



# Giffordtown & District Community Council

## Chairman's AGM Report – 18 May 2026

### Opening Remarks

1. As our communities begin to enjoy the arrival of spring, it is a pleasure to provide this report as the recently appointed Chair of Giffordtown & District Community Council.

2. You may have noticed that this year's AGM has been brought forward from its usual date in November. This reflects changes to Fife Council's Scheme of Establishment (SOE) for Community Councils (CC), which now requires AGMs to be held in order for CC to receive their financial grant. Other changes within the SOE that impact us are the reduction in CC membership from eight to six.

### The Community Council

3. The CC currently consists of five members following the resignation of two members since the last AGM.

4. We would like to sincerely thank John Rae and Barbara Groves for their time, contribution, and commitment in supporting the CC.

5. At the last full CC meeting, David also stood down as Chair of the CC. I would like to thank David for his hard work in steering the CC during his tenure.

6. In light of the challenges in maintaining a functioning CC, I was more than happy to be asked to join the CC and take on the role of Chair. While I have a number of other commitments, I am committed to ensuring the CC remains active and continues to support the community.

7. Following these changes, the current office bearers are:

- a. Andrew Christie (Chair) – Charlottetown
- b. Neil Brooks (Treasurer) – Giffordtown
- c. David Ellison (Acting Secretary) – Charlottetown

8. We are extremely grateful to David for stepping into the Acting Secretary role. However, filling this position on a permanent basis is now a priority. We also extend our continued thanks to Neil for his management of the Council's finances, ensuring that our limited funds are used responsibly and effectively.

9. We also recognise and thank the continued support of Stewart Easson (Edentown) and Elaine Bailey (Giffordtown) as fellow Community Councillors and their activities in support of the CC.

10. There remains a vacancy for an additional Community Councillor and preferably they would be willing to take on the role of Secretary. Ideally, we would like someone from Kinloch, although applications are welcome from anyone within the community.

11. Without sufficient membership, the CC is at real risk of becoming non-functional. This would result in:

- a. Loss of representation with Fife Council



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- b. Loss of our annual Fife Council grant
- c. Potential loss/reallocation of approximately circa £4,000 per year in wind turbine funding

## Community Engagement

12. We continue to develop and strengthen how we engage with the community to ensure residents are informed, involved, and able to share their views. This includes:

- a. The Community Council website [www.thefivewayscommunity.com](http://www.thefivewayscommunity.com)
- b. The Gazette / community newsletter
- c. Local WhatsApp groups
- d. Direct engagement at Community Council meetings
- e. Posters in the usual locations

13. These approaches aim to help in widening the participation and engagement, improve transparency, and ensure the CC remains accessible and representative.

## Working with Fife Councillors

14. We are keen to maintain an effective relationship with our Fife Councillors and have reached out to encourage their attendance and ongoing support, ensuring that community priorities are represented and progressed.

## Community Council Activity

15. Since the last AGM, the CC has supported a number of important initiatives:

- a. **Community Resilience Plan.** The successful installation of a generator at the hall ensures the community is better prepared in the event of disruption to power supply.
- b. **The Gazette.** The Gazette continues to be a valued source of local news and information. However, sustaining the current frequency and quality is increasingly challenging. It has been agreed to move to one high-quality annual publication, supported by quarterly newsletters.
- c. **Community Wellbeing Activities.** Wellbeing events have been well attended and have supported both community health and effective use of the hall.
- d. **Community Litter Picks.** These have seen strong engagement and reflect pride in our local environment.
- e. **Speed Management.** The CC's efforts to highlight ongoing speeding issues on the B937 continue to face significant challenges. It is disappointing that there has been limited progress from Fife Council in addressing this concern. The CC will continue to raise and engage on this issue. However, we also recognise the limitations of our influence at a local level and the need to manage expectations where responsibility sits with external agencies. Therefore, we are reducing then number of cameras from two to one to reduce expenditure while continuing to gather supporting evidence.

## Land Management



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16. There has been increasing interest in how community land is managed. The CC recognises that we are not currently structured to manage land holdings effectively, particularly given potential liabilities not covered by Fife Council.

17. We will explore ways to minimise risk and work with other potential community organisations better suited to managing land for the benefit of the community.

## Finance

18. The recent budget meeting gave a detailed breakdown of how funds have been distributed equitably amongst the community for the previous year. Attendees at this meeting collaborated with the CC community to establish a prioritised framework budget for the coming financial year. This was the first meeting of this type for the CC and reflected the desire for transparency and engagement within the community.

19. While our finances are limited, the CC will focus on:

- a. Environmental stewardship – managing current responsibilities and enhancing the local environment.
- b. Direct community benefit – supporting activities such as wellbeing classes
- c. The Village Hall – maintaining this important asset to ensure its long-term sustainability

## Risks and Challenges

20. We recognise there are a number of key risks facing the CC which are:

- a. The ongoing viability of the Community Council due to limited membership
- b. Limited financial resources
- c. Challenges in securing higher-level action from external agencies where issues sit outside our direct control.

21. These risks reinforce our focus on prioritising activity that we can realistically deliver ourselves and where we can make the greatest impact.

## Role and Approach of the CC

22. The CC continues to play an important role in representing the community, gathering local views, and raising issues with Fife Council and other agencies. However, we recognise that a significant amount of time can be spent on issues beyond our direct control. We are therefore refocusing our efforts on areas where we can make a practical and visible difference, ensuring our time and resources deliver meaningful outcomes for the community.

## Focus for the Year Ahead

23. Our priorities for the coming year are:

- a. Focusing on practical, community-level action



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- b. Supporting the community to deliver local initiatives where possible
- c. Ensuring the long-term viability of the Community Council
- d. Working collaboratively with neighbouring Community Councils to raise and address shared issues

## **Call for Support**

24. Finally, as we've said, we do urgently need people to support the CC, either as full members or in a more flexible capacity as Associate members supporting specific activities. If you can spare any time at all, please do consider coming forward. Even a small contribution can make a significant difference. We do hope that with broader participation and support, we can ensure that the Community Council remains active, effective, and able to deliver real benefits for our community.

**A Christie**

**Chairman, Giffordtown & District CC**