



LISMORE COMMUNITY TRUST

Purpose: to maximise the potential social, economic and environmental well-being of the whole community of the Isle of Lismore

Lismore Community Trust - Chairman's Report June 2025

The Trust has had a busy year since our last AGM with a lot of good progress made in several different areas. Before going into more detail, I would like first to express the appreciation of the Trust, as well as my own personal appreciation, to the many individuals who support us usually in a voluntary capacity. Whether volunteers, employees, shop management board or board directors for the Trust, your input is invaluable to us as is the general support of the island community and contributory members from further afield.

This year we welcomed one new board Director – Seonaid MacDonald. Seonaid is working towards developing a Trust Island Plan in line with the local plan and the needs of the community. Thanks to Anita Bachuil who continues as Secretary and we appreciate all the time this takes. I would also like to thank Laura Savill for supporting this role while Anita was unwell and we wish Anita a full and speedy recovery. Brona O'Sullivan has kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer and our thanks also go to Laura for covering this until now in her role as Finance Director. Peter MacDougall is our Vice-Chair and we have the continued support from our other directors - Anna Stewart, Archie McGillivray and Kate McLuskie, thank you to all.

Finances

The Trust continues to operate on a steady financial footing as reported but acknowledge, like most charitable groups, we are heavily dependant on grant funding for the majority of our projects. Whilst there is funding available for certain projects, we recognise that it is becoming more limited and higher thresholds are required to be achieved in order to secure such funding.

Shop & Post Office

To date, our main project has been the running of the local shop and Post Office and we are delighted with the progress made to date with a better than forecast financial performance for our first full year of trading. The Management Board, staff and volunteers have worked extremely hard to overcome many different challenges to ensure our stock is managed efficiently, losses are minimised and even provided extended opening hours. The Post Office is a key element to this business and we hope that the services offered by the Post Office can be further expanded and promoted for the benefit of the community providing additional valuable income. The shop was also fortunate to have benefited from a National Lottery grant that allowed our aging van to be replaced with an almost new electric van which we hope will last for many years to come.

Affordable homes



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Our Affordable Homes project has made some good progress despite setbacks. As many will be aware the Wee House Company (Modular Connect) went into administration at the beginning of the year resulting in a halt on funding applications until an alternative contractor and costings could be attained. This has now been done although our original design has had to be modified and we are currently seeking planning approval for this. We successfully attained funding for the site and in May we concluded the purchase of the land at Newfield Terrace, Achnacroish. We also secured funding for some project management of the build. We currently have an application submitted to cover professional fees for building warrant and other services and will shortly be applying for main build funding from the Rural Islands Housing Fund who we have been engaging with. Additional funding will also be required and we are working on this too. We remain confident that this project will proceed and very much hope to see works begin this financial year. Julia Behrendt has been fundamental to this project and I can't thank her enough for all the hard work she has done this last year, thank you Julia!

Other Projects

Kiosks - Although repairs took longer than anticipated to the damaged Point telephone box we are pleased to see it up and running again along with the Achnacroish telephone box. Catherine Davies has kindly offered to look after the boxes for us and it is great to see them full of local crafts, produce and information. From regular comments received we know they are also much-loved landmarks on the island!

Island Plan - As mentioned, Seona MacDonald is developing this which he hope will benefit locals and tourists alike. Whilst in the early stages of development we hope to share more on this and the direction of the Trust regarding future projects.

Community bikes – The two community e-bikes continue to be maintained and used regularly. Thanks to Julie Livingstone and Francis Willis for overseeing this.

You can find out more information on any of our projects by contacting those involved or from our Facebook pages

Community Trust Facebook page, (this is a new page, please do follow us)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576109080666>

Lismore Community Shop Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=lismore%20community%20stores>

Lismore Community e-bikes

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/576217271061820>

Andrew Livingstone

Chairman – Lismore Community Trust

June 2025