

PAIRC AND KINLOCH COMMUNITY PLAN



SUMMARY

October 2015-October 2020

Introduction

This Community Plan paints a picture of what we want our community of Pairc and Kinloch to look like and illustrates the activities we will pursue over the next 5 years to achieve it. Our vision for our area is as follows:

“Pairc and Kinloch is working towards being a viable, vibrant and demographically balanced community. It will be an accessible, well serviced community that is sustainable for the future needs of the area and its residents.”

Our community plan builds on work started under a previous plan but with new priorities added as a result of further consultation with community organisations, members of the community, and stakeholders.

Our Area

Pairc and Kinloch is a locality to the south east of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides supporting a population of 939 spread over 23 villages. The demographic trend over recent decades is characterised by steady population decline, aging populations and falling birth rates. The most recent 2011 census and later statistics show a slightly improved picture including a marginal upturn in population however, the proportion of young people has continued to fall, albeit at a declining rate. The aim of this Plan is to attempt to maintain and accelerate an improving demographic trend.

Why was it written?

The Community Plan was created to put in writing how the community will work together to make the vision a reality. The Plan helps focus the projects within the community to ensure the best use of resources. It informs individuals, groups, and stakeholders of what is happening and encourages everyone to become involved in local development initiatives, and it may even inspire additional projects along the way.

In addition, the Community Plan explains to others outside of the community what the community is working towards. This gives agencies the opportunity to find ways to provide support and guide us in our endeavours. The Plan can be used by groups when applying for support and/or funding, as it clearly states the need for each project, those involved, and how projects tie into the community vision.

Who will support us?

The Pairc and Kinloch Community entered into a Community Account Managed (CAM) relationship with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in 2015. This means that HIE recognises the Plan as articulating the Community's priorities and will provide support to assist implementation of the Plan. Under CAM, HIE requires a single community organisation, or 'anchor' organisation, to liaise with and to take ownership of the plan. Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust (MCWFT) has agreed to act as the anchor organisation and has been allocated an account manager within HIE to support the process. MCWFT is a charitable company which exists to distribute a community benefit fund from a proposed private wind farm development in Eishken.

As further contribution towards implementation of the Plan, MCWFT and HIE have jointly funded a Local Development Officer (LDO) post to support the various groups represented in the Plan. The post holder took up position in April 2015 and can be contacted through MCWFT. The current list of priorities and activities, and how they contribute to the 5 aims, are detailed within the Plan.

Development Areas, Projects and Vision Aims Summary

Development Area	Total Projects	Vision Aims
New or Improved Community Assets (Land & Buildings)	8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Community Amenities, Facilities, and Housing	8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Community Cohesion and Representation	4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Learning and Education	4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Broadband, Telecommunications, and Transport	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Crofting, Forestry, and Agriculture	5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Gaelic	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
History, Culture, Archaeology, and Genealogy	7	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Marine Development, Outdoor Pursuits, and Access	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Marketing and Tourism	1	1, 2, 3, 4
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	2	1, 5
Young People, the Elderly, and Families	6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Our Aims

The Community Vision statement encapsulates 5 specific aims. These are listed below with an indication of the activities or objectives that will contribute to each.



Aim One – A VIABLE community

Creating economic opportunities through supporting local business and by developing the crofting, agriculture, renewables, and tourism sector; by acquiring and developing community owned assets that will generate income for the community; and by developing local skills to participate in new or existing economic activity.

Aim Two – A VIBRANT community

Creating social development opportunities such as new or improved community facilities; and by offering new services and activities, including those which develop Gaelic and preserve historical and cultural assets.

Aim Three – A DEMOGRAPHICALLY BALANCED community

Enabling a more diverse population base by creating opportunities for young people, women and families and by providing improved access to services, education, and employment, particularly amongst disadvantaged groups.

Aim Four – An ACCESSIBLE community

Pursuing improved transport links and digital connectivity and promoting activities and pursuits that provide access to the outdoor environment.

Aim Five – A WELL SERVICED community

Developing new and expanding existing services including education, health, housing, and recycling.

Contact details for MCWFT

To discuss the Community Plan or the LDO priority projects,
please contact Chrissie:

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