome to our October meeting. As promised at last month's meeting I have included a brief article on the devolvement of certain social security benefits from the UK Government to the Scottish Government. There is also a new report on the increasing cost of funerals and as you can see the Western Isles is still the cheapest in Scotland but more needs to be done to assist those who find this to be an additional financial burden at such a difficult time.

Speeding Cars

Below is the sign placed by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar at both entrances to Assaye Place in order to deter drivers from driving at excessive speeds due to pedestrians, children playing and cars parked on both sides which at any one time can only allow one car to pass through. Sadly Assaye Place is still like a "rat run" and as far as residents can observe little or no heed is paid to the signs – in fact it is almost a challenge to drive even faster!



Roddy Nicolson

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Councillor's Report

Time has flown by this year with a week of sunshine in October that was welcomed but we are back to the cold dark start of winter.

We completed our October series of meetings on 5th October and a number of issues of interest were raised and discussed.

The opening times of the sports centre were debated and it was decided that it was not feasible to extend the hours of the current service. Insufficient staff cover and costs were the main factors.

At the Environment and Protective Services committee, there was a presentation on the recent Private Sector House Condition Survey. The main points I took from this were that

- Only 4,399 households (42.0%) use the most economically efficient payment method – monthly by direct debit.
 - Only 1,415 households (13.5%) have ever changed their energy provider.
 - 2,487 households (23.8%) have no access to the internet; 2,638 households (25.2%) are unable to use a computer on the internet
- We, as a community, are still paying too much for our electricity.

The future use of the library café was also discussed at the Policy and Resource committee and it was agreed that Stornoway elected members should be involved in any discussions that take place regarding this popular place in the town.

The October sale of work is at the Lewis Retirement Centre at 12pm. Our sales of work have been a great success over the years with tremendous baking on offer!

Councillor Gordon Murray

Future First Minister from Manor Park?

Rebecca McGrath of 1st Stornoway Girls Brigade was among 100 girls and leaders from over Scotland to partake in the riding at the opening of the parliament on Saturday 2nd July 2016. Rebecca is the great granddaughter of Katie Mary and Jonny Dol MacLeod that lived at 2 MacLeod Road. Watch out Nicola, Rebecca is eyeing your job!





Designing a Social Security System for Scotland

The CAB service has a unique role in Scotland. No other charity offers direct help to so many people over such a wide variety of problems and across the whole of Scotland. Our on-the-ground experience and extensive evidence base puts us in an ideal position to set out a vision for how Scotland should use its new social security powers.

The aim of the social security system should be to provide a coherent, fair safety net for the citizens of Scotland in order to achieve a more equal and socially just society.

Ultimately, every Scottish citizen should be able to access the essentials for living and be treated in a dignified manner by society.

Over the coming years, the Scottish Parliament will be given new powers over certain areas of the social security system in Scotland including:

Benefits for carers, disabled people and those who are ill
Certain flexibilities in relation to Universal Credit
Funeral Payments
Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments
Discretionary Housing Payments
Employment programmes.

Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) has been working with our member bureaux across Scotland to consider how these new powers could be used.

In doing so, we have been able to draw on the considerable experience of Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) in supporting clients through the social security system: in 2014/15, our CAB network dealt with 220,000 new benefits and tax credits issues representing 37% of their work.

The devolution of these new powers offers a vital opportunity to begin to craft a fair, equal and responsive social security system for Scotland. This paper sets out our overall vision of how this could be achieved

Fundraiser for
Kennedy Terrace
Playpark!

Fun &
Games

Party food

Fancy dress

Face
paints

Prizes

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Friday 28th October 5-7pm at Grianan

Tickets £3

All ages welcome!

Tickets available at Tesco or message 'Kennedy Terrace
Playpark' Facebook page