



## What's On in Ardross

Edition Sixty Four  
February 2021

For more information of events in the hall please check the Ardross Community Hall website - [www.ardrosshall.org](http://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](mailto:ardrosshall@hotmail.com) or click the link on the hall website for bookings.

### ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL

Following national lockdown being implemented on Boxing day 26th December 2020, the Ardross Community Hall remains closed to all user groups, entertainment & for private bookings.

For more information once restrictions are lifted please check the Ardross Community Hall website.

1st March 2021 8pm - Public Zoom Meeting - Strathrory Windfarm

8th March 2021 8pm - Ardross Community Council Zoom Meeting - all welcome

12th April 2021 8pm - Ardross Community Council Zoom Meeting - all welcome

10th May 2021 8pm - Ardross Community Council Zoom Meeting - all welcome

14th June 2021 8pm - Ardross Community Council Zoom Meeting & AGM - all welcome

If you wish to join any of the meetings please email the  
Secretary [secretary@ardross.community](mailto:secretary@ardross.community) to obtain a link.

# Strathrory Wind Farm

## Public Zoom Meeting 8.00pm March 1st 2021

Please email [secretary@ardross.community](mailto:secretary@ardross.community) to obtain a link

EnergieKontor Ltd have submitted an Application into the Highland Council for a wind farm just north of Strathy, Ardross between the Struie Road and Beinn Tharsuinn on Crannich Farm. The wind farm has gone through another iteration and Further Environmental Information has been submitted.

The documents are only available online:  
<https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> the Planning Reference is **20/00584/FUL**

Normally we would have a Public Meeting to discuss these changes, but this isn't possible during the Lockdown. So the Ardross Community Council intend to hold a Zoom meeting to hear your views. Everyone is invited, but you do have to be proactive and email the Secretary of the Ardross Community Council to obtain a link. Look forward to seeing you.

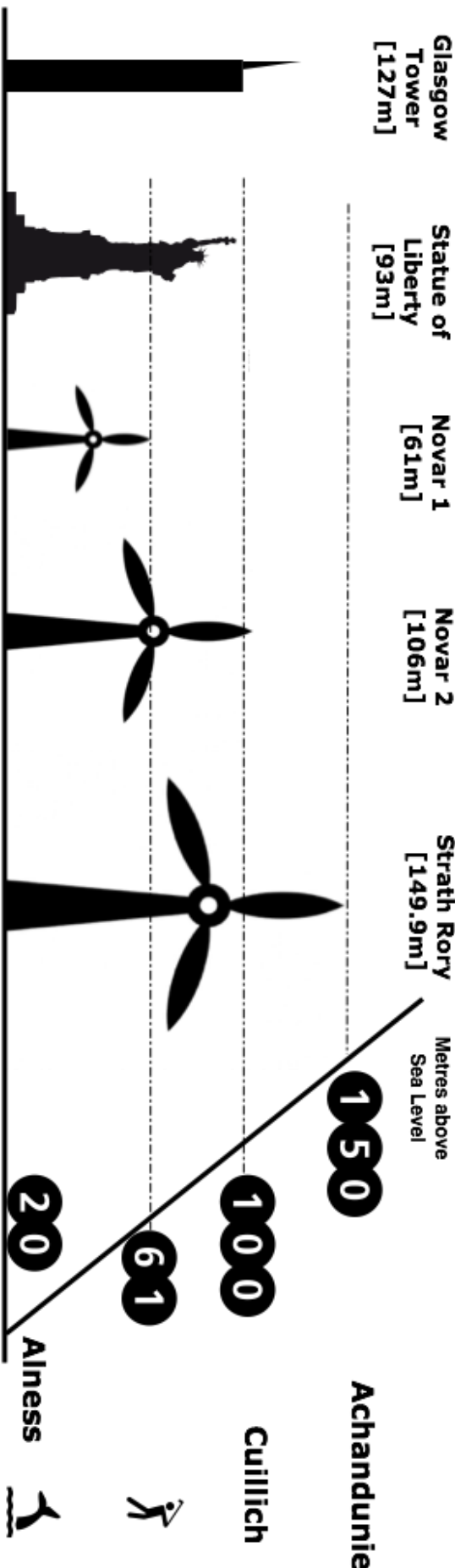
The 7 turbines for this application are 149.9m tall. The location of each turbine has also been changed. A representation of the relative height compared to other local wind farms, buildings you might be familiar with and also with height above sea level can be seen.

In the meantime it is important that if you have any comments or objections to send them in by 12th March 2021.

You should state your name and address, and the planning reference and wind farm name: 20/00584/FUL Strath Rory Wind Farm. Even if you have already sent comments/objections before you should still write if you can.

Send to: [epc@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epc@highland.gov.uk)

or Post: **eProcessing Centre,**  
Headquarters, **Glenurquhart Road,**  
Inverness IV3 5NX



### **COVID-19 Community Support**

If you need help

A local dedicated support line continues to be available:

**01349 204068**

or you can email

**[ardrosscommunity@outlook.com](mailto:ardrosscommunity@outlook.com)**

This group has been set up to help look after our local community during the Covid - 19 pandemic.

We have many volunteers waiting to help with whatever you may need from shopping to repairs.

Please call or drop us an email if:

You are alone and need food or medical supplies

You are in self - isolation (with or without symptoms) and need food or medical supplies

You are worried about a local neighbour or friend

You are worried or scared and would like to talk to someone

**Leave a message and one of our volunteers will get back to you as soon as they can.**

### **Yoga**

Enjoy a yoga class in the privacy of your own home.

Juliette Lowe is running online yoga classes through Zoom during the lockdown.

All you need is a phone, tablet or computer with a built in camera.

**Classes: Tuesdays 10.30 - 11.15 am**

**Wednesdays 6-6.45 pm**

**Fridays 9.15-10 am**

**Chair Yoga: Wednesdays 2-2.30 pm**

For more details contact Juliette on:

**07835458623 or [juliette@dalreioich.co.uk](mailto:juliette@dalreioich.co.uk)**

### **Ardross Home Food Delivery Service**

Thank you to everyone who used the **Ardross Home Food Delivery Service** and continue to use the Service .If I can help in anyway please give me a call.

House phone number **01349 883526**

Mobile **07415 892981**

We are still taking orders so please get in touch and we will be happy to do your shopping, collect items for you and buy your stamps

Give us call and relax. Job done ✓

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes,

Kate Stevenson

**Ardross Home Food Delivery**

## Home fire safety

### **Carbon Monoxide, fire and smoke alarms**

The Scottish Government are introducing new standards for carbon monoxide, fire and smoke alarms in all homes from February 2021. Due to the practical difficulties likely to be faced by homeowners seeking to make the necessary changes to their homes, the Scottish Government have agreed to delay the new regulations by 12 months due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to move the implementation of the new regulations, back to February 2022.

This legislation due to come into effect in February 2021 (now February 2022) meant the standard which **currently applies to private rented property and new-builds** would have been 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.

This is compulsory for every household so if homes are privately let it is the responsibility of your landlord to ensure these have been installed (current regulations).

If you own your own home or have a mortgage it is your responsibility to ensure these alarms are installed.

Installation could cost in the region of £400 per household depending on the number of alarms and detectors requiring to be fitted.

To that effect the Ardross Community Council has agreed to contribute £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.

#### 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

Application forms can be requested from Alison Gordon Treasurer Ardross Community Council and will be sent by email or post. Funding will be awarded retrospectively, by way of a cheque following the receipt of the completed application form and a copy of the invoice evidencing the work has been undertaken by a registered electrician.

***Further information can be found on :***

**<https://www.gov.scot/policies/fire-and-rescue/home-fire-safety/>**

**<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>**

**[www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes.aspx)**

## ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

### IMPORTANT NEWS ON FUTURE MEETINGS

The Community Council are at the moment holding their meetings via Zoom. All are welcome, but you need to be proactive to join each one. If you wish to join any of our meetings please email the Secretary [secretary@ardross.community](mailto:secretary@ardross.community) to obtain a link.

Our next meeting will be on the **1st March 2021 at 8.00 pm** to discuss the Further Environmental Information for the **Strathroy Wind Farm**. Then we will meet on the second Monday of each month. **8th March 2021, 12th April 2021, 10th May 2021** and then the **14th June 2021**, which will also be our **AGM**.

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. Please bear with us as this is rather new territory for everyone.

### OTHER NEWS

The way we are living is still being dominated by the Pandemic.

**The Covid Helpline is still open (01349 204068)** for those needing help and a big thank-you involved in running and volunteering to help everyone in Ardross. There is other information in the Newsletter regarding other help that people can obtain in what is a difficult time for everyone.

The payphone at Dalnavie cross-roads is again earmarked for closure. In light of the recent closure of B9176 due to the weather, we believe that this phone box remains important. This is true until the mobile signal is good enough for all mobile users including Pay as You Go and those with older phones which the EE signal for instance is not available locally.

### WEBSITE

Have you visited our website [www.ardross.commmunity](http://www.ardross.commmunity)? 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. Of course we still have our Facebook page.

### FORESTRY

We have had notification that there will be significant felling of the Kildermorie Forest by Brook Forestry starting February 2021 until at least the end of June 2021, it is weather dependant. On average it will mean 10 loaded lorry movements a day i.e. 20 lorry movements.

### PLANNING & WIND FARMS

We have dealt with a 3 house development at the Dalnavie cross-roads on the Scotsburn road. We still had concerns particularly over the sight lines at the cross-roads and the safety of those crossing the road.

A large house and self-contained annex on the Strathy Road. We were concerned that the Annex remained part of the main property and was turned into a separate dwelling.

We did not comment on an extension to convert a double garage into further accommodation.

### Consultations

At the moment the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan is out for consultation. This is important as it shapes how the local area is zoned for housing. As far as Ardross is concerned the Hinterland area has been left unchanged as far as we can establish from the previous plan. The Highland Council have not zoned any of the Ardross area for housing. All further housing will be considered under the "Housing in the Countryside" Policy/Guidance document.

## ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS...contd

### Strath Rory Wind Farm

There is further information elsewhere in the Newsletter. Following a Public Meeting held via Zoom in October 2020 the Ardross Community Council sent an **OBJECTION** to the Highland Council regarding the Strath Rory wind farm. EnergieKontor (the developer) have submitted further revised plans for this wind farm. This will consist of 7 turbines at 150m high. We would like to find out whether this has changed people's minds about this proposal. We have a Zoom meeting which you are welcome to attend on **March 1st 2021** at 8.00pm to discuss the new proposal and decide on the response of the Community Council. If you wish to attend please email the Secretary [secretary@ardross.community](mailto:secretary@ardross.community).

### COMMUNITY BENEFIT

#### Strathrory Wind Farm

We are currently trying to negotiate the Community Benefit for this wind farm with the developer EnergieKontor. The developer has chosen to involve in total 8 community councils. This makes it very difficult for Ardross to get its fair share as we would view it; as the community the worst effected by far by their proposal. There is a move by the other community councils to see the more populous areas such as Alness and Invergordon getting the greater amount. A position we see as completely unacceptable. The last wind farm that EnergieKontor decided on community benefit for was the Lairg II wind farm, with this deal the host Lairg community council received 30%. This would fail to recognise the impact of the wind farm on Ardross.

#### Grants and getting an Award

The Community Council funds the Newsletter and makes a regular annual payment of £800 to the Ardross Primary School for organised trips, which was increased last year as well as electricity payments to eligible households, the number; which stands at 38.

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.

The Ardross Community Woodland have approached us for a letter of support to help with the purchase of the Woodland at the Dublin Bridge. We are currently dealing with this at the time of writing.

We awarded the Kildermorie Partnership (Kildermorie Estate) an *ex-gratia* payment of £3,500 towards a broadband installation on the Estate after holding a Special Meeting of the Community Council. This was for equipment recently installed, but without detailed approval from the Community Council. Ian Duncan from the Kildermorie Partnership at the time of writing has told us that he is ***"taking advice as to what actions I may have available to me to bring about a more equitable contribution"***.

If you have a project or ideas for a project that would be eligible for an award please get in touch with Alison Gordon 07770325507/882740 [TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com](mailto:TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com) or the Secretary John Edmondson 884440, [secretary@ardross.community](mailto:secretary@ardross.community) for an application form or come along to one of our meetings to discuss your ideas. There are however 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 in the first instance.

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

**Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, By Alness, IV17 0YQ**

**Tel/Text 01349 884440    Mobile 07762 879404    [secretary@ardross.community](mailto:secretary@ardross.community)**

**ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB**

*Due to Covid-19 restrictions currently in place the Lunch Club are unable to meet until further notice.*

*If you have any questions please contact*

**Joan 882914**

*or*

**Margaret 882495**

*We hope everyone continues to be safe and well.*

**ARDROSS CHURCH**



**Ardross Church still remains closed due to Covid restrictions.**

Ardross church AGM - This normally would have taken place by the 28th February, however OSCR has agreed that a deferment to 28th September will be permitted. It is hoped that the Ardross Church committee meeting will be convened before this date.

Finally a 5 yearly fabric survey, programmed for 25th March 2020 has still as yet not been completed due to HRI (Architects) being furloughed.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

### **Fuel Support Fund for low income Highland households experiencing fuel insecurities**

Households in the Highland who are on low income and experiencing fuel insecurities as a result of COVID-19 can apply for a Fuel Support Fund from The Highland Council.

The £270,000 Fuel Support Fund has been set up by the Council using Scottish Government funding which can be used flexibly to alleviate financial insecurities.

The Leader of The Highland Council Cllr Margaret Davidson said: "Sadly, as a result of Covid-19, an increasing number of households in Highland are experiencing fuel insecurities. Large sections of the Highland population do not have access to mains gas and are reliant on more expensive sources of domestic heating such as oil, wood, coal, and wood pellets.

"Highland Council has therefore decided to use part of the Government's funding to set up a fuel support fund for those who are having difficulties paying for fuel for their homes."

Crisis Grants for fuel support are already available via the Scottish Welfare Fund for those in crisis. Where appropriate, eligible applicants will be awarded a grant from the Scottish Welfare Fund before being considered for a grant from the local Fuel Support Fund.

For those experiencing fuel insecurities, the scheme is available to low income households who are entitled to Council Tax Reduction (CTR) and for those without recourse to public funds.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Margaret Davidson added: "Working from home has increased the financial pressures for many of our households. Council tax rules mean that there are some individuals on a low income who are exempt from council tax and therefore not entitled to council tax reduction. The Council's Head of Revenues and Business Support will therefore look at these claims on an individual basis so that awards can be made to those who are eligible."

All applicants will be offered a referral to Citizens Advice (CAB) for energy checks and expertise available from CAB as this may help to reduce domestic fuel bills. As this is a cash-limited fund, the Scheme will close on 28 February 2021.

People on low incomes who are experiencing fuel insecurities can apply online at [www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund) for a £60 non-repayable cash payment per application which is made to eligible applicants.

### **Welfare advice**

The Highland Council's welfare specialists provide an effective support service on all matters relating to benefits and entitlements. Our team can also provide professional advice on personal budgeting to enable you to manage your money effectively.

The overall aim of the Council's welfare specialists is to ensure that the correct amount of benefit is paid to you at the correct time and to assist you with budgeting skills so that you can pay your bills, heat your home and have a better quality of life.

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, the Council's Welfare Support Team can provide expert advice about how much Council Tax Reduction you may be entitled to. Our specialists also provide professional advice regarding money and budgeting.

For help and advice please contact Welfare Support Team phone: **0800 090 1004** or email: [welfare.support@highland.gov.uk](mailto:welfare.support@highland.gov.uk)



# Scottish Child Payment



This new benefit will open on Monday 15 February 2021.  
It's a payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits.

Eligible families will get £40 every four weeks for each child under six.

Find out more at [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits)  
or call us on 0800 182 2222.

**mygov.scot**

## **There are now 35 newsletters emailed.**

If you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:alisongordon56@icloud.com)**

