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SCT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**2017 AGM Staffin Hall
Tuesday, September 26th 2017**

Dear Staffin Community Trust members,

It has been another busy year for the Staffin Community Trust and I would like to thank you and the rest of the community for all your support and help over the last 12 months.

SCT's development officer Hugh Ross was joined in July by our new Programme Manager Angus Murray who will be delivering the Skye Ecomuseum's Activity Plan, interpretation and re-branding and marketing of the project. Angus has a busy time ahead of him and is looking forward to working closely with the community, including the school pupils and local groups.

SCT has made some important steps forward with several of its projects and Hugh will provide a verbal update following the AGM business.

Funding was secured to appoint an architect to design the affordable housing development and local people had had their say on how it will look through consultation events. The ecomuseum project is now being delivered and involves some exciting capital works which will see significant infrastructure investment in Staffin. The Storr decision by Highland Council was a setback but SCT intends to seek a review and believes it has good grounds for doing so.

Our EGM tonight will deal with some revisions to the SCT's Articles of Association and includes a proposal to allow Staffin residents over the age of 16 to become members. The age limit is currently set at 18-years-old. SCT's membership now stands at 92 people and we are determined to reach 100 before Christmas. It really helps when SCT is trying to

progress its projects and secure funding. At our 2015 AGM we had 55 members and the current total is significant and I welcome any increase. I would urge anybody not signed up to become a member as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the SCT directors for giving up their time voluntarily to help their community prosper by attending regular board meetings and offering support and advice to Hugh and Angus.

Kind Regards,
Sandy Ogilvie

SCT AGM 2017: PROJECT UPDATE



HOUSING: The Scottish Land Fund and Rural Housing Fund provided significant grants to SCT to enable it to appoint the Skye-based architects Rural Design. The design is in keeping with the landscape of Staffin and complements the Trotternish Ridge. Eight expressions of interest from people who currently work in Staffin, rent accommodation locally or have strong family ties have been received by SCT. *The planning application for the six three-bedroom homes, a business units building and storage facility was submitted in April – see architect's impression in picture above - and SCT is hopeful a decision is imminent.*

CEUMANNAN: Public events and activities are underway around Ceumannan: The Skye Ecomuseum. This includes walks, a schools programme and the creation of a Staffin historical society. A lot of the work currently going on behind the scenes is the planning of physical and digital interpretation and the public programme, where a variety of events for both locals and visitors of all ages will be held in Staffin. Work on planning the construction of the capital works - including the viewing platform at Lealt, a new car park, footpaths - is well underway.



Left: Rabbie's staff fixing the path at the Quiraing back in March. In poor weather conditions nine of their drivers and office staff spent two days carrying out essential repairs to the popular route. Angus Murray is organising another path repair project with the company in Staffin in November.

THE STORR: SCT was hugely disappointed by the short-sighted decision made by Highland Council to turn down the bid to purchase roadside land at the Storr. This was the culmination of a huge amount of work by SCT and its advisers, and followed a successful consultation, which saw local people support the community's involvement at the location. SCT is aware that the community was also angered by this decision, given the lack of infrastructure investment in this area and the unprecedented numbers of visitors to Trotternish. The SCT board intends to lodge a review and request that the council re-assess its decision. It will also take up an offer to have talks with the council.

STAFFIN SLIPWAY: SCT is keen to investigate the opportunities to develop the Slipway for marine tourism and local users via improved berthing, pontoons, a water and power supply etc. SCT has had encouraging discussions with Highland Council, the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise about potential funding opportunities. Any proposal will be worked up in full consultation with the community. Organic Sea Harvest's proposed two fish farms at Tote and Brothers Point will be lodged with the council next month following extensive pre-planning work.