

Sandbank Community Council

AGM 19th May 2015

Acting Convenors Report

Welcome to all of you here and I have to say I didn't think that I would be giving a report this evening at our AGM so please bear with me and I apologise now if I have missed anything out.

Around the time of our last AGM, we applied for Awards for All funding of £10,000 for various projects around Sandbank. Due to the Commonwealth Games all funding applications outside Glasgow and the immediate area were put on hold so we didn't know if we had been successful until mid-September.

We had applied for funding to erect a new clock at Rankins Brae, to try and bring a centre to our village and also lights for the ball park area of the play park and finally to light up the signs that we have at the three entrances to the village. This third item is still outstanding but will be completed before the dark nights return.

The clock is in place and now has a third face, the other side to the clock will have the Sandbank logo and a dedication on it. Now the Holy Loch Inn has reopened we will remove the old clock from there ASAP.

I must thank Tom McKillop for all his hard work and also the hard work put in by Brian Fitzpatrick and his team, we now have an external power supply at Rankins Brae so if we want to hold an event there we have power if needed and also power for the Christmas lights.

Finlay Currie is also to be thanked for his help and the use of his staff for both the clock and the insert to hold the Christmas tree. Their time was given free of charge and for this we sponsored Finlay's son Ryan £50 on his 'sponsored fast' raising money for the Malawi Project. as a thank you.

Thanks also at this point to Stewart McNee for the use of the tele-handler to erect the tree, and the Forestry Commission for such a great tree.

The ball park lights are almost there, the council have yet to erect the lights but the power and stanchions are in place. As with all the lighting Tom is working

with Walter McGowan and Brian Fitzpatrick both of whom have been very helpful.

The annual Firework and Bonfire event went really well despite the weather, though it did dry up for us eventually. The children of Sandbank school made Guys to burn and came to the village hall to collect them and walk them down to the fire. It was lovely to see so many parents and children and watch the excitement as they were placed on the fire. Well done to all those who helped make it such a great night. We were successful in our bid for Third Sector Funding and this paid for both the fireworks along with money from 2013s donations at the event and the Christmas lights. (We are proposing to put collection tins around the village and the town to help pay for the fireworks this year)

John Gilchrist and his team from the Community Pay Back Scheme started the beach clean on Saturday and collected 12 bags of rubbish from Broxwood Picnic Area to the Beeches before the tide beat them back. They will return and carry on to Lazaretto Point in the near future and the beach clean will be a continuous thing as and when they can. John has offered to help with other bits and pieces around the village. If you know of something you think they might be able to help with please let me know and I will pass it on.

Facebook continues to grow and is proving an excellent way to communicate with many people not only in Sandbank but all over the place. The Website is also visited often and is a place that you can view the Minutes of the meetings and also previous editions of the Sandbank Scene in the section marked Scene

As our numbers have reduced since the last AGM we have to make some hard decisions regarding the 50/50 club and the Sandbank Scene.

The 50/50 is a source of revenue for the Community Council and we cannot let it die. However we don't have enough people to collect the money door to door and also we feel that this is not the most effective way for many as not all of us carry cash any more.

We are proposing that people sign up and pay by SO which could be twice a year £6 or once £12. Letters will go out explaining all of this.

The Scene we propose goes virtual and can be read on the webpage. There will be a small amount printed for those who prefer hard copies and these we will put in the usual places to pick up.

We are in talks with Allan MacDonald and Ailsa Cunningham regarding gardens, plants and toilets. But we got £200 from Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust to purchase daffodil bulbs to plant around the village and a thank you to those who helped to plant them out.

There are also plans to renovate Broxwood Picnic area through Awards for All in conjunction with Sandbank Community Development Trust.

Sadly Jim McCarron, the proprietor of the Oakbank, who many of you will have known, passed away. **Kirsten and her partner Darren now run the Oakbank and it is good to see it is still a part of Sandbank community**, and looking good being newly painted, thanks to Jim, and hanging baskets up I noticed this morning.

The Holy Loch Inn has opened its doors again and we hope that it will continue to trade successfully.

We welcome a new trader to Sandbank, J P Carpets & Floors. We wish them every success and I think you will agree that they have done a great job with the shop front.

I spoke to Mr McArthur for an update on the flats above the shops. The work that is going on is as and when he can spare men from other projects and he intends to continue working on them. It is his hope to step the work up after the summer.

The Marina is looking considerably better now they have started to landscape it and while far from perfect it is an improvement, at least the view from the road is.

Web help are recruiting in Sandbank which is good for local people. There are other businesses in the area which are still going strong but the ones I have included are those who have had a struggle or a change of circumstance in the last 12 months, apart from Web help who appear to be going from strength to strength

The downside to my report is that the church may be forced to close. This is not because it is not well supported but because it cannot match the amount of money needed to do repairs to the building and it is therefore considered, by the Church of Scotland, more economical to close it.

Gordon Blair is keen that it is kept as a working church but also that the community may use it as well. More on this to follow at a later date.

Finally, as you may know we have lost two more community councillors, Rhona and Chris who we thank for all their hard work and commitment however we really need more people to join us if we are to continue trying to make a difference in Sandbank. At this stage you would be co - opted onto the CC and have 6 months to decide if you would like to become a Community Councillor. Please think about it is all I ask.

Sue McKillop,

Acting Convenor.

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