

The year 2025/2026 we have welcomed Rebecca and Rowan as our youth councillors and Tom Fraser as a new councillor while saying goodbye and a big thank you to Miles Welsh and to our two first youth councillors Helen Jones and Terra. It is no secret that we are constantly looking to add to the council, as the workload for the 5 current members has been large and we know it's important that the council continues.

During the 2024/25 year the following has been worked on by the council.

- 1) After over a year our Local Place plan has been accepted by Highland council.
- 2) Housing and planning applications. This is one of the areas we as a community council are obliged to do, and Douglas Taylor has been reviewing and researching any application, we encourage members of the community to join us for the meetings and you will be able to share your thoughts and knowledge on this matter too.
- 3) Village tidy, we have been progressing the plans to manage the woodland within the village boundaries, we are aware this is very important to many residents for many reasons, we have been liaising with the landlords of the various parts of land, Ardtornish, FLS and MCDC. As a result MCDC have now got a woodland management plan in place for Hazelwood, and we are in continuous dialogue with Ardtornish regarding the woodland they hold within the village.
- 4) Verge maintenance. This year the continuation of the verge maintenance proved a bit of a challenge, MCT was not able to fully support the project and we were £5000 short, we would like to thank MCDC for stepping up. We have also agreed with MCT and MCDC that we will meet to come up with a longer-term plan for this.
- 5) We ran a village litter pick up again, thank you to all that participated.
- 6) This past Christmas also saw Lochaline once again celebrating Yuletide with a Christmas tree as our baby tree is still very much in its infancy Bob Jones stepped up and created a metal structure in the shape of a tree to stand over the tree with lights. Thank you
- 7) The community council again contributed to the Remembrance Day by supplying the wreath that was laid in a lovely ceremony at the monument.
- 8) This year the community council took over the hosting of the yearly Christmas lunch supported by the Craig Sellar Trust, I would like to thank our youth councillors for taking on the task of rebranding the event to Young at Heart and designing the lovely invites. We had a big turn up and I would like to thank the fire brigade and other volunteers who helped on the day.
- 9) During the year the council have been engaging with various bodies relating to health and social care. We are pleased to learn that the delivery of a new Belford in Fort William is back on the agenda, thank you to Jenni for being our voice. We are sad as most of you will also be at the decision not to re-open Dal Mhor.

We recognise that local care is very patchy and will continue to make our voice heard.

- 10) We have this year together with our sister councils worked with the Kingairloch hydro fund to improve the access to the fund. Thank you to Jenni for completing this work, the community council has very little income, this income enables us to continue to support locally events like remembrance day, xmas tree and helps us pay for the use of village halls and to have a paid secretary, the latter has been very important, and we would like to recognise the work Aukje did, she kept me in place. We welcome Cara who is taking on this role.
- 11) MCC continues to play a part on the Corran Ferry steering committee, and with Tom taking on this role, we have renewed energy to tackle this very important traffic link for the peninsula.
- 12) During this past year I have worked with MCDC and local parents to explore opportunities for childcare in our community. We are very aware that there is a real gap in the provision, as of yet there have been some tiny steps but we know that with the baby boom this last year has seen that it is a problem we have to find a solution for on Morvern.
- 13) 2025 saw Storm Amy ravaging the peninsula, with us out of power and isolated for several days. It was great to see the community spirit and the help that was provided. As a result of this a group has been put together develop a resilience plan for Morvern, Rhian Evans is chairing this, thank you to all volunteers and watch this space.
- 14) We have been in continuous dialogue with Highland Council regarding our roads, thank you to Rob for taking this on. We were pleased to see that this year we have had some improvements at Torr Na Faire and lately at the Drimnin road.
- 15) This last year I have continued to sit on the board of MCDC, this has been a very busy year, and it is rewarding to see that the building of the 14 houses has started.

Thank you to all who have been patient with me this year, it has been an honour to chair the council and I have been so pleased with all the positive comments and assistance we have had from the community at large. We will encourage the residents to participate as often as possible in the meetings, and we are always approachable for comments and ideas. However I have come to the recognition that due to private pressures I am unable to continue as chair. I will stay as a member of the council and help along as best I can the new chair. The community council is an important institution in a remote location as Morvern, together with MCT and MCDC (Both historically set up by MCC) we have shown how Morvern can punch above its weight.