

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

www.ourrannoch.co.uk  
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# Kids, Adults, Volunteers, Village Halls....

## There something for everyone as Trust provides support to community projects

### CREATION OF KINLOCH RANNOCH "COMMUNITY ZONE"

Outline plans are now well developed for the creation of a "Community Zone" on the site of the previous school house adjacent to Kinloch Rannoch Primary School. The School team and pupils have worked wonders already raising a significant sum towards the development of this site which it is hoped will host; an outdoor meeting space, a Men's Shed, a tree house, a barbecue area, a dance area, a fruit and veg shack, a growing area and potentially raised beds but if anyone has any ideas please send them on in! It is hoped the Project will utilise recycled materials where possible and will offer an additional space for all groups within the community. We are currently completing the costing of the Project and then we need to secure the remainder of the funds as soon as possible but fingers are crossed!! Thanks so far to the School Team and Perth and Kinross Council for their support and encouragement.



Site of the Old School House and proposed Community Zone

### Onwards and Upwards with Adult Education!

The Adult Learning Programme currently offers an amazingly varied Programme of activities across the Kinloch Rannoch and Loch Tummel area. These activities are subsidised by Volunteer time and reduced hall rents for which everyone involved is very grateful. As the PKC fund that previously supported this activity no longer exists, we are currently seeking funding to continue to support a staggering, 188 activities, planned for the coming year. Huge thanks to Margie Wilkinson for assisting with the collation of information and costs for this Project and once again fingers crossed for a positive funding outcome in the next few months.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PROVISION

Thanks to all staff, Parent Council and parents who have provided feedback on their interest in Afterschool Club provision for primary and secondary aged pupils. We are hoping to secure funding in the near future to offer this provision and discussion is ongoing about the range of activities that could be offered. If anyone would be willing to offer sessional activity for after school provision, particularly anything related to outdoor education, the more adventurous the better, please do not hesitate to get in touch or if anyone has any ideas for indoor activities that local children and young people may enjoy, once again please get in touch. All creative input welcomed!

### COMMUNITY HALLS

David and I are working our way round the area's Village Halls offering support to make these valuable buildings more comfortable and more usable and to help ensure they have a future within the community, maybe with a revitalised appearance and approach. Thanks to all the Hall Committee Members we have met so far. Village Halls have long been the heart of communities and sometimes need a little tender loving care to ensure they can continue to be valuable to communities in today's world and particularly where people have few spaces to meet in. So, if anyone has any ideas about Village Hall improvements or potential uses or you would just like your Village Hall to remain the same but maybe a bit warmer (!) please get in touch!

Get involved: Call 07503 958291 or 07562 375471 or email: projects@ourrannoch.co.uk

**MORE PLAY FOR PARENTS AND TODDLERS!**

Once again Kinloch Rannoch Primary School in Partnership with Rannoch Community Trust is seeking funds to increase the amount of parent and baby/ toddler group provision across the area from once per month to once per week. Via a developing partnership with newly appointed Community Befriender Meena Bhegat, it is hoped that in time to come it will be possible to support sessions including; baby yoga, baby massage, rhyme time, baby first aid etc to complement the baby and toddler provision and the social benefit this brings.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

On behalf of the community, the area's Volunteer Drivers provide an invaluable service in assisting others within the community to access hospital appointments. In addition to providing transport support, the volunteers offer a personal and warm service which makes all the difference when you have a long journey and sometimes the uncertainty that goes with hospital appointments. In an effort to sustain this service, recruit new drivers to the team and recognise the value of this volunteer effort and investment, Rannoch Community Trust is seeking funding to ensure the mileage costs incurred by the volunteers can be reimbursed.

**Paths and Open Space Group**

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out on our 'Paths Days' in January and February as you can see their hard work is really starting to make a difference. We are slowly tidying up the entrance to Buchanan Path and the daffodils planted by Rannoch in Bloom are starting to show. PKC have now confirmed that the area can be handed over to be developed as part of the paths network and are looking at options for the removal of the tree. A 'Paths Day' also took place at the 'Salt Store' where volunteers planted hedging, cut back vegetation that was obscuring views and did a litter pick. A further 'Paths Day' is planned for **22nd March at 10.00am**. Keep your eyes open for further details.

**We need your views:**

Following consultation with several people who have traditionally walked the path east along the riverside from Buchanan path through the Peebles builders yard towards the village hall, it has been suggested that we ask PKC to reinstate this as a right of way. If you are keen to see this happen please contact Jane Pritchard at [JPritchard@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:JPritchard@pkc.gov.uk) letting her know what your views are about this idea or let us know.



*Volunteers at work on Buchanan Path*



*Planting hedging at the Salt Store*

**Funds**

We are happy to announce that, through the Paths Group, Rannoch and Tummel have just been awarded funding by the Community Environmental Challenge Fund to buy 6 picnic tables, install some signage including trail markers and buy 2 self-closing gates to replace inaccessible kissing gates. The award also included funding for a visitor information board which is being taken forward by Rannoch & Tummel Tourist Association.

**Come and join us!**

If you are interested in creating more opportunities for walking in Rannoch's beautiful scenery through helping develop and maintain the local network of paths and trails then why not get involved with the Paths and Open Space Group or take part in one of our 'Paths Days'. Contact [rannochscotland@gmail.com](mailto:rannochscotland@gmail.com)

**Become a member of Rannoch Community Trust email: [projects@ourrannoch.co.uk](mailto:projects@ourrannoch.co.uk)**

# Men's Sheds

One of the suggestions for the Community Zone being proposed by Kinloch Rannoch Primary School and Rannoch Community Trust is a Men's Shed. But what is a Men's Shed exactly?

The men's shed movement started in Australia more than 12 years ago. The first sheds were an alternative to the pub: communal workshops where men could get together to tinker on projects, do repair jobs, relax and socialise. Skills were shared, crafts learnt, community projects undertaken and friendships made. The concept has since spread to New Zealand, England, Ireland and now Scotland, where there are 67 sheds with a further 45 in development.

## What goes on in Men's Sheds?

Men's Sheds usually have a social area a workshop area and, ideally, a kitchen. A typical shed will be open most days for people to drop in and take part in activities often of a practical nature that might include carpentry, bike repairs, tool renovation, furniture restoration etc... Some groups make planters or benches for community use, design devices for special-needs groups or recycle goods for charity at home and overseas. However Men Sheds aren't just for men who like DIY or woodwork, many also provide space to try arts and crafts activities as well as board games, computing, cooking and reading.

## Who runs Men's Sheds?

An important ethos in Men's Sheds is that men pursue their own interests and choose what activities they want to do.



Men Sheds are set up and run by local people, usually through an elected committee and will have a constitution so that they can apply for funding

## Who can join a men's shed?

Membership is usually aimed at men of all ages and backgrounds and is cost free, so anyone can drop in to see what's going on. Older men have a wealth of skills, experience, stories and knowledge to share. Younger men benefit from the chance to be shown new skills as well as exchanging their own knowledge of more modern technology or culture. Men's Sheds provide a place for this to happen.

## What about premises?

Many people imagine that Men's Sheds are all based in wooden huts. However they take place in a variety of settings; industrial units, village halls, Portakabins, shop units shipping containers as well as actual sheds. It really depends on what is available, the type of activities and the number of members.

## What are the benefits of a Men's Shed?

Men typically find it more difficult to build social connections than women, or to have networks of friends who they can share worries about health and personal matters. It is not the case for all men, but for some, when retirement comes, or they stop working for whatever reason, it can feel like personal identity and purpose is lost. Men's Sheds can change all of that by providing a space for men to socialise, chat, share skills and ideas and take part in purposeful activities thereby reducing feelings of loneliness and improving mental and physical well-being.

If you would like to find out more about Men's Sheds visit the Scottish Men's Shed Association website:

<https://scottishmsa.org.uk>



*Dalbeattie Men's Shed at work*

## Broadband Update

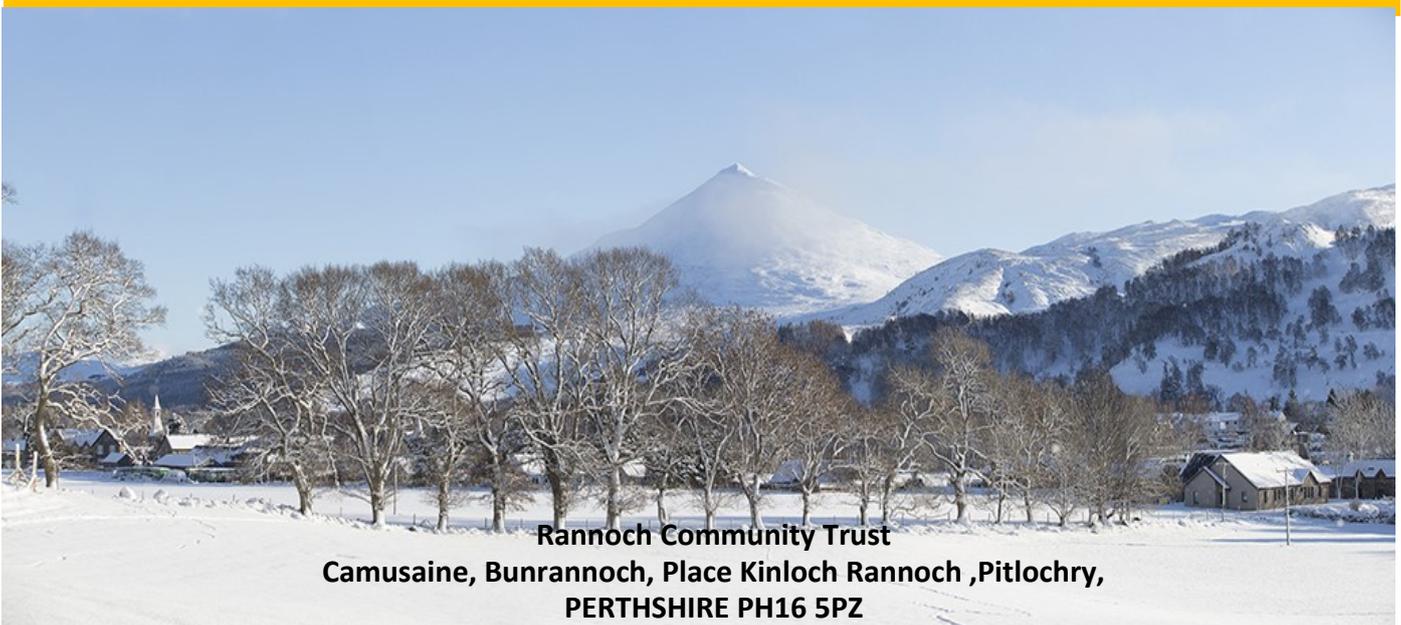
Representatives of RCT met with the 633 Association earlier in February and agreed to work together to identify and pursue an affordable broadband solution to all those properties on the 632, 633 and 634 areas and beyond to Glen Fincastle, who will not receive superfast broadband from the fibre cabinets that are to be installed at Tummel Bridge and Kinloch Rannoch ( the new cabinets will only deliver improved speeds to those properties within an approximate 1.5 – 2km radius). The 633 Association are already working with a technical consultant, funded by Perth & Kinross Council, to carry out an options appraisal of potential alternative solutions should the Scottish Government's Reaching 100% (R100) programme fail to deliver access to superfast broadband to all properties at the western end of Loch Rannoch (including up to Rannoch Station). The consultant, Ian Bailey, sees a number of advantages in taking a wider area approach to this work and so it was agreed to approach the Council to see if they would be willing to fund the options appraisal to include properties to the east of Kinloch Rannoch and up to Fincastle.

In addition to commissioning an options appraisal both RCT and the 633 Association have been in contact with John Swinney and senior managers in BT to try and get answers to a number of questions regarding the date when the exchange at Bridge of Gaur will be upgraded and access to the fibre cable that services the new 4G mast at Carie – the latter is only accessible to EE customers with a 4G contract.

## 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), Bob Benson, Gordon Brown, Ali Penman, Barry Foley.



**Rannoch Community Trust**  
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