

Cairnbaan Community Trust

Urras a' Chàirn Bhàin



Chair's Annual Report – Nov 2024

Our first year as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) has been both exciting and challenging and a steep learning curve for all the Trustees.

Much of the groundwork, such as drafting and submitting the Constitution to establish the SCIO, was carried out by its predecessor Steering Group and on day one, 25th October 2023, the Trust Board set about laying down the necessary organisation and administration rules and processes to ensure its compliance with the constitution and the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

During the year considerable progress was made in our community communications with the setting up of our website, regular monthly updates to trust members/stakeholders & our corporate identity.

In conjunction with Lochgilphead School Joint Campus we ran a very successful logo design competition for students with the winner and runner ups being selected by the community.

The Trust was also successful in its applications for projects (Provision of a noticeboard and Play Park improvements) from the Community Fund of the Crinan Canal's contractor Mackenzie.

Having a Trust allows the community to secure grants and other finance from several sources to further its aims and objectives, in particular, securing financial assistance to take part in the Scottish Government's Capital Asset Transfer Scheme.

Our project to purchase the Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) Dalriada/Knapdale offices in the village is progressing, having secured a grant from the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) to employ external consultants (Community Enterprise). They carried out extensive community consultation during the summer and produced a feasibility study and business plan which has now been submitted to FLS along with our application to purchase.

The next stage will involve a site visit from FLS's application panel before a decision is made. If successful we can then make an application to the SLF for the money to purchase the properties.

We also applied and received a grant from the onshore renewables company Ventient and Renatis (now nadara) to produce a film about Cairnbaan and secured the services of a local filmmaker (Joe Osborn). It is hoped to premiere it prior to our first AGM in November 2024.

Consulting with and keeping the Cairnbaan community informed of our activities is uppermost in our mind at all times. From the start we have been fortunate to have the community's support. We have also been given the support of our elected representatives who have offered their help and advice and most recently also from Local business stakeholders.

Finally I would wish to thank all the Trustees for their work which, in our first year, has been particularly onerous and demanding. Also my thanks to the members who are volunteering their time and expertise and without which, I am sure, we could not have achieved the progress we have made so far.

Jim Maitland

Trustee