



STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST ~ URRAS AN TAOBH SEAR

2020 AGM

SUMMARY of PROJECT PROGRESS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HEALTH & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The build is progressing well and as can be seen from the photographs the kits are now being erected. 15 construction workers are on site, all following Covid-19 regulations. It is scheduled for completion in autumn 2021.

There have been 20 expressions of interest so far made to Staffin Community Trust (SCT) in the new housing, which illustrates the need for the long-awaited development. The interest has all come from people in the target category, namely young local people and families aged from 20-years-old and upwards.

There will be six three-bedroom houses built. Two will be owned by SCT, two by the Communities Housing Trust and two by Lochalsh & Skye Housing



Association. SCT is planning to draft its allocation policy soon which will be shared with the community. SCT will also be advertising the business units for expressions of interest later this year as well.

SCT is trying to formalise an agreement with NHS Highland about the long-term lease of the new community health centre for Staffin, as the 'anchor tenant'.

Naming of development – the suggestions made to SCT so far will be sent to the older members of Stenscholl Township to be sent out by post this week and ranked, with the preferred name to be brought back to Staffin Community Council asap.

SCT will work with Bun Sgoil Stafainn on a native tree planting scheme at the rear of site, will help provide shelter belt for tenants and enhance the environment.



Project Funding

The Scottish Land Fund - £70,000 (purchase of the site)

Capital Works

- LEADER Fund £250,000
- SSE Sustainable Development Fund £99,000
- Crowdfunding campaign £7,000
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise £104,825
- The Rural Housing Fund £222,904
- Quaker Housing Trust £45,000
- Ecology Building Society £140,000 loan

SCT is grateful to all its funders for their support and has secured a significant amount of grant and loan money to deliver this project, but still needs to raise more funding to help it manage the development when it is operational and it will be stepping up these efforts later in the year.

STAFFIN SLIPWAY REDEVELOPMENT

In 2011 when we asked what the priorities were for developing the Staffin area, the Slipway came top of the list.

Since then, the number of people being drawn down to the harbour area has increased dramatically. More people want to get onto the water for business and pleasure. More people want to enjoy the beach, find the dinosaur footprints, and just spend time next to the sea.

The current facilities are nowhere near adequate to cope with this increase in demand. There is already conflict between users and this will only get worse unless we take the initiative and develop the harbour so that everyone can enjoy it safely and without stress.



A steering group of locals who are regular users of the Slipway has come up with a plan that will return the area to its primary purpose as a working pier, and make the harbour an attractive place for everyone who wants to enjoy it.

The new breakwater will create a sheltered haven that can be used by local and visiting boats, all year round.

The new Slipway, built over the existing one, will be longer and wider allowing fishing boats, workboats and pleasure boats to operate off it at any state of the tide, and make it much safer for vans, lorries and towing vehicles to get up and down it.

The pontoons will provide local boats with safe berths that can be used 12 months of the year, and opportunities for visiting leisure craft to tie up for the night.

The pontoons will also make it easy for new boat trip businesses to be established giving visitors the opportunity to discover the stunning coastline and abundant wildlife of the area.

Onshore, separating the commercial harbour from the general public will make life much easier for everyone, and provide opportunities for new businesses to be established to service both the commercial and tourist sectors.

When the development is complete it will be managed by the creation of a part-time Harbourmaster's job and the prospect of additional employment opportunities. There are more than 70 Staffin businesses including our shops, B&Bs, self-catering, campsite, hostel, museum etc who would all benefit from this development's impact.

It will secure the future of the local fishing fleet and the fish farm operation as well as providing a range of opportunities for new businesses from boat trips to winter storage, boat maintenance and repair, outdoor activities, and many more.

The income from berthing fees and rent of buildings will make the harbour self-sustaining and support other community projects.

The development will put an end to the free-for-all motorhome campsite that has become such a blight in recent years, providing instead a place that is easily managed so that it can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

The design of the new facilities will be sympathetic to the landscape and will have no impact on the dinosaur footprints which will continue to be protected by law during, and after the proposed works.

The plans that we're presenting here, see below, are conceptual, with enough information for the planning applications. There will be opportunities to comment on and improve the details of the development as the project progresses this year.

Pre-lockdown, back in February last year, SCT was successful in securing a £969,000 grant from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

SCT has carried out a lot of work identifying potential funding and there is no doubt it will be challenging, with the project costed at £3.2m excluding VAT. On the positive there is almost £1million secured already.

SCT will be consulting extensively with the Staffin community and all the other stakeholders at the Slipway as we progress the project.

DRUIM NAN LINNTEAN – THE SKYE ECOMUSEUM

Schools Educational Resource – SCT's new An Cladach schools pack on the topic of shorelines will be going to print shortly. This is for senior Gaelic Medium Education primary pupils and its intention is to provide outdoor learning for all Gaelic schools near the sea.

This will be of particular use as we move towards Spring and schools are taking the opportunity to explore more in their local area. It is a graphically appealing resource with lots activities to be carried out as a class outside.

University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology report – We now have a detailed report on recorded archaeology in the Staffin. This was researched and delivered by a postgraduate UHI student called Hannah Gender Boyd who was on placement over the last four months. This was part of SCT's ongoing partnership with the UHI. We will be making this available to the public for download later in the



week. Hard copies available on request. There is an accompanying schools lesson plan and blog to go with the report. Prior to the pandemic Hannah was scheduled to be working closely with the school and community.

Forest Schools – We are looking to train people locally to work towards becoming Forest Schools Leaders. This would be to enhance local after school

group activities. Several SCT members have expressed an interest in the training. It is hoped that a training officer will visit Staffin to deliver the 5-day course in person once restrictions ease. If anyone locally would like to put themselves forward for training please email skyeecomuseum@gmail.com

Marketing – SCT are currently not actively promoting Staffin as a tourist destination or the Druim nan Linntean project. It is our intention to release our new marketing short film, featuring several members of the community and carry out other promotion work once the ongoing situation becomes clearer.

CROFTERS MEMORIAL

SCT has secured funding for approximately 50% of the funding required to build a sculpture in memorial to the Crofters Uprising at Kilt Rock from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This project was an important aspiration for SCT, stretching back to the mid-1990s when the organisation was formed by several members of Staffin Community Council.

The proposal is a drystone reconstruction of a traditional black house (*artist's impression below*) by the sculptor Henry Castle, which will contain bronze replicas of



broken quern stones from the townships of Valtos and Ellishader, a story that is integral to the Crofters' Uprisings in the Taobh Sear.

It is our intention that part of the building process will include a course to gain a recognised qualification in drystone walling from an accredited trainer.

Adjacent to the piece will be signage that will

explain the story behind the late 19th century uprisings in Staffin. SCT are working to secure the remaining funding in the coming weeks. Once the remaining funding required is secured, it is planned that this will be built later in 2021.

NEW WEBSITE: Staffin Community Trust has launched a new website which replaces the previous outdated site. SCT intends to use it to provide information and updates about projects, promote local businesses and the area and establish a historical section. The website will also highlight all Skye Ecomuseum events and activities. Feedback on the appearance, content and anything you may feel is missing is welcomed.

<https://skyeecomuseum.com/why-staffin>

Anybody requiring additional information about SCT projects please get in touch with either Hugh Ross or Angus Murray. E - staffin.ido@gmail.com or skyeecomuseum@gmail.com T 01470 562 464.