

May 2020 Issue 8

RANNOCH

Community Trust

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A strong sense of community helps Rannoch meet the challenge of lockdown

Covid-19 has without doubt been the crisis and tragedy of our modern civilisation. Unprecedented restrictions and distancing from our friends and loved ones are a challenge for almost all of us. Very little has been untouched by this global pandemic.

The rainbow emblem that has swept our country, and indeed the world, symbolises that there will always be light after dark, happiness after sadness and sun after rain. We are fortunate here in Rannoch to have the strength of our community. Many are looking out for each other, running errands, checking on neighbours and I hope ensuring that isolation is not too difficult for those living alone.

I would like to thank all those helping in a variety of ways; delivering parcels, making soup, baking scones and organising food deliveries are among some of the many ways people are helping. All these small things help build resilience in our community and strengthen people's spirits. We are so lucky to live in a place where there is ample room to roam, fresh air to breathe and where the weather has been so kind these last weeks (eventually!).

Stay safe, keep healthy and please reach out if there is anything the Rannoch Community Trust can help with.

Richard Barclay
Chair – Rannoch Community Trust



Community Support Update – Supporting people through lockdown

In these extraordinary times, there is an even greater need to support the health and well-being of our community and we have been working hard to support those who need it most. We have a number of amazing volunteers who have been helping with food deliveries, delivering prescriptions, leaflet drops and with our free twice weekly mid-day meals to people who are shielding or self-isolating.

We have been successful in securing a number of grants from various charities as well as generous donations from local residents. There has been very positive feedback from charities and the Provost of Perth in relation to the hard work of the volunteers and their efforts to support the community.

We have set up a foodbank and we will continue with the twice weekly mid-day meals, including cake. If you are shielding or self-isolating for any reason and you would like more information on the mid-day meals, or if you need food from the foodbank, please contact **Janine Holland** for more information.

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Community Hub Update

Business Plan and Asset Transfer Request Submitted to PKC

The world has changed in ways that none of us could have imagined since February when we had the consultation event on our plans to take ownership of the Outdoor Centre and turn it into a Community and Social Hub. However, despite the lockdown we have managed to complete our business plan and the Asset Transfer Request Form and submit them to Perth & Kinross Council (PKC) both of which are now available on the Council's website <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21134/Community-Asset-Transfer-Active-Kinloch-Rannoch-Outdoor-Centre>. There is a two page executive summary for those of you who do not fancy having to wade through all 31 pages of the full business plan!

Perth & Kinross Council issued a notice to RCT on 22nd April confirming that we had submitted a valid asset transfer request which means that they have to make a decision on whether or not to approve the request within 6 months of that date (i.e. 21st October 2020). We have asked if PKC can make a decision as soon as possible as we are planning to apply to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for funding towards the cost of purchase and SLF will only consider funding asset transfers which have received approval from the relevant local authority. There are two further meetings of the SLF funding panel and ideally we would like to submit a funding application to the next one rather than leave it to the final meeting. This means an application would have to be submitted by early June. If we are unable to make the June deadline we would then have to submit an application by the end of August.

If PKC do approve the transfer we then have up to six months to make sure that we have the necessary

funding in place and complete that transfer and this is where the hard work really begins. Although the Scottish Land Fund can potentially meet the majority of the acquisition costs we will still need to raise additional funds for repairs and building work to convert the building into a community hub. In total we have set ourselves a fund raising target of £347,000 and your support is vital. We will be making funding applications to other grant giving foundations and trusts but, given the damaging impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on charity sector finances and fundraising, this will be very challenging. We will therefore need to raise a lot of the money for the community hub locally and possibly over a longer period of time. Once we know the outcome of the transfer request we plan to set up a fundraising group, lockdown restrictions permitting, so ideas for local fundraising schemes or any other support with fundraising will be most welcome.



*Residents of Bridge of Gaur and surrounding areas can quite literally expect a warmer welcome at the **Georgetown Hall** thanks to RCT's LEADER funding which paid for these new windows, along with new doors and heaters.*

Rannoch Community Trust

The Rannoch Community Trust (RCT) was formally established in January 2017 as a Company Limited by Guarantee and is also a registered charity. Our purpose is to be an anchor organisation for Rannoch and Tummel by working with and supporting local community groups and organisations to promote the community life and the social and economic regeneration of the area as detailed in the Rannoch & Tummel community plan 'Delivering Rannoch's Sustainable Future'

Directors: Richard Barclay (Chair), David Holland (Secretary & Treasurer), Kate Duncan, Gordon Brown, Ali Penman, Barry Foley.

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