

**Urras an Taobh Sear**  
**Staffin Community Trust AGM**  
**Tuesday, September 27 2016**  
**@ Staffin Primary School**

**Chairman's Report**

The last year has been extremely busy for everyone involved with the Trust none more so than our Local Development Officer Hugh Ross who has worked tirelessly to develop a range of projects that will in due course bring benefit to the whole community.

A verbal report will be given by Hugh at the meeting following the AGM and so this report is an introduction to the key projects.

**Staffin Slipway:-** a number of detailed feasibility studies were commissioned leading to the development of architectural plans, which were shared with the community, relating to proposals to extend the existing pier, dredge an entrance channel and create a new facility for a fish processing facility.

To achieve the requirements of local users and attract marine tourism it was deemed necessary to attract a commercial partner. To this end the Trust worked with Skye Sea Harvest for two years but unfortunately the extremely high infrastructure costs made it impossible, in the current funding climate, to access adequate grants. After a period of reflection a decision was taken to start again and develop new plans which although still in their early days, will be broadly outlined by Skye Sea Harvest after the formal AGM.

**The Storr:-** this has been a very slow burning project with a lot of necessary and important consultation exercises carried out over the last two to three years.

The site is currently owned by The Highland Council and the Trust has worked with their officers to develop proposals for adequate off-road car parking, interpretation and toilet facilities.

A team of consultants are currently assessing the various options that have come through the community surveys and on-site consultations. These will shortly be presented to the Trust along with a Business Plan which will hopefully outline how the project can be sustained.

Once these proposals have been presented to the Trust and shared with the Council they will be presented to the public.

**Ceumannan:-** this eco-museum project which opened up 13 historical sites within the community is about to move forward to a second phase with further sites being developed along with interpretation. An official announcement will be made next week in relation to the funding of the second phase.

**Housing:-** the Trust is developing plans for 6 new houses in the community as a partnership project. The intention is to provide homes for young families helping to sustain the community and in particular the local school.

**Àrainneachd, Cànan is Dualchas:-** this annual course completed its fourth year in July and was well received by all who attended. Run through the Trust this project is delivered by Ruairidh Maclean, supported by Sine Ghilleasbuig and Dugald Ross. Further details can be found at:

<http://staffin-trust.co.uk/arainneachd-canan-is-dualchas-2016-gaelic-in-the-environment-course-in-staffin>

**Tobar an Dualchais:-** over the last winter the Trust has run three Gaelic events recording local stories for the Tobair's archive. These were well attended by local people and many subjects were covered such as the local schools, estate ownership and postal services to the community. An edited version of the recordings will appear on the Trust website in due course.

The Trust is extremely fortunate to have a Development Officer in post but we cannot be certain that this will continue unless we see positive outcomes and take steps towards sustainability. To achieve this, the Trust needs to generate income and proposals are to generate revenue from the Slipway project, new housing (rents) and possibly the Storr through parking charges.

Any income generated by the Trust will be redeployed into projects that help to sustain and develop the community.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who been on the Board of the Trust over the last year who all give of their time freely for the benefit of the community. We also need to acknowledge the support of HIE who fund the Development Officer's post and The Highland Council who are currently in discussion with us about the developments at the Storr. Finally, I would like to thank the Directors of Skye Sea Harvest who have put a lot of effort into working with the Trust over the last four years.

If you are not currently a member of the Trust could I ask you please to consider joining as the more support we have the stronger the case for public support.

Donald MacDonald

Chair – Staffin Community Trust  
27<sup>th</sup> September 2016