

CHAIR'S REPORT – LAGGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM – JUNE 2026. Chair - Karen Thew

MEETINGS – The Community Council has met 8 times since the last AGM in June 2025, with thanks to all members of the CC for their efforts in progressing community matters. . We continue to be supported by the community, our area Highland Councillors and Ward Managers.

There has been a slight change in personnel, Kevin Fletcher has resigned due to other commitments, but we have gained Willie Todd who will serve as a co-opted member until the next elections in 2027. We therefore remain with 7 voting members and 1 associate member. There is always room for new members.

LICENCING – The small fund lottery licence which accommodates the large Christmas Raffle was renewed for its second year. The law remains strict on certain types and formats of raffles or lotteries and we would ask that if you intend to hold such an event that you check with us for appropriate guidance. This licence will cover other community raffle events.

PLANNING – The CC continues to be asked to view/comment on planning applications of varying types. We are asked to consider a wide variety of planning applications, the larger applications taking up significant time and effort from the Community Council and I would like to thank the CC members for giving their time and effort in these often complex matters and the ongoing monitoring of their progression. We have seen 14 new applications over the last 12 months, in addition to the older ongoing applications that we also monitor.

ROADS/TRANSPORT LINKS – Our roads, A86 and A889, are scheduled for ongoing maintenance works, and although they are not deemed to be in need of any significant upgrade, we continue to press BEAR and Transport Scotland in this regard as the roads remain wholly unsuitable, especially when considering the likelihood of vastly increased traffic volume with the onset of the proposed works by SSEN-T and the ultimate developer of the Loch an Earba project.

COMMUNITY ASSETS –

Church – The church continues to offer Sunday, and other, services. Currently undergoing plans for some internal upgrading, it remains open and a beautiful community building.

The Public Toilet - The Community Council has now taken on the Comfort Scheme, previously managed by the Newtonmore and Laggan Church Group. Our thanks to the Church group for their assistance in helping us keep this facility open. It is our hope that the LCDT may take this on under their umbrella going forward.

School – The school remains empty with no plans in the offing. There has been much discussion about what the building could be used for in the future and the LCDT would be interested in your ideas.

Picnic Site and Play Park – Work in the park continues to be carried out by local volunteers from the community. As always, any help is gratefully accepted. There is still an ongoing consultation process in place which looks towards make some upgrades to the park paths and will offer a solution to its drainage issues. We are hopeful that we will see this come to fruition this year. Following this upgrade we can then start plans to redress the planting and other use for the park area. We are also in contact with the Highland Council about having the play equipment upgraded. If you have ideas about what you would like to see in the park or expertise that you can offer then please do talk to us.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION – We continue to use a Local Community Action Plan (CAP), which can be viewed on the www.laggan.com website. Our Community Action Plan and Resilience plan are being revisited. It is some time since the original plan was put together and we are looking at the current plan with the various groups of our community to bring this document up to date.

Many other items held within the document are still very current and functioning well, some items are being worked on and others have become redundant. The resilience plan (part of the CAP) is being prioritised and Cath Hamill has been devoting substantial amounts of her time to this project.

The Laggan Paths project has been reopened with the assistance of Laggan Forest Trust and the CNPA. With their assistance the woods at Balgowan have had sections of their paths restored and additionally the path up to the memorial monument has been upgraded. Thanks to Alistair Todd and Angus Armstrong for being implemental in bringing these projects to the paths group and being the driving force behind the projects.

Laggan Matters our local newsletter continues to be distributed, thanks to everyone involved and to everyone who has submitted articles for inclusion.

SSE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND – The panel meets twice a year to discuss any requests for funding and the fund total currently stands at £485 and applications for project funding are welcomed.

Grant recipients in the past year include: Laggan Paths Project, Badenoch Broadband, Laggan Allotment Group

Student grants continue to be available to anyone moving into higher education and is not limited to college or university students, the grant is also available for vocational courses which will help the student establish or enhance their chosen career. Awards of up to £500 per student per year will be available. Further information is available from Amanda Gallagher (secretarylcc@laggan.com).

Last few asides:

Goat signs -After years of asking for safety signage they were installed last year in plenty of time for the kids born this winter.

Shared space road for Glentruim. Successful lobbying and collaboration with the Highland Council resulted in the Glentruim Road being allocated a shared space status with a speed restriction of 40mph. A good result for the safety of residents, walkers and riders.

For the past couple of years we have told you that we were looking into setting up a Community Development Trust. This came to fruition in December 2025 and we are delighted that the community now has a established a Community Development Trust. It's a charitable group that is able to look at the community assets and offer assistance in funding opportunities, asset transfer/purchase opportunities. The LCDT will be the vehicle to manage not only the current SSE windfarm fund and any other funding we may receive going forward as a result of the many energy projects that plan to impose themselves on our area. As The LCDT is in its infancy, the SSE fund continues to be monitored by SSE until this new group gains more knowledge, experience and confidence moving forward. Thank you to everyone who has supported this venture and thanks to the people who stepped forward to become members and trustees, thus making its establishment possible.

In closing I would like to thank our community and the members of the Community Council for their support at our scheduled meetings.

As required by statute I will demit as Chair of the Community Council at the AGM.