

## **Chair's address**

Just before we start the meeting I would like to say a few words just to set the context. First and foremost, this is our monthly Community Council meeting. So to avoid any misunderstanding, this meeting was not originally set aside to specifically discuss the Druim Leathann proposal.

However, given the level of interest in the village in the proposal at Glen Tolsta, for, against or undecided, we have decided to put this issue at the top of tonight's agenda and I thought we could perhaps give it an hour or so. If the discussion runs longer than that we can defer other agenda items to the next meeting.

The Community Council has discussed the Druim Leathann proposal from time to time and at our last meeting of 15 May we agreed that we would prepare and issue an information leaflet to raise awareness of the development throughout the wider community, and not just shareholders, as we felt, rightly or wrongly, that the consultation thus far was mainly developer-led.

In drafting the leaflet, factual accuracy was important to us as was the avoidance of any bias, either way. We took advice and information from the Comhairle's Planning Department to ensure that would be the case, but if there are inaccuracies in the leaflet or perceived bias then it is unintentional.

Finally, the Community Council's information leaflet has been produced independently from any other source or correspondence through the press or since then. While individual members of the Community Council no doubt have an opinion on the proposal the Community Council collectively has not taken a formal 'position' on the proposal. Can I also just say that your local Councillors have had no involvement in the production of the leaflet. They are ex-officio and not members of the Committee.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to establish what people think about the proposals at Druim Leathann and what might be a sensible way forward in terms of ongoing consultation. There's an attendance sheet being circulated, please put your name and address on it for the record.

Please put your hand up if you have anything to say and address your comments through the Chair. That way, everyone will have an opportunity to put their view across.

Let's try and have a civil debate about this, but if it is anything other than that, I will bring the meeting to a close.