

## Business sponsors shinty project

INVERNESS builder Tulloch Homes is strengthening its bond with shinty.

It is sponsoring a Shinty Memories project for people living with dementia and other forms of memory loss or experiencing loneliness and isolation.

The Camanachd Association has launched the venture.

Memories groups have already been set up by Lovat and Beaulieu.

A key element is the use of work boxes which include memorabilia such as boots, balls, and match programmes.

Tulloch Homes is sponsoring the work boxes.

# Active travel boosted by new footpath opening



Councillors Isabelle Mackenzie and Trish Robertson cut the ribbon to open the new path, which provides an active travel route between the retail park and the rest of the city.

A NEW bridge linking Inverness Shopping Park with the businesses at Stoneyfield has been officially opened.

It means walkers and cyclists will be able to access businesses without having to use the A96.

It has been funded through Scottish Government scheme Sustrans and is part of a network of new routes across the city encouraging people to walk or cycle.

The route was opened by Councillor Trish Robertson, vice chair of Highland Council's environment, development and infrastructure committee.

"This new network is a relatively small project with a big impact," she said.

"It is part of the jigsaw bringing together a network of active travel community links as the east area of Inverness develops."

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# Council is accused of 'arrogance'

By Scott MacLennan  
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INVERNESS councillors have agreed to controversial traffic plans that will make progress despite officials having "failed" to engage with the local community in Ballifeary.

The proposals will see a one-way traffic system imposed from Bishop's Road to Bught Drive, as well as a 20mph zone in residential areas between the River Ness and the A82.

A motion put forward by Inverness West councillor Bill Boyd calling for community engagement and a short delay in approving the plans was defeated.

Helen Smith of Ballifeary Community Council, which is against the move, said the an opportunity to take on board residents' concerns was missed.

"They have chosen to go ahead to statutory consultation and road traffic orders, which means the ordinary people on the community council are going to have to learn how to jump through

these hoops," she said, adding the council did not seem prepared to listen.

Inverness South councillor Ken Gowans said: "It is not about the merits or demerits of this particular project but about local democracy.

**All of us who were elected to office are answerable to the voters who put us there and it is unacceptable.**

Ron MacWilliam

"Ballifeary have launched an online petition because they feel they have not been treated as stakeholders."

Council transport planning manager Richard Gerring said: "I personally feel disappointed that the level of consultation and engagement is being slagged off. I am personally taking that as a slur. There will be more consultation."

That triggered an

intervention from Inverness Millburn councillor Ian Brown, who said on a point of order: "No one in this chamber has 'slagged' anybody off. Your wording is disgraceful. We are just repeating what residents have said to us.

"If we don't get the consultation right then that is their opinion - we are just giving their opinion, their voice."

Inverness Ness-side councillor Ron MacWilliam said: "The arrogance of the Highland Council administration is mind-boggling.

"They claim to be consulting the public in a far-reaching inclusive exercise yet when it comes to key decisions they resist scrutiny and take exception to being challenged.

"All of us who were elected to office are answerable to the voters who put us there and it is unacceptable that when a public consultation has so clearly failed to satisfy local concerns that the council steams ahead regardless."

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