

## Applecross Community Company - Applecross Forum Update 02-2021

Below is a brief outline of our current projects. If you would like more information, you can check out our website (<https://www.applecrosscommunitycompany.org/>), sign up for our regular newsletters or have a chat to one of our LDOs/or directors.

### 1. Camusterrach Housing Project

Construction is now underway for three two-bedroom houses and the build is expected to be completed December 2021. ACC now need to name the housing development and there is a poll on our [website](#) to cast your vote.

During the construction period, the contractors are temporarily using the verge adjacent to the housing site for a builder's hut/container. This is only temporary, and after which the area will be reinstated to a good standard. ACC would like to thank the Applecross Trust and the Camusterrach crofters for their support and contribution to this project.

### 2. Affordable Housing Project (Hydro field)

Land acquisition is in process and to be concluded by March 2021.

### 3. Community Woodlands

Land acquisition is in process and expected to be concluded by mid-February 2021.

ACC have now appointed an Operations Manager, Rhys Llewellyn, who will advise us during the clear-felling of Torgarve Woods. It is estimated the clear felling will take place this summer, ACC will shortly be reaching out to Applecross and Shieldaig Community Councils and we hope to be selling some of the timber for local wood-fuel.

The community woodland group has now formed a steering group, and new members are welcomed. Megan MacInnes has taken on coordination of this project, on a voluntary basis supporting ACC, until funding is available for a new Development Officer. If anyone would like to join the group, please get in touch.

### 4. Appleseed Allotments

The *Appleseed Grow Your Future* project is progressing well. The community garden is open to all residents of Applecross and we encourage everyone to come along and get involved.

Regular workshops and events are being held, keep an eye out on social media and posters in the village for details. If you are interested in renting an allotment space, please get in touch to be added to the allotments waiting list.

Later this month a "food forest" is being planted at the far end of the allotments. This is a communal orchard and is funded by the Tree Council and Earth Volunteering Matters. Contact Marion Gilroy, see the Appleseed Facebook page, or pop along to the allotments any weekday morning to hear more.



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## 5. Active Applecross - E-bikes Project

ACC are now considering the future for the e-bikes. As the initial year of the project is now complete, ACC are now looking into alternative models/business ideas of how to manage the e-bikes in the future. If residents would like to input into the future use of the e-bikes, please contact us.

## 6. Apple Juice Electric Vehicle Charger Feasibility Study

ACC and Apple Juice (Hydro) are working together to establish an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Point powered by the community hydro station. The Stage 2 Detailed Design is now complete for a 50kW Rapid + 7kW Fast charger with a battery storage unit, located at the Stack Yard. A long-term lease of part of the stack yard has been discussed with the Applecross Trust for this purpose.

ACC now need to secure funding for the project. ACC are planning to submit a funding application to the Ofgem Energy Redress Scheme in February.

## 7. Toilets

In view of Covid-19 and the importance of preventing transmission, ACC has been awarded funding from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise to improve the community toilets. The funding will be spent to install touch-free sensor toilet flushes, taps, soap and hand sanitiser dispensers to ensure that all waste is disposed of quickly and that hands can be washed without touching the faucet surface, so fewer germs are transferred around the facility. We are also looking into options for installing ozone air sanitisers that kill germs and odours. At the Filling Station, we will install a touch-free hand sanitiser dispenser and improve the current signage.

The toilets will also have a paid entry system (coin and contactless card payment). This is due to the fact that the toilets are running at a loss, in particular given the high cost of cleaning in the context of the pandemic. The toilets have increased numbers of visitors but not a relative increase in donations. The income from the paid entry system will go towards covering the regular maintenance and wages for our lovely hardworking cleaners. This year, we have increased the frequency of cleaning at the toilets due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We would like to hear from any Applecross residents that use the community toilets regularly - please let us know your thoughts on the paid entry system. We can consider a different arrangement for those who live in Applecross and use the toilets regularly, e.g. no payment required for residents. You can get in touch by emailing Saara at [info@applecrosscommunitycompany.org](mailto:info@applecrosscommunitycompany.org) or giving her a ring at 07895099753.

## 8. Covid Response

The *Applecross Community Support Group* continues to help support our community during this uncertain time. The group is a collaboration of the Applecross Healthcare Association, the Applecross Trust, the Applecross Community Council and ACC. Thank you to the wider community for your help and support of each other. Thank you also to the local businesses and organisations for providing tailored services for the community.



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The Food Box support continues at the Applecross Shop, and we encourage our community to make use of this. It is confidential and available to any Applecross resident who is experiencing genuine hardship as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. More details are on our website, or drop into the shop and speak to Seonag. This project is funded by the Response Fund from Foundation Scotland and the Communities Recovery Fund from the Scottish Government.

We recently provided 11 Applecross residents with devices to help provide access to the internet. We have four remaining devices (Chromebooks). If you, or someone you know, are vulnerable/at a higher risk from the coronavirus, and do not have an appropriate or easy to use device to access the internet then please get in touch.

## **9. Church of Scotland**

ACC have had further discussions with the Church of Scotland with regards to purchasing the Church in Camusterrach. The church has been valued at £90,000 and the Church of Scotland are supportive of the building being purchased by the community. ACC are currently preparing a business plan for alternative uses of the building which includes long term maintenance costs.



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