

## **Holmehill Ltd**

### **Chairman's Report 2017/8**

This is my fifth and final report at Chair of Holmehill Ltd. I am standing down as Chair and as a Director of Holmehill, as I have been elected Chair of Dunblane Community Council, which will take a lot more of my time. It removes any risk of conflict of interests in the future.

It has been a momentous and transformational year for Holmehill with the purchase in spring 2018 of the whole site by the Carman Family Charity. They intend to protect the site from built development and to transform it for the benefit of the community. And to that end a consultation day was held on Sunday 23 September – the first major event on Holmehill in well over 20 years – which was attended by over 260 people. I am sure that all would wish to record their appreciation of actions that Bill and Celia Carman have taken.

The purchase process was, of necessity, undertaken in total secrecy over a fourteen month period. I know that the information contained on the Holmehill website was of considerable assistance in the negotiations. Moreover had it not been for the resolute action over many years by all the members of Holmehill in facing down the repeated attempts to build on the site, frustrating the developer and reducing the value of the site, it is unlikely that we would be in this fortunate position.

Since the change of ownership was made known to the whole group on the 7<sup>th</sup> June there has been much activity (with especially notes of thanks to Steve, Claire Chris Toop and Caroline) to rejuvenate local interest in Holmehill and bring about a new support organisation, "The Friends of Holmehill" with an initial meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August in the Fraser room at Old Churches House (the room in which our inaugural meeting was held in 2005). This new group will become the main support group looking after Holmehill and Holmehill Ltd will cease to be the public face of Holmehill and it is proposed that the company is wound up.

Other activity during the year included a Spooky Fun Halloween afternoon, attendance at the Girl Guide's Christmas Fair and another successful day's attendance at a sunny Fling where a number of new members were enrolled.

Sue Harley is stepping down as secretary as she is now taking a similar and considerably more onerous role with the Dunblane Development Trust. I wish to record my thanks for her support and for keeping me straight at our meetings.

I wish to record thanks to Steve and all who has risen to the challenge of moving to a new support organisation and to resolving the remaining issues surrounding the winding up of Holmehill Ltd.

Once again I also wish to record my thanks to our elected members and to the Community Council for their continued support.

I would like to thank all the members of Holmehill and especially fellow Board members, past and present, for all their support and comradeship over the past nearly fourteen years, without which we would not be in the current fortunate position.

David Prescott Chair, Holmehill Ltd. - 13 October 2018