

RANNOCH

Community Trust

www.ourrannoch.co.uk

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At last! RCT take ownership of former Outdoor Centre

Nearly two years since the first approach was made to Perth & Kinross Council about the possibility of community ownership of the mothballed Kinloch Rannoch Outdoor Centre, RCT have now become the owners and the dream of creating a community and social hub for Rannoch is significantly closer to becoming a reality.

It had been hoped that the sale to RCT would be completed by January or February of this year. However, somewhat frustratingly, Covid and lock down restrictions lead to delays on the Council's part in completing the conveyancing and other legalities and the RCT only took ownership in July. Despite the delays plenty of work has been progressed including revising the business plan, commissioning architects to work up a design for the hub and investigating further sources of funding to pay for the building conversion works. Fund-raising remains perhaps the biggest challenge but securing ownership of the building will strengthen future funding bids.

Richard Barclay, Chair of RCT said "This has been a long journey and there is still a long way to go but by taking ownership of the former outdoor centre we have undoubtedly reached a very significant milestone. This old building use to serve the

people of Rannoch as the local village school and now it can serve them again as an exciting new community and social hub. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all those who have helped us to get this far including Board members past and present, and other volunteers, project officers, and Perth & Kinross Council, particularly the Community Planning Team. I would also like to again thank the Scottish Land Fund who provided the funding to buy the Outdoor Centre, and Perthshire LEADER, the National Lottery Community Fund and the Gannochy Trust whose grants enabled us to employ staff to help take the project forward."

Currently the RCT Board are unable to give a firm date for when the community hub will be opening. Timescales are very much dependent on how quickly funds can be raised to pay for the building works and at the moment the board are still waiting for a final costed design before they have a definite fund-raising target.

New Hub Website

It is really important that the local community think of the building as their community asset and feel able to get involved in the development

of the hub. To that end RCT will be holding a **'doors open' event**, to which everyone is invited on **20th August at 6.30pm**. There will be a barbecue and drinks, and you will be able to wander round the building, ask questions and talk to Board members. Before that you can find out more detail about the plans for the community hub including the proposed design and layout, updated business plan and the proposed facilities and activities by visiting www.rannochhub.co.uk – the new Rannoch Hub website which is launched at **5.00pm today (11th August)**.

The Hub now...



...and after? (architects impression)



A fond farewell....



Unfortunately, we have to say more goodbyes to two people who have been instrumental in the development of Rannoch Community Trust and its work. David and Janine Holland have moved out of the glen to pastures new. David was one of the founding members of RCT and was Treasurer and Secretary from its inception. He was instrumental in helping securing funding for project officers, the Befrienders project, and a number of other projects including improvements and new equipment for the Kinloch Rannoch and Georgetown halls. David also made a huge contribution to the setting up and running of the Rannoch Food Bank and together with Janine, helping to provide practical support to vulnerable and isolated households during the Covid lockdowns.

Janine had previously volunteered as Hospital Co-ordinator in Rannoch before being employed by RCT as Community Coordinator providing support, advice and information to local people and households in need of some additional help. Janine wasn't long in post before being faced with the Covid pandemic and its impact on an already remote and isolated community. Janine secured funding and recruited volunteers to support a range of services providing assistance to those who were shielding and other vulnerable households. These included twice weekly deliveries of mid-day meals, food and prescription deliveries and leaflet drops as well as a food bank.

The RCT Board would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to both David and Janine for all their hard work, the invaluable contributions they have both made to the Rannoch community and the work of RCT, and to wish them all the very best for the future.

A warm welcome to....

Following David Holland's departure, John Anderson has now been appointed to the role of **Trust Secretary and Treasurer**. John's family has had a connection with Rannoch for over 40 years with homes here since the mid-80s and he now splits his time between Rannoch, Auchterarder and Glasgow. He is a Chartered Accountant and having pursued a career in the accountancy profession in Glasgow, London and Chicago, returned to Scotland in 1989 to work with the owners of growth companies. He is now Head of SME Growth & Board Development at Strathclyde Business School in Glasgow and combines this part time role with board leadership and volunteering.

Affordable Housing Update

There is some positive progress to report on the Affordable Housing Project. To recap, RCT in partnership with the Dunalastair Estate have identified a site – the field that lies between the River Tummel and the B846 – that could potentially be developed for new housing – a mix of community owned affordable (houses for rent and low-cost ownership) and houses for private sale. Discussions have taken place with Perth & Kinross Council who, although supportive of the provision of new affordable housing in Rannoch, have a number of concerns about the suitability of the site. Currently the site is outside the 'settlement boundary' for Kinloch Rannoch and is not included in the current Local Development Plan as it is considered as being at risk of flooding. This flood risk is based on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) flood maps which assessed the field as being a medium flood risk

(i.e. a 1 in 200 year or 0.5% likelihood of flooding). Although the level of risk may seem low, development on land that falls into the medium risk category is contrary to Planning Policy at both national and local levels. However, SEPA's flood maps are based on high level assessments and are therefore only indicative.

Following further discussion with the Council, RCT and the Dunalastair Estate commissioned a detailed independent flood risk assessment which was completed in May of this year. The flooding study by Gavia Environmental concluded that in fact there was minimal



Aerial view of proposed site

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to no risk of flooding on the site and any risk that did exist could be easily mitigated. The report has been sent to PKC and we are awaiting their formal response. However, representatives from RCT, the Dunalastair Estate and Joe Gribben from Community Housing Scotland did have a site meeting with officers from the Council's Housing and Planning Services and which was generally felt to be supportive and productive. We are now hoping that the flood risk assessment study will unlock funding for more feasibility work that will eventually lead to a planning application for a housing development. Still some way to go but there are definite grounds for optimism.

Rannoch Paths and OpenSpace Group Update



Over the winter and continuing through spring and summer the Paths group of 8-10 volunteers have met on average 2-3 times per month.

We have been concentrating again on keeping the paths around the village and up to the Loch Rannoch Hotel area as weed and bracken free as possible.

Mole drainage work has been carried out on Meall Dubh and Hillside Paths as both can get very wet and muddy.

The steps on Hillside path have had a top up of gravel making them easier to walk up. We have requested a handrail on these steps from PKC.



We are still working very closely with Bid Strachan from Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust who has been relentlessly slowly and surely moving forward on our plans to make an accessible path from Kinloch Rannoch Square down to the riverbank. We will be able to update the community very soon on the progress which has been made and will issue a further newsletter shortly.

As I write this the rain is tipping down so the drainage work hopefully will have been worth it. The strimmers and bracken bashers will no doubt be needed again soon as the vegetation recovers from our dry summer.

These paths are all well used by visitors and locals alike and with all the COVID restrictions in place we have been very keen to keep our area looking as good as possible. This temporary section has already been well used.

Following the Rannoch in Bloom AGM there has been a change of committee membership. After many years of hard work and organisation Anthea Dunlop has resigned and Robin Frankham the new chair has succeeded her. RIB has been working hard to renew and refresh the summer planting around the village. The Bloom group and Paths group work hand in hand and share many of our volunteers.

Finally, I would like to say a great big thank you to all our volunteers, those that work around Kinloch Rannoch and others who do their bit around the whole area.

If you would like to join us or have any thoughts about work, do please contact me

Annie Benson Chair of Rannoch Paths and Open Space



Recruitment—Community Co-ordinator

With the post now vacant Rannoch Community Trust are now seeking to appoint a new **Community Co-ordinator**. The post is 4—5 hour per week although this may vary as there will be occasions when additional hours maybe required. We are looking for someone with experience of working with individuals and groups, particularly those in need of, or who provide, advice and support, has broad knowledge of health and social care services and is able to work on their own initiative with minimum support. For more information including job description and person specification visit <https://www.ourrannoch.co.uk/> . Closing date **1st September 2021**



Monday 30th August

7.00pm

Rannoch Hub

(formerly Kinloch Rannoch Outdoor Centre)

Rannoch Community Trust

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