

Chairman's Report November 2020

What a difficult year with fear and mass hysteria over the coronavirus pushing us into an economic recession and causing massive political tensions.

Nairnshire is very exposed to this economic recession with our dependency on the tourist industry.

To start on a positive note: #Team Hamish project 1

The Splash-pad is in place and it looks fantastic. It is a fitting start to the #TeamHamish commitment to leave a lasting memorial of Nairn's support for Hamish. It is the ideal starting point for the economic regeneration of the Nairnshire economy and fits perfectly with the BID rebranding of Nairnshire as Scotland's Highland Playground. We should all be able to enjoy it when it officially opens next Spring.



It is with great sadness and regret that I now must pay tribute to Susan Hey who passed away this year. Susan just lit up all our lives with her bubbling artistic personality and style. Yet she was so much more than that - her courage and determination shone through all that she did. She was also a great communicator and enlisted the fantastic support that #TeamHamish has developed. Sam provided the architectural framework and as a team they delivered so much together. She is a massive loss to us all.

We must now deliver the rest of the Links development working with Highland Council, BID and the wider Nairnshire Community.

Next year the priority must be the economic regeneration of Nairnshire and we start with the massive boost of the Amateur Championship being hosted on both Nairn courses.

We have been working with the Highland Council, BID, Nairn's Community Councils and other organisations and with HC leading, we have now submitted our stage 2 application for the Regeneration Project Town Centre (RPTC). Can I thank Steve, Mike and Mandy for their input and hard work. Mandy has co-ordinated a complex team to help Kickstart (UK Government policy- Nairnshire's Fair Share estimate £500,000) and all the necessary job creation schemes to be available as we try to regenerate the Nairnshire economy. As Mike keeps saying, this is about footfall, footfall, footfall and we must see as much income as we possibly can into the Nairnshire economy next year. Steve has provided his economic and consultancy experience and knowledge. We owe them a real vote of thanks for all their hard work on all our behalf.

Can I also thank Iain for all his survey work with Mike and all the other directors for all their input. Can I also thank all our members who have contributed during the year. It is much appreciated and helped us greatly to work in the best interests of Nairnshire.

Moving forward to 2021 we must deliver:

The remaining Links projects

The Town centre regeneration

Appoint Project management capacity to deliver these multi-million pound objectives.

Develop a delivery arm of NICE to drive these projects forward.

We must also create a trading arm of NICE to run the regeneration Hub.

This all means we are actively looking to add to our organisations as many skilled and committed volunteers as possible. If you think you can help, please contact Mike or myself.

Finally, at this low point can I again say that I believe Nairnshire is a fantastic place to live, work, retire to or work in. Our vision of a green sustainable economic and culturally rich Nairnshire is ours for the taking.

Looking forward to an exciting 2021 and a successful year for all in Nairnshire.

Dr Alastair L Noble MBE

16th November 2020