

Nevis Radio crowdfunder gets £5k match-funding pledge

The Highland Club in Fort Augustus has pledged to help Nevis Radio weather the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The station has been forced to turn to the public for help as money usually raised from its events has dried up due to lockdown restrictions.

But The Highland Club now says it will match fund up to £5,000 whatever Nevis Radio raises from its crowdfunding appeal.

'As with other businesses and charities, we are feeling the financial effects the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have brought, as events that would have generated income for us have had to be cancelled,' said a station statement.

'Previous projects and events not only added something a bit different to the Lochaber area, but were also a valuable source of income for us, contributing to the day-to-day running of the station.

'With the current restrictions COVID-19 brings, all our usual sources of income have either ceased or have been cancelled and the worry of being able to even keep the



lights on is real. Funds from this campaign would help keep our doors open during these challenging times and ensure once the world returns, we can continue to support and develop those in the music industry whilst giving Lochaber a voice via FM and online.'

However, by the end of last month, the initial fear the lockdown could pose a threat to the survival of the station, had dissipated somewhat, according to chairman John Weller.

'We have now got some funds through from the Community Radio Fund which is a big help,' he told the Lochaber Times at the end of last week. 'The crowdfunder target was £5,000 and the offer of a matching donation from the Highland Club has also made a big difference.'

Mark Dallas, manager at The Highland Club in Fort Augustus, speaking on behalf of the Sandhu Charitable Foundation – set up by the club's owners Bim and Pardeep Sandhu – added: 'The station desperately needed some funding to carry on.

'The station is hugely involved in the community and to lose such a service to us would be awful.

'Community radio is a great thing to have to keep everyone informed of local events and information.

'So the offer was made to match whatever Nevis Radio can get in donations on their funding page up to 5k.'

Nevis Radio, a charity station based in Fort William, has been broadcasting 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to Lochaber and beyond since 1992.

Nevis Radio works with the community to help promote clubs and activities. It has one paid member of staff, Simon Abberley, who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the station with the majority of the air-time hosted by 40 volunteers.