

## **Impact of Bank Closures**

**David Finlayson**  
**Treasurer, Chanonry Sailing Club**

Due to the cancellation of the community forum to have been held in Fortrose on 20th April, I am writing to comment on the loss of the only bank in Fortrose.

I represent the local sailing club as its treasurer and like many other small businesses we deal with cash and cheques for many of the activities we provide to members.

While deposits may not be a major issue for us I see only too clearly the huge problems the loss of banking deposit taking will have for small businesses which will require to deposit cash more frequently than I.

A far greater problem however comes from the loss of banking services such as managing account details particularly with matters such as changing account signatories which is a frequent issue for clubs. Previously local contact with staff who know the business facilitated this process. This is not a function which an intermittent van can address.

Loss of Post Offices and banks erode communities and reduce their viability and their functions are not interchangeable.

Given the level of profit the banks can make, I can see no justification for the wholesale closures and, in particular in the case of Fortrose, at a time when many towns are actually increasing their populations.

**David Finlayson**