

What's On in Ardross

Edition Sixty Nine
July to September 2022

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

STRATHRORY WIND FARM REDESIGN APPLICATION

11TH JULY 2022 7.30PM
ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL
OPEN TO ALL

EnergieKontor have submitted a redesign of the Strathrory Wind Farm for a total of 7 turbines; 5 of which will be up to 180m high, the remaining 2 up to 149.9m claiming that the existing consent for turbines of 149.9m is not economic.

The site is the same as their previous consent just north of the Strathy Road. It will be visible to many in Ardross and 5 of the turbines will be permanently lit with aviation lights.

Details of the application can be viewed online at <https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> The Planning Reference is 22/02442/FUL.

The Ardross Community Council is keen to hear the views of the Ardross community before making a representation to the Highland Council, who are the delegated decision makers in this process. The Community Council is therefore holding a public meeting to hear people's views on the Application. So please do come along. The documents for the Application will be available in hard copy for viewing and there will be a very short presentation about the application and its possible impact.

It is important that if you have any comments or objections to the application that you write directly to the Highland Council before the **17th July 2022** as they make the decision. This can be done by email to: epc@highland.gov.uk or by writing to **Post eProcessing Centre, Highland Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX**

Representations should include your full name and address as well as the Planning Reference 22/02442/FUL Strathrory Wind Farm.

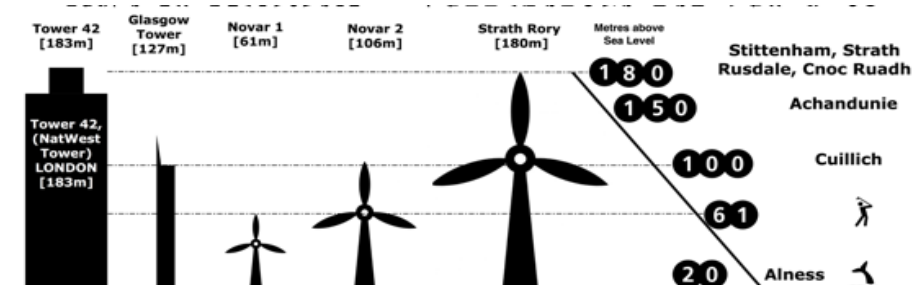
Below is a representation of the relative heights of turbines compared to Tower 42 and local topography.

John Edmondson, Secretary for and on behalf of Ardross Community Council

Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, Ardross, By Aness IV17 0YQ Tel/Text 01349 884440 Mobile 07762 879404

secretary@ardross.community

www.ardross.community



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Alistair McCulloch Trio, 20th Anniversary Scottish Tour

Saturday 13th August

8pm

Ardross Community Hall

Well renowned Scottish musicians blending traditional,
contemporary and self-penned material.

Claude Bourbon - The Wee Gig - musical artist

Friday 16th September

8pm

Ardross Community Hall

*"A breathtaking acoustic version of blues, jazz, folk,
classical and Spanish guitar from a stunning guitar virtuoso."*

Altadena

Moteh Parrott and friends

Saturday 19 November

8.00pm

Moteh Parrott is a Scottish artist with a distinctive indie-folk-rock sound complementing reflective, uplifting lyrics with raw electric guitar and cello. Kathleen Rollins-Mckie on cello and Marc Rollins-Mckie on drums live locally in Evanton. Blair Young completes the line up on bass.

For more information of events in the hall please check the Ardross Community Hall website -

www.ardrosshall.org Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/ArdrossHall>

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall>

Bookings for events can be made online (fees associated) or by phoning the Free Booking line: 01349 880591

For bookings by email to Ardross Hall ardrosshall@hotmail.com or click the link on the hall website for bookings.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL & AMAZON SMILE

The Ardross Community Hall is now registered with Amazon smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of everything we buy to the Hall funds

You just need to log on as smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC027764 (instead of the usual amazon.co.uk)

POST OFFICE

The mobile Post Office van will be in Ardross Community Hall car park

Every Tuesday

11.00 to 11.30am

The vehicle has an electronic tailgate for those that need easy access.

A wide range of services will be available

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

PV Panels

We are pleased to advise that the PV Panel Project has been completed, on time and on budget. The Hall Committee would like to thank all those involved in taking the project forward and the Ardross Community Council for their support. As part of the installation, we are able to monitor generation and usage and this will allow us to see how best to invest to reduce our power usage and lower the halls future carbon footprint.

Park

A small working group has been set up to move the park project forward. We hope to engage with interested parties to get ideas of what the community would like to see in the park and how best to implement this. More details will follow as the project progresses.

Cleaning

We would like to increase the pool of cleaning staff available to help maintain the hall as usage increases, particularly after event cleaning. This is a paid position, please send any expression of interest to ardrosshall@hotmail.com

Caretaker

Richard Dalman has had to step down from the caretaker role for the time being, though we hope to see him back in the near future. In the interim Sid Prail and Lee Falkiner have been assisting with the care taking duties and we are most grateful for their help.

Committee

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Bruce Marshall for all his years of service to the hall and community as he moves to Crete. We wish him and Dicky all the very best in the future!

As always, we would like to encourage anybody with an interest in the hall, to please come along and get involved. We have a meeting every 6 weeks. The hall belongs to the community and with wider representation at meetings it will help us ensure that we meet users needs now and in the future.

For information about the hall and to check What's On please go to:

<http://www.ardrosshall.org/Welcome.html>

For bookings and general enquiries please email ardrosshall@hotmail.com

Kind Regards

Rory Bews, Chair, Ardross Community Hall Management Committee

randgbews@hotmail.com

07880 701974

ARDROSS HALL YOGA

Yoga classes are having a break over the summer and will be back on

Wednesday 24th August

8-9.30pm Iyengar style yoga class

Beginners and intermediates welcome.

Please bring a yoga mat and any props you have (brick, block, belt etc.)

Cost £8 and £7 concessions.

Every other Wednesday afternoon 2-3 pm Chair Yoga for the less able

If you are older, disabled or have been injured this is the class for you

Please bring an exercise band or belt

Cost £7 or £6 concessions

Information about classes contact Juliette Lowe 07835458623 or juliette@dalreoch.co.uk

ARDROSS TODDLER GROUP

The Ardross Toddler group has closed for the summer and will restart in August when the schools reopen.

Friday mornings 9-12 in the Ardross Community Hall.

Everyone welcome, enjoy coffee and a chat while the children play.

Covid risk assessment in place.

For more information please message Laura Pearson on **07393 639799**.

Ceilidh Dancing

The ceilidh dance classes have stopped for the summer and will restart in September.

Dates and times are advertised via social media

Please check the hall website or Facebook page for updates.

ARDROSS SWI

The Ardross SWI are having a break over the summer months and the first meeting will be on

Thurs 8th Sept at 3.30pm

A lampshade demonstration using hand printed fabrics.

There is no obligation to join, come as a guest have tea and a chat for a small donation.

For further information

Contact Joan Scott 882914 or Betty Fraser 830 689

ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club will resume on

Wed 7th Sept at 12.30

Please come along and enjoy a soup and sweet lunch.

We will have a talk on The Stewart Diaries.

We are looking for some help so if you have spare time on the first Wednesday of the month, please get in touch.

Contact Joan Scott 882914 Jackie Davies 880994

APPLICATION FOR A ONE OFF PAYMENT TOWARDS RISING ENERGY COSTS

You will be aware that energy costs for every household are rising and to that effect the Ardross Community Council has agreed to make a **one off payment of £100 per household**, from the Community Benefit, in order to help towards these rising costs. The Community Council have been delighted with the uptake of this generous offer since it opened in March and applications can be made up to 31.12.22

Criteria to qualify:

****Only one application per household.**

****Owned, mortgaged, tied or rented home located in Ardross Community Council area**

Excluded:

Holiday lets/Air BnB properties/second homes

If you require an application form please get in touch with Alison Gordon, Treasurer, Ardross Community Council
Funding will be awarded by way of a cheque.

Email: alisongordon56@icloud.com Mob: 07770325507

ARDROSS CHURCH



Latest Ardross Church (Ark)Update

There is to be a local wedding in Ardross Church (Ark) at the beginning of July and it is understood that the reception will be held in Ardross Hall. Isn't it good that a small place like Ardross can offer such joined up facilities!

Funding for repairs and upkeep of this historical listed community building is still a paramount issue; the Ardross Community Council were correct (WOIA -68) in that we have approached them for funding of repairs. The building is totally independent of the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland and no funding has been received from either of these denominations since before Covid.

Ardross Community has recently benefitted from monies received from the recent filming in The Ark; we are now in a position to undertake fencing repairs and make a start on stain glass window repairs.

In regard to the new sign; the trustees are **very** happy for the old sign to be re installed if requested for any specific function. The trustees intend for the building to be all inclusive and are prepared to satisfy all reasonable requests wherever possible. The Ark name was derived from 'Ardross Kirk / Church'.

The Ardross Community Council were incorrect in stating that the church building has 8 trustees, (WOIA-68) there are only six trustees not eight trustees as stated; the trust document does however allow for a total of up to eight trustees.

In relation to trustees the board is presently looking for a treasurer and if anyone in Ardross would wish to take on this role please contact me.

Richard Smith (tel 880229)
Trustee

ARDROSS ONLINE

New connections are still being made in Ardross to the network being run by Cromarty Firth Wireless. Although our project is closed there is plenty of capacity on the network and an extensive network built to cover Ardross. There are also grants available subject to conditions. So if you want to get connected to broadband please contact Cromarty Firth Wireless direct by visiting them at www.cfwn.co.uk or phoning them on **01349 805040** or emailing them at enquiries@cfwn.co.uk

They have also asked us to mention that if you have any issues with your broadband connection please do get in touch on any of the above contact details.

John Edmondson john@ardross.online
Director
Ardross Online CIC
SC561188 Tel: **07762 879404** or **01349 884440**

Home fire safety

Carbon Monoxide, fire and smoke alarms

The Scottish Government introduced new standards for carbon monoxide, fire and smoke alarms in all homes from 1st February 2022. This new legislation means that the standard which **currently applies to private rented property and new-builds** will be extended to all homes in Scotland.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-safety-guidance-private-rented-properties/>

From February 2022 every home must have:

- **a smoke alarm in the living room and in circulation spaces such as hallways and landings
- **a heat alarm in every kitchen
- **all alarms ceiling mounted and interlinked
- **a carbon monoxide alarm where there are fixed combustion appliances such as boilers and wood burners

It is important that we make sure all households in the Ardross Community Council area know about the new regulations and what each household must install in relation to carbon monoxide, fire and smoke alarms.

Ardross Community Council has agreed to contribute up to £200 from the Community Benefit to household's in the Ardross Community Council area who meet the criteria set out below, in order to help towards the cost of installing these alarms and smoke detectors. Applications will be accepted up to 31.12.22

Criteria to qualify:

- Own or mortgaged property located in Ardross Community Council area
- Second home/residence located in Ardross Community Council area

Excluded:

- Private rented properties
- Tied properties
- Holiday lets/Air BnB properties

Please request an application form from Alison Gordon alisongordon56@icloud.com or download one from the Ardross Community Council website. The completed form along with a copy of the invoice for work undertaken to install the alarms and/or the cost of the alarms should be sent to Alison Gordon along with the application form.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS OF MEETING

The Ardross Community Council is holding a Public Meeting on the 11th July 2022 at 7.30 pm, at the Ardross Community Hall to discuss a new application by EnergieKontor to erect seven wind turbines 5 at maximum blade tip height 180m (which will require lighting). And 2 no higher than 149.9m. There are further details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Since our last meeting two community councillors have resigned from the Community Council. The Community Council has yet to decide whether to try to fill these places by co-option for instance. If you are interested in the work of the Community Council please do come along to our meetings to see what is involved.

At our AGM in June the following Office Bearers were elected for another year: Chair: Peter Allen; Vice-Chair: Vacant; Secretary: John Edmondson; Treasurer: Alison Gordon.

Meetings have been started to try and develop a path between Stittenham and the Hall. Further meetings will be arranged to take this forward.

It is no longer a big secret, but the filming that has taken place over the last few months has now finished. This has made our roads more crowded than we have all been used to, not surprising given the amount of people working on the filming. The Community Council has intervened with the Production Team to try and alleviate some of these issues which mainly stem from the sheer volume of traffic and lack of familiarity of driving on single track roads.

ADDRESS CHURCH AKA ARK

It is hoped that talks with the Ardross Church Trustees will resume to try and resolve the outstanding issues outlined in the previous Newsletter. The Ardross Church Trustees have decided to rename the Ardross Church - ARK. This was not at our behest and we would have expected that such a proposal would have involved community consultation before going ahead.

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Community Council will now be holding their meetings in the Ardross Community Hall. All are welcome. We are hoping to run our future meetings as a blended meeting. However it has proved difficult to fully involve those who wish to join remotely; comments have to be made via Chat for instance. If you do wish to join any of our meetings remotely please email the Secretary secretary@ardross.community to obtain a link.

Our next meeting will be on the **11th July 2022 at 7.30pm**. We meet on the second Monday of each month so: **8th August 2022 8.00pm**, **12th September 2022 8.00pm** and **10th October 2022 8.00pm**. Updates on our meetings will be posted on our website: www.ardross.community and our Facebook page. Copies of Minutes and the Agenda area also available here.

The Ardross Community Council is acutely aware that those without internet connections will be unable to partake in the process, so please if you have an issue you would like to discuss please get in touch with any Community Councillor.

ROADS

Quite a lot pot holes have been repaired on our local roads since our last Newsletter, using a new type of machine, but there still are some dangerous pot holes, we try and report these when we can, but rely on you to report them.

You can report pot holes using the Highland Council website, but it is cumbersome and seems to be designed to discourage reporting. There is an alternative way of reporting these potholes which is a lot easier

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL....NEWS...cont'd

<https://www.fillthathole.org.uk/hazards/report> and seems to get results. So if you come across a pothole that you think needs repairing please report it. Remember once a pothole has been reported the Highland Council becomes liable for any damage caused by these potholes to vehicles.

Several of the bridges in Ardross are in a poor state of repair. Particularly the bridge near Lealty on the Boath Road and the bridge at Dublin.

ENERGY GRANT

This is a one off grant for £100 towards energy costs, this is open to eligible households until the end of December 2022. Details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

ARDROSS FIRE SAFETY GRANT

New regulations require that various smoke/heat/CO alarms are fitted into residential homes before February 2022. This has had a good take up. The Community Council has decided to keep the fund open for a while yet so there is still time to apply for a grant. To help householders meet these new regulations the Ardross Community Council are offering £200 towards the cost of the installation. There is more information and details as to how to apply elsewhere in the Newsletter as well as on our website <https://www.ardross.community/home-fire-safety.html> where you can download an application form.

WEBSITE

Have you visited our website www.ardross.community?

This is getting expanded bit by bit. We have information on current Consultations and Planning as well as the latest Minutes and Agenda. There are Archive files as well, where we have started to archive the Newsletters. There is a new page outlining the research for Remembering Ardross and we hope to add more information over time <https://www.ardross.community/ardross-history/remembering-ardross.html>

Of course we still have our Facebook page which tends to have more up to date information.

PLANNING & WIND FARMS

Wind Farms

EnergieKontor have applied for a redesign of the Strathrory Windfarm comprising of 5 turbines up to 180m and 2 up to 149.9m. We are due to consider this at a Public Meeting on the **11th July 2022 7.30pm**. Details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

EnergieKontor have also asked for a Condition to be changed for their existing consent. This is for the site entrance on the B9176. The Ardross Community Council were concerned that the sight lines were not sufficient the entrance being on a corner and have asked for further assurances on the matter.

Planning

A battery storage facility is at pre-application stage. The Applicant has just sent us notice that there will be a Public Meeting at Ardross Community Hall between 3pm and 7pm on the 5th July 2022. Please do go along. There is also an online consultant event which will take place on the 12th July 2022 between 3-7pm available on this link: <https://meetings.ili-energy.com/balnacraig-energy-storage-project/>

We are currently considering an extension to a house on the Strathy Road and a new entrance onto the Struie Road just north of Stittenham.

We have had no comment on an extension for a house at Glaick.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL....NEWS...cont'd

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Recent Grants and getting an Award

The Community Council funds the Newsletter and makes a regular annual payment to the Ardross Primary School for organised trips, which was increased this year by 50%. We also fund electricity payments to eligible households. We have also helped Ardross Pipe Band purchase a new bass drum.

We are making grants available to households to help them comply with new Fire Legislation to install CO/Heat/Smoke Alarms, please see elsewhere in this Newsletter for the conditions of the grant and whether you will be eligible.

We are also making a one of payment of £100 per household towards energy costs. This grant will remain open for applications until 31.12.22, please see elsewhere in this Newsletter for the conditions of the grant and whether you will be eligible.

Between April 1st 2021 and 30th March 2022 the Community Council have distributed £26,784 of Community Benefit to eligible projects. Since April 1st 2022 the Community Council have distributed £12,193 of Community Benefit to eligible projects.

If you have a project or ideas for a project that would be eligible for an award please get in touch with Alison Gordon 882740 or the Secretary John Edmondson 884440, secretary@ardross.community for an application form or come along to one of our meetings to discuss your ideas. The Ardross Community Council want to help any group or individual if they have an idea that will benefit the community. But please bear in mind there are certain restrictions as to how the Community Council can distribute the money placed on them by the wind farm operators, they differ slightly so it is best to talk to us.

John Edmondson - Secretary for and on behalf of Ardross Community Council

Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, By Aness, IV17 0YQ

Tel/Text 01349 884440 Mobile 07762 879404 secretary@ardross.community

www.ardross.community

Windfarm Community Fund

If you have lived in Ardross for more than 6 months and a member of your household is aged 70 years or more you will qualify for the Windfarm Community Electricity Payment. This payment is made twice a year towards your electricity account. For an application form and information about how to apply please contact:

**Alison Gordon, Treasurer Ardross Community Council
07770325507 or TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com**

Ardross Pot

The Ardross Pot is available to organisations based in Ardross for help with a project, but not running costs. It is also available to individuals, but there must be a clear benefit to the community should the applicant be successful. Application forms are available from the Secretary:

**John Edmondson, Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, Ardross on 884440/07762 879404
secretary@ardross.community**

Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Awards

The Community Council is always interested to hear of new ideas and suggestions of ways to help improve our community facilities. So please let us know of any ideas you might have by contacting **John Edmondson, Peter Allen or Alison Gordon** or any other Community Council member

There are now 48 newsletters emailed.

If you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed to save on postage or your address is not correct on the envelope in which your newsletter is enclosed please let Alison know by email to: **alisongordon56@icloud.com**

The Ardross Community Council has agreed to meet the cost of posting out a newsletter to every household in the Ardross Community Council area. If you know of any household who has not received a newsletter please contact Alison Gordon **07770 325 507** or **alisongordon56@icloud.com**

If you would like to put something in the next newsletter please get in touch.
Alison Gordon is the co-ordinator of the details for "*What's On in Ardross*"
Contact details: Alison Gordon **07770 325 507** or **alisongordon56@icloud.com**

