

Tayvallich Initiative, Update to NKCC, 14 May 2026

Tayvallich Initiative's Third AGM was held on 29 March in the Hall and draft minutes are available here:

- <https://tinyurl.com/TI-260329-Third-AGM>.

This includes a full report for 2025, which of course I'll not repeat here. We also send out an emailed TI newsletter and the latest ones are available via these links:

- July 2025: <https://tinyurl.com/250701-TI-newsletter>
- Sept 2025: <https://tinyurl.com/250903-TI-newsletter>
- Feb 2026: <https://tinyurl.com/260215-TI-newsletter>

Land

- Since the last NKCC meeting, there have been a number of walks and activities organised by the Community Rangers on community-owned land including mindfulness walks, a dawn chorus walk in April and a wild flower ID walk this month.
- Before Christmas there was a Christmas tree fundraiser when small Sitka spruce trees (that are competing for space in the native woodlands) were made available for a donation to TI.
- And early in the year there was some volunteer work on some wet areas to improve the habitat for dragonflies, etc.
- The latest walks each brought out 20–30 members of the community and visitors even with a 6am start!
- There have also been renovations to the track along the Old Carsaig Road, from Tayvallich to the substation, thanks to funds available via EFF and input from neighbouring owners including SSEN. A few people have said they'd like to see the next stretch renovated to the same standard. While there's not enough funds available for this at present, it's hoped that financial pledges and a fundraiser will help to bring this to fruition.
- The community growing scheme and orchard is also continuing on Mary's Land. Exhibits from last year's crop were entered into the Tayvallich Flower Show.
- On 24 May, Louise and David Logue have organised a Celtic Blessing Walk from Tayvallich to Keills, meeting at 1pm, to reflect on all of the changes in the area over the last three and a half years.

Housing at Polldearg

- Communities Housing Trust is working with Tayvallich Initiative to do a detailed feasibility study for housing at Polldearg, the land around Taigh Eairdsidh.
- Some site investigations have been taking place and some designs are currently being worked up for a community consultation afternoon which will likely be in the next few weeks.
- This study is funded by a grant from Argyll & Bute Council.

Rural Housing Burdens

- In 2024/25 Highlands Rewilding opened an offer to sell certain properties to tenants and new home owners (as well as selling other parts of the estate). It wasn't expected that RHBs would be applied so quickly, but with this offer and with HRL's commitment in the

Memorandum of Understanding to apply RHBs to sales of properties or plots, a number of RHBs have now been established at Tayvallich.

- RHBs come with a commitment to live in a property as the primary residence (either as owner occupier or as tenant with a private residential tenancy), and this helps to ensure that there's housing stock for those living and working in the area. The commitment passes to each new owner at each sale so that there's continuity generation after generation. This set-up does not undervalue the economic benefits of holiday lets, which bring money into the economy and allow many people to enjoy time in Knapdale, but Rural Housing Burdens help to keep a balance of options for both holiday lets and permanent residents.

Barrahormid Trust

- Barrahormid Trust's work on housing options is separate from TI, but I'm mentioning it here because the charity is providing further opportunities to reinvigorate the area with the potential of bringing traditional rural homes back to use – some of which are been lived in within living memory. The trust recently announced that planning permission in principle has now been awarded for eight abandoned properties. Thanks to the trustees for all the time and financial input to move these forwards.
- The plots will be sold as renovation projects under a Rural Housing Burden to buyers who fit the charity's criteria. More information is available here:
<https://barrahormidtrust.org/community/homes-for-sale/>

Renewables

- And finally, renewables. Work on renewables has progressed with exploration of options for solar and for wind.
- **Application for planning consent for a potential ground-mounted solar array at Mary's Land:** Following the paper ballot in the hall in October that supported the proposal to apply for planning permission, the Renewables Working Group has worked on these details and has submitted the application to Argyll and Bute Council. Most of the costs for this work was provided by the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES).
- The paper ballot in the hall was preceded by a Renewables meeting in September with four themed information tables and discussion, an earlier neighbours' meeting, and the circulation of an information leaflet by hand and by email (<https://tinyurl.com/2509-TI-solar-info-leaflet>).
- **Possible community share in renewable energy projects:** A group of community trusts and community councils in Mid Argyll is working together to take legal advice on what a shared community approach might look like. This is early stage work to look at what options might be available so that a future TI Community Steering Group meeting can review and discuss opportunities.
- If you'd like to get involved with renewables projects, or any TI projects, get in touch via info@tayvallichinitiative.org

Tayvallich Initiative updates can be found on Facebook, Instagram and X, via the Tayvallich community email googlegroup and on village notice boards.