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*Beneath the rule of men entirely great
The pen is mightier than the sword*



INVERGORDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN CRISIS YET AGAIN

On more than one occasion I have said that I believe Invergordon Community Council, collectively, is quite spineless. After reading some of the spiel presented at the last meeting by an elected Highland Councillor, my belief has been reinforced.

Highland Councillor Maxine Smith, presented a five page document (which is reproduced in full on the Independent Highlander web site) detailing various items that may be forthcoming sometime in the future.

The same councillor and at the same time dictated to the elected Invergordon Community Council members of what should be done with, or about, the community truck.

Now its not for me, without extensive research, to

publish just what if any misdemeanours have been or is being done with this publicly owned vehicle, but if there were or are any, then it would have been so much more diplomatic for that 'questionable' use of the truck to be discussed in private, instead of at a public meeting of Invergordon Community Council which alienated the Treasurer/secretary Jaki Gardener. (To such an extent that the official stated to me that she intends to resign for the C.C.)

In addition I do **not** believe the rumour that the said Highland Councillor made use of the community truck and driver on three occasions, shifting shop fittings to Alness, moving furniture to her house and taking a load of rubbish to the tip. If you'll pardon the pun, its probably someone trying to make trouble and should be treated as nothing but a load of rubbish. Ed.

Josh Street, Second Contamination?

Not that many years ago there was a hullabaloo when the Highland Council announced that the 'flats' in Josh Street had to come down as they were built on the site of the old gas works and the ground was contaminated to a degree that it was a health risk for people to live therein.

Today on the opposite side of Josh Street, one man's garden sports a crop of potatoes that is quite extraordinary or even grotesque. I am certain that an individual can not get his/her hands on genetically modified seed potatoes so this leaves us with a crop possibly contaminated with some chemical or worse.



Instead of the Cromarty Firth Highland Councillors, Martin Rattray and Maxine Smith, along with anti incinerator campaigner Tina McCaffery setting their sights on preventing pie in the sky emissions from a chimney, perhaps they should take a look closer to their feet, and visit Josh Street to see for themselves what the 'Highlander' has photographed.

If in fact the grotesqueness is the result of an escaped (or applied) chemical questions must be asked before such elements escape into the food chain or water table. Perhaps it's a case for SEPA before they disappear from Dingwall into the sunset. Or there for again Highland Council's Health and

Safety squad, to don their protective gear and investigate.

HIGHLAND PARK by BARBARAVILLE

Reflects (but even more so, the village for elderly people only)

FIRHILL by NAIRN

An article in the *Daily Mail* by writer Jim McBeth earlier this week highlighted a 'child free' environment where all residents must be over the age of 45 and have no dependant children under the age of 16 living with them, before they can buy one of the 100 houses on the development at Firhill by Nairn.

Then again there are lots of conditions attached to owner occupiers, for example property owners who wish to sell are restricted to selling their house only to a like aged person, no business can be, nor can any distilling or brewing be, conducted from their premises.



This ruling goes back to the old feudal days in Scotland when churches owned large tracts of land and laid down stringent conditions for would-be cottage builders. Fiefdom was abolished some time ago but here at Highland Park and Firhill it appears to be allowed to raise its ancient head unopposed. (Up to now!)

The *Daily Mail* writer claims that Firhill is the first place in Britain where residents lived in a child free environment I am not quite sure that that is correct, as Highland Park has been up and running for quite some time, but there again that is not the point in question.

Editor of the *Nairnshire Telegraph*, Iain Bain, believes that the exclusion of children in the community may create a sense of isolation or even that of artificialness, and that Nairn is not big

enough, or elsewhere for that matter to have that level of apartness. Well if Nairn is not big enough, Barbaraville certainly isn't.

Even on the **public roads** in Highland Park, Barbaraville Village residents feel as though they are intruding. And as for children riding bicycles on what is the Highland Council's responsibility, well this has caused some Highland Park dwellers to come out and remonstrate with them.

Residents in the 'Park' must understand that the council, and not them, nor Mr and Mrs Mulholland, have adopted the roads and pavements. Should the pavements and roads be privately owned (and thus be exclusively used by the 'Park' residents), then there can be NO sanding of the roads and pavements during the frost and snow nor the uplifting of Wheelie Bins from their doors at any time. Bins would have to be wheeled out to the road end.

That aside, there is yet another twist to this saga, the developers, and owners of Mull Hall the adjacent care home for the elderly, have retained what is claimed as a legal right to 50% of any profit made on the resale of almost all of the 50 houses on the site. As well as agreeing to this 'legal' condition buyers must be 55 years or older before they are able gain access.

This raises the questions;- could someone raise a mortgage or realise their equity on any one of the fifty houses in the 'Park'? Ed.

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