

Tayvallich Initiative, Update to NKCC, 31 Aug 2023

Thanks for asking for an update. This is predominantly an update about the work of **Tayvallich Initiative (TI)**, which in the coming months will become the community land owner of land in and around Tayvallich. This is:

- Archie's Land and Cnoc Leis (to the south of the village, gifted by the Marshalls/Pollocks, the previous owners of Tayvallich Estate);
- Mary's Land (between Carsaig and Tayvallich, land bequeathed by the late Mary MacDougall); and
- Turbiskill farmhouse, farm buildings and land, to be purchased from Highlands Rewilding Ltd with an award made in June 2023 by Scottish Land Fund.

In fact, Archie's Land and Cnoc Leis were transferred to Tayvallich Initiative ownership this Monday, 28 August. This land also includes Taigh Eairdsidh (Archie's House) so we can now move forward with plans to allocate this property for renting and have it benefiting our community. A range of checks and remedials are needed. The TI Housing Working Group have been consulting with other community organisations that provide rented accommodation and also a range of community housing agencies to finalise the housing allocations and application policy so that we put a fair and objective process in place.

In parallel, progress is being made on the other land and buildings.

Project Co-ordinator

We have also just appointed a half-time Project Co-ordinator – Ellie Logan who lives on Gigha – with support of Crown Estate Scotland's (CES) capacity-building grant. This runs for 9 months with a possible extension of the funding. Ellie has hit the ground running since she started a couple of weeks ago.

Scottish Land Fund award

Since the last NKCC meeting, Scottish Land Fund announced its latest round of awards, and Tayvallich Initiative was successful with an award of £565,608 to support:

- The transfer of Archie's Land, Cnoc Leis and Mary's Land to community ownership
- Next steps for Archie's Land and the renting of Taigh Eairdsidh
- The purchase of Turbiskill from Highlands Rewilding Ltd, which will bring a second house in to community ownership with the associated ongoing security of tenure
- A Project Development Officer for two years in addition to the half-time Project Co-ordinator role via CES.

Support

Over the summer, interest and support from MSPs, MPs and local A&BC Councillors has continued with on-the-ground visits from Ariane Burgess MSP in July and from Brendan O'Hara MP this week. This support – especially from our local Councillors – will be key in the coming months as we start discussing possible housing/planning/land-use options with A&BC.

Memorandum of Understanding

Tayvallich Estate itself is now under the ownership of Highlands Rewilding Ltd (HRL); the sale completed mid-May. At the last NKCC meeting we announced that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TI and HRL had been signed, and there was wide coverage about the MoU in the national press, including an opinion column in the Squeak acknowledging this. The MoU is a first of its kind, and organisations, agencies and academics interested in community land are

already picking up on some of the details, e.g. Communities Land Scotland, Scottish Land Commission, etc.

Also, as agreed in the MoU, HRL's collaboration with the community includes establishing a Tayvallich Estate Local Management Board, which has representation from each of the Tayvallich community organisations. The first introductory meeting was held at the start of August.

TI membership

Ordinary voting membership of TI is open to all of those living in the Tayvallich area (defined by postcodes south west of the Tayvallich/Achnamara junction at the war memorial: the same area as for Tayvallich Community Hall membership). However, Associate Membership is open to all non-Tayvallich residents. Forms are available for anyone who would like to join.

Finally, BBC Landward filmed in Tayvallich this month in preparation for a piece to be broadcast in October. They did an item with TI and an item with HRL. Also, TI had a stall at Tayvallich Gala Day in July, and the next open meeting is a **Coffee Morning on Sat 16 September (10.30am–12noon) in Tayvallich Hall.**