

Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council

Chairman's Report 2016/17

The last year has been somewhat quieter after the onslaught over the best part of ten years of a series of wind farm applications. However the development at Tullmurdoch is currently under construction and a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the developer and the community council which will result in community benefit money coming into the community council area. Work is ongoing to establish a SCIO which will be completely separate from the community council and will disburse funds within the CC area to community organisations which meet the grant awarding criteria. It is hoped that the SCIO will have approved charitable status by the end of the year and be in a position to receive funds next year once the wind farm is operational.

The improvement of broadband for the rural areas of Angus has been a topic in most meetings recently and it is frustrating to look back on a year of virtually no progress. Staff changes at Angus Council and local elections have undoubtedly contributed to this lack of action and while the issue was raised recently at a meeting with Rachel Green this does not appear to have resulted in anything positive so far.

The engagement of the Police with the rural community has varied considerably during my time as a member of this community council and in my early days the local community officer was a regular at meetings. This was followed by a period of disengagement and I think that we are all pleased now to see a return of officers at meetings as well as the regular updates. While the crime rate in this area is thankfully low, there have been occasional break-ins and instances of anti social behaviour so an increased police presence would be welcome.

I am grateful to all the community councillors for their contributions and not least to Terry Roberts for his dogged determination in pursuing BT, Sue Smith for her work as Treasurer and Geoff Hobson for his IT and planning officer work and for filling the role of vice chairman. Jo Chapman- Campbell has been acting as secretary and her continued clerical support of the community council is much appreciated.

Finally thanks to our Angus Councillors, past and present, who make the effort both to attend and contribute to our meetings.

August 2017