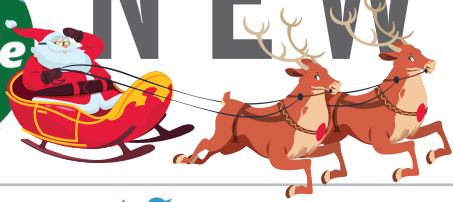




# NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2023



Go Golspie

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With Christmas and the New Year just ahead, Go Golspie Development Trust would like to wish every one of you and all our funders, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2024. We look forward to continuing to deliver services for and with the community in the coming year.

# YMCA BUILDING

The newly refurbished YMCA Building is the culmination of 6 years of hard work and determination for Go Golspie Development Trust. Securing all the funding required from a number of sources took a lot of time and work and then carrying out the building work just after the pandemic was very challenging. Thank you to all our funders and those who have supported us through this project.

Converting the building from a derelict and decaying eyesore to the fantastic community facility that it is now, with its different spaces available to everyone to hire and enjoy, has been a long journey and it is great to see it already

being so well used. Areas available include a large Main Hall, a Youth/Community space, a fully fitted Kitchen and a small Meeting room. The Go Golspie office is now also within the building.

The purpose of the building was always intended to be a multi-generational hub and it is clear to see that ambition has been achieved with the young and the not so young making full use of it.

A wide range of activities and events organised by a number of different groups are now taking place in the building. It is exciting to see it come to life with such a range of activities including GYAP restarting Golspie Youth Club, Golspie Hub meeting regularly and Highlife Highland running Fitness classes, as well as Mindfulness courses, Youth Dance classes, a Careers Fair, Golspie Gala week activities, Digital Outreach sessions and a Knitting and Crocheting Group all taking place. We have held NHS training sessions and MIDAS minibus driver training days.

As we do not receive any statutory funding, so the challenge now is to keep the building occupied enough with activities to pay its way - it costs an estimated £10,000 per year to maintain with nearly £3,000 for insurance alone.



# PLACE PLAN

Communities across Highland are being invited to prepare their own Local Place Plans. Introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, Local Place Plans are a way for communities to bring forward their own proposals and suggestions for the development and use of land.

Go Golspie has been successful in securing funding to carry out a survey to support both the development of a Local Place Plan and to identify wider community priorities for the Trust to progress. This is enclosed with this newsletter and also available via our Facebook page and our website or through the office by emailing [info@gogolspie.co.uk](mailto:info@gogolspie.co.uk) or calling 01408 634033.

The Golspie Local Place Plan will aim to set out our aspirations and priorities for the future. So when thinking about your answers to the questions, consider what you think Golspie should look like in 10 or 20 years from now

# EXISTING PROJECT WORK AND ACTIVITIES

Go Golspie Development Trust is a community led organisation and over the years we have been driven by the needs and the aspirations of the community. As a result we have had some major successes, notably the community transport which includes the minibus and the clinic car, the purchase of Fountain Road Hall and most recently the total refurbishment and reopening of the YMCA building as a community building.

# TRANSPORT UPDATE

The Go Golspie community minibus has been very busy over the last year and has now completed almost 34,000 miles since we first bought it. The minibus continues to be a huge benefit to the community and to the surrounding area, taking many local groups and residents to a large variety of community/sporting events, days out, weddings, and other private functions.

The minibus is also used to take some of our residents to the fortnightly lunch club at The Stag's Head Hotel, where John and his staff provide lovely meals for everyone. From April to October we use it to take people to our 'Walk and Talk' walks organised with Golspie Bothy and during Golspie Gala Week it enables those who need it to access community events. Providing transport to activities can go a long way towards reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation and just provide an opportunity for a laugh and a bit of craic. We also provide MIDAS minibus driver training helping us and local organisations who need trained minibus drivers

Our electric car is proving to be a very valuable asset for the community taking Golspie residents

to and from medical appointments locally, to Caithness General hospital, Raigmore hospital and to the new National Treatment Centre in Inverness. Three trips to Inverness each week is not uncommon.

Following on from Go Golspie being chosen to be one of the local charities to benefit from the Co-op Community Fund, we were delighted to be awarded £3,344.40 which will help towards the costs of keeping our Community Transport on the road.

The minibus and the car are both driven by our fantastic group of volunteer drivers who all provide a tremendous service for the community. We could not manage without them and cannot thank them enough for what they do.

The more drivers we have the more people we can help so do please think about becoming a volunteer driver with Go Golspie. Please contact us at any time for information regarding the use of the car or the minibus or if you are interested in knowing more about being a volunteer driver.



## FRH



The growing use and success of Fountain Road Hall during the year has been great to see, including once more as a wedding venue and for a wide range of social events and activities as well as regular Saturday markets. A Market survey has recently been completed – thanks to all who returned it as this is going to be useful in improving the markets going forward.

Fountain Road Hall has been particularly important for regularly providing the most vital service as an intimate place for funerals but has also hosted vaccination clinics, support groups, choirs and the fun Singalong group.

We held new Friday coffee mornings during the summer and used our community minibus to help people attend. More recently there was another successful Ukrainian evening and Golspie Christmas Lights Group used the spaces to sort out the Christmas lights and hold a fundraising quiz night.

We are delighted to have managed to retain this fantastic building for the community and thank everyone for their continued support.



### MARKET DATES:

During 2024 markets will take place as follows:  
30th March, 20th April, 25th May, 29th June,  
24th August, 28th September, 14th October  
and 23rd November.

# GOLSPIE FLOOD DEFENCE PROJECT

Following the conclusion that reinstating the Breakwater is not going to solve the flooding issues as hoped, other options have been investigated during the year including Beach Nourishment both on its own and with the addition of Groynes. Unfortunately these would have prohibitive capital and maintenance costs as well as raising environmental concerns about importing sand.

With the recent flooding incidents fresh in our minds which highlighted the issues facing Golspie from the sea in front and the hills behind, the Community Engagement Day on 25th November was well attended. Focussing on the Golspie Flood Defence Project, there was a great deal of understanding about the process undertaken to get to this point and positive feedback about the current preferred (and experts recommended) option:

## PROS

- Similar to the stone defences below Dunrobin Castle put in 150 years ago
- Would protect against rising sea levels and reduce wave energy
- One off capital build cost with little to no ongoing maintenance burden
- Potential to be combined with Highland Council option to raise sea wall by 90cm
- Possible to extend and raise height if required in future.

## CONS

- Cost benefit is approx. 0.7 but could be higher if community benefits and wider potential damages are taken into account.

## WHAT NEXT?

The Next Steps for the Golspie Flood Defence project will see Go Golspie Development Trust continuing to keep momentum for the project going through involvement in:

- Further community consultation around the preferred option including a Scottish Flood Forum meeting in Spring 2024
- Having detailed plans and models produced
- Obtaining some initial indicative cost estimates
- Consulting and working with all local stakeholders
- Moving towards applying for regulatory planning approvals and Marine Scotland consents.

If you would like to know more about this option or about the other options that have also been investigated do come in and speak to us about it in the YMCA Building or call 01408 634033.



# STAFF / VOLUNTEER UPDATE



With funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, the YMCA Building is now being kept clean and tidy ready for those using it by Mariya who has recently started working with us.

Having secured funding for a part-time caretaker for Fountain Road Hall from SSE Gordonbush Community Fund, we now have David in place. This reduces pressure on other volunteers such as Carl who has now been able to retire. He was presented with his thank you card and gift for carrying out much needed fire safety checks at FRH for the last few years.

Starting much earlier in the year was our part-time Development Officer Lucy who has been very busy getting the YMCA Building set up ready for use by everyone and particularly as our office and for GYAP to re-start Youth Club. Lucy is co-ordinating bookings for both the YMCA Building and Fountain Road Hall.

During the year, we said farewell to June who retired as bus contractor and also to Carl who stepped down as a volunteer. Marion stepped down as Fountain Road Hall sub-group head but continues on the board. We have also recently welcomed several new volunteer drivers – thank you all!

# PLAYPARKS

Following on from the refurbishment and reopening of the King George V playpark last year, we are now focussing on the Ross Street Playpark project. The plan is to refurbish and replace dilapidated play equipment and benches in this well-used recreational space installing accessible equipment and improving access with a new entrance, paths, signs and lighting.

Responding to strong local demand and identified community need as there is nothing similar available locally, accessibility will be the central focus. Options are still being looked into and funding has to be secured but a potential option is detailed here which includes a sensory boardwalk and a roundabout with full wheelchair access. Funding will be used to upgrade existing equipment and supply, deliver and install new items at the playpark.



**CURRENT CHARGES: FOUNTAIN ROAD HALL AND YMCA BUILDING** (mainly unchanged for several years):

Large Hall (both buildings): <b>£15 per hour</b>	Kitchen: <b>£10</b> (up to 4 hours use)	Half day for halls/spaces and kitchen: <b>£100/£75</b>	Youth Groups: <b>£6 per hour per space</b>
Small Hall/Youth/Community Space: <b>£10 per hour</b>	Whole day (9–5) for halls/spaces and kitchen: <b>£200/£150</b> voluntary organisations	Voluntary organisations Children’s birthday parties: <b>£35 for up to 3 hours</b>	Funerals: <b>£200</b>
			Weddings: please enquire

# FACEBOOK PAGE

Find us on Go Golspie

We now have a new Go Golspie Facebook page and are starting to put details of activities and events onto it. Do please like and share our posts.

