



**PEFFERY WAY ASSOCIATION (PWA)
SIXTH ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING (AMM)
TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2021 AT 7PM
TO BE HELD AT THE OLD FODDERTY BRIDGE, FODDERTY**

**COMBINED CHAIR AND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT
COVERING THE PERIOD 30 NOVEMBER 2020 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2021**

Summary

It has been another very positive year for the Peffery Way Association and its members. During the year, we have completed another section of the path at Blairninich which was approximately 360m long. We have also completed the link path from the Fodderty cemetery car park opening up another means of accessing the Peffery Way. By the end of November 2021, around 4km out of a total length of 6km had been completed.

This year we have also begun a very important process towards addressing the issues with one of the sections of the path where we continue to experience difficulties with landowners and it is hoped that we will hear the outcome of that process in the coming weeks.

This report, which covers the period of our financial year i.e. from 30 November 2020 to 30 November 2021, picks out the key milestones and highlights of the project during that time.

Trustees, Members and Volunteering

There is no doubt that people make the Peffery Way Association. Without the support and dedication of our trustees, members, volunteers and the local community none of the tremendous progress outlined in this report would have been achieved. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped us and for the continuing levels of support we see for the project from the wider community.

Construction of the path

The next section of the path which was completed during this year was at Blairninich. While this section may have been relatively short and straightforward compared with the sections completed in the previous year, it was another important step forward in extending the path from the Strathpeffer end towards Dingwall. This section was constructed on our behalf by John Grant.

During this year we also completed the link path from Fodderty Cemetery car park which had been partially constructed by David Lockett at Knockbain during the previous year. This link opens up an important safe route to join the Peffery Way and will allow more people to access it.

Funding and financing support

Over the course of this year, we continued to be very fortunate and receive funding from a number of different sources. Details are given below:

SUSTRANS Funding	£16,953
FCC Communities Foundation grant	£19,476
Scottish Woodlands	£3,000
MacKenzie New York Villa Trust	£10,000

(with a further £10,000 contribution made prior to December 2020 outside the period covered by this report)

Scottish Rural Development Programme	£10,701.60
Various significant donations from members of the community	£5,347.08

All of these grants or donations are very welcome and we are very grateful for the support given.

SUSTRANS

We have been working with SUSTRANS since 2019 and their support continues with the award of a further grant this year. Their support has allowed us to employ consultants who have helped with surveying the route and producing a number of items such as general arrangement drawings and detailed advice on design matters. This support also covers some costs associated with legal advice and is very welcome.

Addressing the remaining landowner issues

This has been a key focus of our attention throughout this year.

The position with regard to negotiated agreements with the various landowners along the route has not changed since our last AMM. We have formal negotiated agreements in place with landowners covering 90% of the overall route. There are two remaining sections where we are working to address issues with landowners.

On one section, we are working with the Highland Council to promote a Path Order and on the other, the Council is revising its Core Path plans to include the Peffery Way.

The Path Order has been through a lengthy and detailed process with the Scottish Government and we expect to hear the outcome in the next few weeks. The report produced by the Government's Reporter was submitted to Ministers at the beginning of April.

Unfortunately, while the consultation on the Core Path plans was completed at the end of last year, the revised plans have yet to be submitted to the Scottish Government to consider. This is largely due to resourcing issues within Highland Council.

If successful, the Path Order will allow Highland Council to construct the path at the Dingwall end and the Core Path Plan review will allow Highland Council to remove all obstructions on the other section, so for example, fences could be replaced with gates.

Progress since November 2021

Given the time which has passed since the end of our financial year, it seems appropriate to include a short update on what has happened since then.

Although not formally part of this report, since last November, we have constructed another section of path 1.2km long from the eastern boundary of Millnain Croft to connect with the already constructed path to the west of Fodderty bridge. This means that we have now completed 5.2km out of a total length of 6km. The only remaining sections to build are those where we are still to obtain permission from the landowners or through the processes mentioned above. This latest work has been funded with a grant from the Scottish Rural Development Programme and was constructed by Andy Coleman and his team in Highland Conservation Ltd..

Next steps

Our plan for the remainder of 2022 is to focus on the Path Order process and Core Path plan review. We have also applied to the SRDP fund for funding for works to complete the short section at the Strathpeffer station end which still requires some tidying up.

Volunteer days

This year has seen a number of volunteer days organised and held by Heather and Kevin Crockett. An example of the work completed on these days is at Fodderty Bridge, where our volunteers along with help from the Community Services team have planted almost 1000 new trees. Thanks are also due to Richard Lockett of Knockbain for his help with organising the young trees and setting aside the land for the planting.

Heather and Kevin Crockett continue to organise more volunteer days, so please keep an eye out for emails, Facebook page messages, etc. for details.

Once again, we would like to say thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. It really is great fun being involved in the project and if you are interested in becoming a member or joining the board as a trustee please let us know.

(N.B. The accounts of the PWA can be viewed on our website – www.pefferywayassociation.scot).

The accounts for the latest year, to November 2021, have already been approved and registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Ron McAulay (Chair) and Ian Searle (Treasurer)

June 2022.