

Strathnairn Development Company (SDC) February Monthly report

SDC has continued to be active in pursuing funding for community events and facilities. Applications have been made for substantial funding to a number of regional and national bodies and outcomes should be forthcoming over the coming months.

A draft business plan has been presented to the SDC Board and will be discussed at their next meeting.

The Active Travel working group continues to progress proposals to make walking, cycling and other modes of transport safer and healthier for all. Updates to follow.

A Housing group has been established, with calls issued for members of the community to come together to help identify needs, plans and funding for new homes to meet the needs of current and future Strathnairners. Landowners, families and others have been in contact to express interest and ideas.

Recognising the successes of the last two years, Strathnairn Development Company has been awarded a significant Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd grant by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to run Gaelic activities locally over the next two years. In the context of plans for the Dunlichity Heritage Centre, Strathnairn Heritage Association (SHA), planning is underway to organise:

- Gaelic Beginners' classes, targeted for parents of children entering GME and for newcomers to the strath;
- guided talks in Gaelic for all speakers to heritage sites, community woods, the allotments, and the environs of Strathnairn generally, led by local experts;
- music, sports, board games sessions, especially but not exclusively for younger members of the community and their families;
- conversation cafes and other events which will be used to gain better ideas of what works for different groups, including those in and graduates from GME.

SDC is working closely with SHA to deliver the third Seachdain na Gàidhlig/global Gaelic Week in Strathnairn, 23rd February - 1st March 2026. All are welcome to these free events to encourage inclusion in local heritage and cultural activities. To deepen the impact and recognition of the Gaelic language, heritage and culture in Strathnairn, a steering group drawn from SHA, SDC and the community is being set up.