



Community Newsletter - September 2010



Hello and Welcome to the Trust's first Community Newsletter . We aim to make our Newsletters a regular feature and use them as a means of keeping the Communities up to date with news about issues affecting affordable housing in rural areas, the Trust and our projects.

We would appreciate any feedback and suggestions for future Newsletters . Please email your comments to:

info@hscht.co.uk

HSCHT NEW WEBSITE

We have recently launched our new website www.hscht.co.uk which is full of information about the Trust, what we do and details all our Project work in Communities.

The site also has a News and Events Page so if your Community have an event that you would like displayed on the website please get in touch:

info@hscht.co.uk

Trust Membership

If your Community Council is not currently a registered member of the Trust but is interested in becoming one, please contact us for further details. Membership forms are available on our website www.hscht.co.uk

AGM 24th September 2010
12.30pm Town Hall, Inverness

We would like to invite you to the Trust's AGM. The formal AGM business is open to all to observe but only Trust members can participate in any debate or voting.

The formal AGM will however be followed by a Question Time session giving all those present an opportunity to ask questions about the work of the Trust and other relevant housing and related issues.

If you are a Trust member but cannot attend the AGM, you can still empower another delegate who will be there to vote on your behalf simply by returning the Proxy Voting form on our Website Downloads page.

We would be grateful if you could confirm if you will be attending the meeting by emailing info@hscht.co.uk. Please note that the Trust will reimburse travel costs of one delegate per community organisation at the rate of 30p per mile for the return journey.

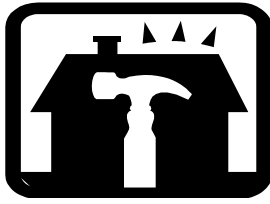
Community Elected Directors

The Trust has six places reserved on its Board of sixteen for Community Elected Directors and there are currently four vacant posts.

All voluntary Community Elected Directors are elected for one year at a time. The Elected Directors must stand down at the AGM, but can be nominated for a re-election. If your organisation wishes to nominate someone, then please go to our Website Downloads Page for an Election form. If more than 6 valid nominations are received then an election will be held at the AGM. Trust rules permit only registered Community Council members to vote in any such election.

For further details on our Board, please visit our Website (About Us Page).

Cairngorm Construction Skills Project



In partnership with Cairngorm National Park Authority and Cairn Housing Association, The Trust has initiated a project to provide training and work experience for young adults living in the Cairngorm National Park area. The intent is to train 15 young adults, between 16 and 24 years old, each year for 3 years.

14 Trainees have been selected and are attending Inverness College (UHI) 3 days per week studying for the National Progression Award in Construction. The other 2 days per week the trainees will gain practical experience in a range of practical skills, not limited to building trades, during the construction of 3 affordable, environmentally sustainable homes in Ardgeal, Phase 2 Kincaig.

Further information on the Project can be found on the Cairngorm Construction Skills Project Website: www.sustainablebuilscotland.co.uk



Plots for Sale

The Trust currently has a number of plots for sale in various areas throughout the Highlands. These plots offer an opportunity for people with a local connection to become home owners in their community.

In order to be eligible to purchase a plot, a local connection to the area is required i.e. be a resident in the community for at least 2 years; have an employment connection or an immediate family connection to the Community Council area.

For further details of plots for sale, please visit our website or see the attached information sheet.

Ardgeal, Kincaig — Phase 2



Ardgeal Phase 1—Houses in the Forrest

Following the success of first phase of 4 sustainable affordable homes, the Trust is working with its key partners to deliver Phase 2 and hope to bring 6 new affordable homes for sale over the next two years.

Planning permission is currently being sought for the project and in order to finalise the application we are now in the process of trying to identify the size of houses the community needs to satisfy its Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) demand.

For further details on Phase 2 and Phase 1 of the Project, please visit our Website.

Achtercairn Gairloch, Phase 1 Opening Day



Houses at Achtercairn, Gairloch

The Trust is the lead developer for this key village redevelopment site at Achtercairn. Already, Albyn HS have completed Phase 1 and have built 12 new homes, 8 for rent and 4 for sale under the low cost home ownership scheme (LIFT - Low Cost Initiative for First Time Buyers).

The Trust are working closely with the community and key partners and hopes to deliver Phase 2 in the near future.

Please visit our News and Events page on our Website for the official press releases relating to the opening.

Withdrawal of self-build finance

A number of our communities have raised serious concerns regarding the recent negative decisions taken by the high street lenders regarding, what is effectively the withdrawal of self-build mortgages - and the treatment of their customers during this process.

The impact of these decisions will have a severely detrimental impact on the viability of fragile rural communities. As you will all be aware, all our Communities largely rely on self-build projects to retain their young families and support local businesses and services.

As well as lobbying the Banks and writing to local MP's and MSP's to try and resolve this problem, The Trust has also brought the issue to the attention of the Scottish Government during the Parliament's recent visit to Dornoch.

If anyone in your Community has experienced a problem in obtaining self build finance, please contact us and we will present this with our case to the Banks, MP's and the Scottish Government.