

Welcome

Welcome to the Portree and Braes Community Trust winter newsletter 2019/20. On behalf of the trust I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered their time or supported PBCT projects in 2019 and wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead. If you would like to know more about any of the projects detailed below, please get in touch. I hope you enjoy your read.

Fiona Thomson, Development Officer.



Photo Credit: Willie Urquhart, West Highland Free Press

Image: Portree Harbour Development Group with Ian Blackford, Leader of the Scottish National Party in Westminster and MP for Ross Skye and Lochaber. Portree, 10th January.



Image: Aerial view showing the picnic area at Bayfield which is soon to be purchased by the trust.

Harbour Group secure support from Ian Blackford MP

Harbour Development Group Members: Alexander MacDonald, Donnie Nicolson, Calum Matheson, Peter Urquhart, Alistair Danter, Mairi Evans, Faye Macleod, Andrew Norman.

Ian Blackford recently accepted an invitation to meet with the Portree Harbour group in Portree where the group asked for support to raise awareness of the ongoing issues caused by lack of appropriate infrastructure at Portree harbour. During Mr Blackford's visit, group chair Alexander MacDonald used aerial footage to demonstrate the congestion in the village and the rapid deterioration of the pier. Mr Blackford agreed that the harbour is not fit for purpose and has offered to add his voice to help the harbour development group lobby for investment.

Previously, on the 6th of December, the group also met with the new chief executive of Highland Council, Donna Manson and the deputy chief executive, Malcolm Macleod - who is responsible for infrastructure and environment and has an oversight for Skye. A meeting was also held with Robert Muir, area manager of Highlands and Islands Enterprise the same month. Discussions were positive and it seems that there is now a drive for urgency from both the Highland Council and HIE to deliver an up-to-date plan for Portree and Skye which will outline the priority areas for investment. The group are now waiting for a follow up meeting with Malcolm Macleod and his team to clarify what resources could be provided to help the harbour group meet their aims:

£55,241 of funding approved for community land purchase

There were celebrations this month as the trusts bid to the Scottish Land Fund for funding to purchase land at the Lump and at Bayfield was approved. This award will allow the trust to employ a part time project officer for 1 year to oversee the transfer of the lands and begin delivering the 2018 business plan, a copy of which can be found on the trust website at www.portreeandbraes.org/community-land.

The purchase of the King George the V playing fields and surrounding land has been challenging due to the extent of legal work that is required to confirm land boundaries. For this reason, a separate application has been submitted to the Scottish Land Fund and the trust will be notified later in the year if they have been successful. If funding is awarded the project officer post could be extended to 3.5 days.

Plans for Portree Men's Shed group in motion



Image: Nicholas Kelly, Roddy MacHugh, Rick De Boer on the learning exchange trip at the Broadford Men's Shed.

Men's Shed Group members: Roddy MacHugh Allan Howsen, Jack Shettle, Neil Campbell, Bryan, Powell, Mags McGlynn, Craig Stewart, Rick De Boer

Thanks to Nicholas Kelly from Broadford and Strath Community Company and the Broadford's Men's Shed for hosting a learning exchange back in October. This group of men (and women!) have achieved great things in the last few years, securing funding for a bespoke shed at the Broadford Growers' Hub and working together to create beautiful products which they sell in exchange for donations. The PBCT Men's Shed group now has a much better understanding of how to establish a local shed and are working together to explore potential venues in Portree. Please get in touch if you would like to know more or would like to volunteer to help take this project forward.

Walkers raise over £1000 at Storr 2 Slig 2019 event

After being rescheduled due to wet weather, the Storr 2 Slig 2019 sponsored walk went ahead in October 2019 raising over £1000 towards the Light Up Portree total. Thirteen local people took part with the first walkers completing the approx. 20-mile course in eight hours. An amazing effort from all involved.

Image: Walkers at the starting point at the Storr. Muriel MacDonald, Carol Macleod, Lorraine Campbell, Hugh MacDonald, Samantha Campbell, Allan MacDonald, Fay Thomson, Annie Mackenzie, Annmarie Campbell, Donnie Nicolson, Emma Oldham, and Richard Matthews.

Portree woodland project to benefit from Coop's local community fund



Outdoor Activities Group Members: Chris James, Mo Taylor, Sharon Fenlon, Matt Harrison

The trust is delighted that their community woodland project has been chosen as one of the local charity projects supported through the Coop Local Community Fund. £1057.78 has already been raised through member support and the project has potential to raise up to £20,000 by the end of the voting period.

How does it work?

If you have a membership with the Coop, 1% of what you spend on selected Co-op branded products and services goes to support local causes. You can choose a local cause that you want your 1% to support by going online here www.coop.co.uk/membership or by phoning the Coop team on 0800 068 6727. If you don't select a cause your 1% will be split evenly between your three local causes.

The Outdoor Activities Group has also secured £7,500 from Awards for All, £1000 from Rabbits and £500 in sponsorship from the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association. These funds will be used to develop more detailed plans, carry out a vegetation survey and initial ground works.



Trust annual general meeting

Thank you to everyone who took time to attend the AGM in November. The minutes of this meeting can be found on the Portree and Braes website under **documents**. The following office bearers and trustees have been elected:

Donnie Nicolson - Chair

Calum Matheson – Vice Chair

Duncan Brown - Treasurer (associate)

Annmarie Campbell – Secretary

Neil Campbell

Ross Cowie

Irene Deplano

Bill Edgar (co-opted)

Chris James

Janice McGuire

Shona Cameron

Graham Smith

Janice MacHugh

Roddie MacHugh

Matt Harrison

Jen Pearson

PBCT offered community centre asset transfer

The Portree Community Centre Association (PCCA) have formally approached the PBCT regarding an asset transfer of the Portree Community Centre, a building which has been closed to the public since 2018. The PCCA have raised funds for a condition report which has now been instructed and will be completed by the end of February 2020. This will clarify the potential costs involved in bringing the building up to the required standard, and maintaining it going forward. Once the report is complete the trust will be better placed to decide if an asset transfer is feasible. The trust aspires to reopen the building in the short term while longer term solutions are explored.

West Bayfield parking development consultation complete

Bayfield Group Members: Duncan Brown, Dorothy Urquhart, Graham Smith, Bill Edgar.

Results from the community consultation in September 2019 have been collated. In total 160 responses were received as part of the consultation. 74% of those responding expressed support for the Bayfield West car park project with 13% indicating they were not in favour and a further 13% indicating they did not know. In depth consultation was carried out with Tigh Na Drochaid Resource Centre and the access panel. Those in favour felt that the car park would provide a much-needed solution to the under provision of parking in the area. When asked for further details from those who felt it could cause them some difficulty, concerns included personal impact on their costs of living, the lack of public transport alternatives to driving, increased costs to business - that it may result in people choosing not to come into Portree to shop and opt for online shopping, that users of Tigh na Drochaid Centre could be penalized and that a permit would not guarantee a space.

In order to mitigate concerns from locals the highland council has proposed that:

- A £10/month permit would be available for locals. This roughly equates to a charge of 40p per day. Whilst this will still result in increased costs for some individuals, the costs are low and considered to be manageable;
- Loading bays situated through the town would continue to be available for short stops to enable people to make short visits to particular shops; and
- The proposed rates are reduced to: £1 for up to 2 hours, £2 for up to 3 hours, £3 for up to 6 hours and £4 for up to 12 hours

The full report on feedback can be read here. www.portreeandbraes.org/bayfield. One local contractor was invited to tender for the project, however they were not available to complete the works within the given time frame. An alternative contractor has now been appointed. The construction of the car park will be completed between May and September 2020.

Trust make bid to renew health services project officer post

Members: Ross Cowie, Myra Macleod, Neil Campbell, Bill Edgar

The PBCT have applied for a further year of funding to secure the current part-time project officer post for an extra 12 months, until February 2021. The outcome of this bid will be announced shortly. Recent feedback highlighted the importance of continuing to have the North Skye Health Services Community Newsletter available in hard copy so this will now be available at various locations across the North end. The most recent newsletter can also be accessed online here www.portreeandbraes.org/health-services. If you would like any further information on this project and the upcoming options appraisal process regarding community beds in Portree please get in touch with Sophie Isaacson on sophie@portreeandbraes.org or on 07900065976.

Almost £30,000 raised to Light Up Portree

Light Up Portree Events Group Members: Lorna Cormack, Joey Graham, Ann Brandie, Paul Spence, Jen Pearson, Vasilie Siritanu, Suzy Marty-Mackillop, Donnie Nicolson, Fay Thomson, John Gordon, Myra Macleod, Anne-marie Campbell, Sandra Milne.

Thanks to the very hardworking Light Up Portree Community Events group, both the Christmas event and Hogmanay event in Portree were a huge success. A grand total of almost £30,000 was raised towards festive lights and community events for Portree and Braes. This included sponsorship of £3000 from Muirhall Energy for the reindeer parade, and £2,500 from Event Scotland for the Island Fling event. There was a bumper turn out for both events, with over 2000 people attending the Hogmanay event alone.

Some of the main business and charity supporters are listed below. The events group would also like to thank all of the individuals who gave anonymously, took part in a sponsored activity, held a fundraiser, supported the fundraising campaign, lent equipment or performed or volunteered at the events. Unfortunately there is not enough space to mention everyone, but the group are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support which allowed them to achieve their initial aim of delivering the events free of charge.

Highland Council, Police Scotland, Muirhall Energy, Jans, Skye Anglers Club, Portree Hotel, The Tongadale Hotel, The Pier Hotel Restaurant / Cat MacPherson, Portree RNLI, OR, Coop – Bank Street, Coop – Woodpark Road, Rabbies, Skye Serviced Accommodation / Ben Greer, Macraes, Café Arriba, Pizza in the Skye, Tigh Na Drochaid, Portree Line Dancers, Tippecanoe, NFU, ACE Target Sports, Abbey Ireland and UK, Isle of Skye Rotary Club, Skyeskyns, Cuillin Hills Hotel, Calor Gas, Haggis Adventures, Skye Inn, Stardust Boat Trips / Dan and Joan Corrigan, MacIntyres, The Clydsdale Bank, Skye Ice Cream, Mackenzie's Bakery, St Kilda Lodge of Freemasons, Skye Linen, BUTEC Kyle, High Beech House, Viewfield House, No. 2 Restaurant, Portree Filling Station, Cuillin Crafts, The Pier Hotel Bar, Inga's Sweet Treats, The Isles Hotel, JM MacDonald Opticians, Caroy House, Portree Knitwear Company, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Alley Cat, Portree Post Office, Magregors, Stewarts Knitwear, Skye Floors, Skye Paint, Portree Independent Hostel, Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh, Heart of Scotland Tours Edinburgh.

The events group are already back to work planning more events for 2020 so watch this space. Their next event will be the "40's Fling" on Saturday the 9th of May to recognize the 75th anniversary of VE Day. More information to follow.



Image: Santa and his reindeer on Wentworth Street with Light Up Portree Volunteers Annmarie Campbell and Paul Spence.



Image: Dancing to local band, Skye Blue at the Island Fling.

Skye Climate Action Group – Get Involved!

The Skye Climate Action Group is an excellent source of information and support for anyone in Skye and the nearby mainland looking to get involved in helping local communities reduce their carbon footprint. Every second month they meet as a Skye-wide (and beyond) group, to share information about the work that the local groups and project groups are doing. PBCT is looking to support this group where possible, and have begun working with them to identify how bottle refill stations could be introduced in Portree and Braes. The date of the next Climate Action meeting is Tuesday 24th March at Dunvegan Hall, 6- 8.30 pm. For more information please go to www.skyeclimateaction.org or get in touch on info@skyeclimateaction.org

Monthly clean-ups attracting volunteers from across Portree and Braes



Image: Clean Up Club volunteers after a wet but successful weeding session at the tennis courts by Storr Place.

Members: Ross Cowie, Shona Cameron, Sue Reeves, Bill Edgar, Irene Deplano, Janice McGuire, Neil Campbell, Matt Harrison

Since the last newsletter the trust has organised five clean-up sessions amounting to over 100 volunteer hours. So far, the club have improved access to the path surrounding the Lump, removed weeds at the tennis / basketball courts by Storr Place, and spent three sessions at the playpark in Portree to try and create a more welcoming space for local families. The Clean-Up Club will now run on the second Saturday of each month. Please get in touch for information about the next session.

Dates for the diary:

- **Second Saturday of the Month** – Clean Up Club, 12 – 2pm
- **Saturday 29th February 2020** – Curry Night Fundraiser @ The Tongadale Hotel. 6.30pm.
- **Monday 2nd March 2020** – Isle of Skye Rotary Club Primary School Quiz @ The Venue, Fingal Centre, Portree. 6.30 for 7pm start. PBCT will be providing hospitality
- **Saturday 9th of May 2020** – Light Up Portree Presents: The 40's Fling VE Day Celebration Event. Portree, location tbc.
- **Saturday 4th July 2020** – Car wash and Bag Pack Fundraiser @ The Coop, Woodpark Road, Portree. Time tbc.
- **Saturday 21st November 2020** - Light Up Portree Presents: Reindeer Parade and Portree Christmas Lights Celebration

For information on **Braes Hall** events and fundraisers please see their website www.braesskye.wordpress.com. They have recently acquired table tennis equipment. Please get in touch via their website if you would be interested in booking the hall to use this equipment.

To receive this newsletter direct to your inbox please sign up to the mailing list online at www.portreeandbraes.org/mailling-list-sign-up

Advertising opportunity at The Green, Portree



As the trust's projects continue to grow, unfortunately so do its overheads! So that the trust can continue to meet running costs without relying on grant funding, a proposal to install three additional advertising boards in the car park at the Green in Portree has been developed. This will allow the trust to generate much needed income and eventually use some of them for community notices and creative projects. Planning permission has been secured, and the trust is now looking to hear from local businesses who might be interested.

DETAILS

Size: 84.1 x 118.9cm, the equivalent of A0 in size.

Cost: £1000 per side

Duration: 12 months

Spaces available: 6

Please get in touch to register your interest. For site specifications please search for 19/04859/ADV | Stainless steel notice board | Car Park The Green Portree on the Highland Council Planning webpage.



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Come and explore our **GIGANTIC** indoor play area at the Aros Centre in Portree. The 3 level, 6 metre high playframe has the highest and fastest slide in the Highlands!

How fast can you go!



**Project Officer
(Community Land)**

The trust has recently secured funding to purchase two pieces of amenity land centrally located in Portree and are now looking for a suitable candidate to conclude land purchases, develop projects and maintain ongoing communication with the community.

17.5 hours per week, £26,500 pro rata (equivalent of £13,250 per year), 1 year contract.

Applicants are to email their CV and cover letter to info@portreeandbraes.org.

For more information:
www.portreeandbraes.org

Closing date: **5th March 2020**

**In recognition of
Harry and Netta's**

contribution to the community through years of service at Stormyhill Stores an opportunity to leave a thank you message or contribute towards a retirement gift will be available at Jans and the Post Office (Portree) until the end of March 2020.



In response to a request from the community the Portree and Braes Trust has agreed to support this acknowledgement. If you cannot make arrangements to visit either of these locations and would like to contribute please contact Fiona on 07570652953.

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- From £250 for 12 months
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Thank you to our sponsors. If you are interested in supporting the trust to produce this newsletter please get in touch, we have advertising opportunities available. Fiona Thomson, Development Officer, fiona@portreeandbraes.org / 07570652953 / Office 5, Jans, 6 Broom Place, Portree, IV51 9HL. I work mostly Monday – Friday 9-5.