

LYNSEY CRAIG
Community Council Statement

I have lived near the village of Strachan for nearly 6 years and love this area.

Most of my family have been involved in farming and rural life and I have been involved in the agriculture industry for the majority of my career. I now work as an environmental consultant in and around Aberdeenshire. I value the range of different facilities we have in this area and am an active participant in many sporting clubs and community based events. I think it is important to support local and buy local.

I have had a range of previous experience on sports club committees and organising local community events. I also think it is important to attend local community events where possible, as a good community is really important, particularly in rural areas.

I feel that I will bring the following qualities to the role of Community Council (CC) committee member:

- **Project Management** – I bring a wealth of project management experience to the role which encompasses good organisational ability, strong people skills and a drive to get things done.
- **Good listener** – I have my views on certain topics but know that as a CC Member I need to listen to, and represent, the views of the local community.
- **Working together** – I understand the value of working together and how that can achieve good things.
- **Awareness of local issues** – it is important to have an awareness of issues in the local area, such as development of the Strachan play park or the proposed Glendye Windfarm or the Braehead Housing Development. I believe that neither of these latter examples would be good for this area. I realise that the UK Government must consider wind power as a viable addition to the country's energy network, but communities need to make sure that developments happen in the right areas. A community must consider all new proposals and understand what benefits or opportunities they might bring. However it is also important to understand that some may be detrimental to the local area and community and so a willingness to tackle and confront those issues will be required as well as supporting developments that provide long term support without jeopardising the wider benefits of the area.

I will bring to this role, a sense of care and responsibility that the community's voice is heard and respected. I am open and approachable and am keen to represent the views of this community. If asked what my watch words are, I want developments that can help secure the future of our area rather than be detrimental to our future.

JILL RANDALLS

I have lived in Strachan for 15 years and have taken an active part in the local community. My three children attended Strachan Primary school which led to me being Chairperson of the Parent Council for several years and becoming a member of the Strachan Hall committee. I am a Community Council representative on the Midhill Community Benefit group and am Chairperson of Riding for the Disabled Deeside Group which helps local disabled people experience therapy through riding. After spending many years as an Intensive Care nurse I now work as a carer. I enjoy walking in the local area and keep a small flock of sheep.

I became involved with FWCC several years ago as a result of being disillusioned with the planning process being skewed in favour of the developer, rather than the people affected by development. Until recently FWCC has tried hard to engage with residents and put forward their views, irrespective of personal opinion. This is what Community Councils were set up to do. This last year has seen growing concerns, amongst many, that their voice was not being listened to. I have worked hard to address these issues but have often been out voted or ignored . I seek to stand for a further term so that I can use my experience to help ascertain, co ordinate and express to local and public authorities the views of the community I represent. I have integrity, objectivity and honesty - all essential traits for an effective Community Council member.

SIMON RICHARDS

I and my wife Sarah have now lived in Strachan for over 30 years. It is firmly home, having raised our four children here.

I am now retired and find myself with time and energy to put something back in to the community. I am keen to listen to the people of Strachan, and hope that I can be part of a Community Council that truly represents their views.”

MARIJKE STALLAERT/MARIJKE ROSS (married name)

I am a Belgian citizen who has lived in the Feugh valley for the past 20 years, and in Strachan for the past 16 years. Over the years I have enjoyed being part of the local playgroup, Strachan school parent Council & the village youth club. I have helped out at various events within the village. As such I have got to know and made many local friends. I think Strachan is the most beautiful place in Scotland with a friendly and welcoming local community. I am married to Steve Ross and we have two teenage boys. I love working as a pupil support assistant for Aberdeenshire.

Having attended the CC for the past few months, I feel strongly that the Community Council could benefit from a greater mix of local people in order to truly democratically represent all Strachan, Glendye, Inchmarlo and Auchattie residents. At present the Community Council is a closed club, where too many of the important decisions that affect our community are made by a small select group which only present a tiny section of Strachan. Important decisions are often made behind closed doors, outside of meetings, and often altering or cancelling decisions democratically decided at Community Council meetings. In order to become a truly democratic Community Council once more, we need people who are not interested in power games or control, but who are willing to serve the community for the greater good, who are truly prepared to listen to local residents and who welcome a variety of opinions and ideas at local Community Council meetings. To the community Council I would bring my total and complete lack of interest in power and control. Instead I would bring my willingness to listen, my interest in inclusiveness and dialogue, my belief that a community councillor has a duty to represent all sections of our local community and, finally as a hillwalker, my love for the beautiful area we live in, and a belief that we should cherish and look after this great natural asset.

At a recent poll our local community overwhelmingly rejected the imminent plans for an enormous windfarm in Gendye, with the tallest 500ft windmills anywhere on mainland Scotland. All this directly behind the iconic hill of Clochnaben. This community vote was tossed aside as invalid and irrelevant by the current Community Council with total contempt for the 100 or so people who took the time to vote. If I was voted onto the CC I would reflect the opinion of our residents.

I urge you to go out and vote for change, to vote for democracy. There are many excellent candidates among the 18 standing. By choosing 6 people who are truly democratic at heart you will ensure a much needed breath of fresh air to your Community Council.

SAMANTHA WYLDE

One purpose of the Feughdee West Community Council is : "to provide a means for the people of the Community Area to voice their opinions on any matter affecting their lives, their welfare or their environment." (FWCC constitution)

Having attended all the CC meetings over the past 18 months I am saddened that this no longer seems to be a priority. Members of the community attending CC meetings have experienced hostility, aggression and derision from FWCC members.

I would like to ensure that the FWCC returns to an ethos which embraces the opinion of the community as a whole, encouraging members of the public to attend meetings and responding positively to their views, ideas and suggestions.

I will support community projects, such as the redevelopment of Strachan Playground, and progress with the Village development plans for both Inchmarlo and Strachan. These projects were initiated more than 18 months ago by Nicola Losely. Neither of these projects have been progressed by the current Chair (Mike Smith) during the course of the last year.

I feel strongly that the community should be given the opportunity to be fully informed (other than by the developer, Coriolis) about the proposal for a Glendye Windfarm and how this may impact wildlife, tourism and community funding. I suggest that a site visit should be arranged for those interested and a public meeting should be held to hear advice from experts from SNH, Aberdeenshire Council etc. This will provide the basis for folk in the community to make an informed decision as to whether they want to object or support the Windfarm planning application when submitted in September.

If the Glendye Windfarm goes ahead I will fight for the best possible deal in terms of community funding for our area. For example researching the benefits of joint community ownership and requesting paid internship for engineer graduates / undergraduates from our area during the construction period. I would like to see the contractor providing an educational benefit for our primary school, such as a renewable energy workshop. I will also fight for minimal services impact from the development, such as underground power line connection.

For the past 20 years I have been actively involved in the community, running the youth club with Arlene Thomson and Linda MacDonald, setting up the U5s Group with Jane Kerridge, participating in Strachan School Parent Association and the Strachan Hall committee along with with many members from this community.

Please remember to Vote **on Wednesday 26th 5-8pm**. Give your 6 votes to people you know and trust, who have shown, in a practical ways, over the years that they support the community.