

Plockton & District Community Trust

Urras Coimhearsnachd Sgìre a' Phluic

Trustees' Annual Report - to 31 July 2024

1 Accounting Reference Date

This is our Trustees' Report - covering the period from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024.

2 Trustees and membership

The **Board of Trustees** during this reporting period have been:

Alasdair Mackenzie	Appointed 14 April 2021	Vice chair
Catherine Will	Appointed 25 September 2023	
John Maclean	Appointed 14 April 2021	Treasurer
Mary Jane Campbell	Appointed 25 September 2023	
Sandra Holmes	Appointed 25 September 2023	
Alexander Mackenzie	Appointed 11 July 2022	
David Skilling	Appointed 11 July 2022	Secretary
Bill Taylor	Appointed 11 July 2022	Chair
Matt Jones	Appointed 25 September 2023	

At 31 July 2024 we had the following **members**:

- 102 ordinary members
- 31 associate members
- 0 junior members

3 Activities and Projects:

3.1 Old Post Office

In September 2023, we were awarded £90,459.00 by the Scottish Land Fund representing 95% of the capital cost of acquisition (including VAT), legal fees, insurance and essential repairs. The Trust have been and continue to raise the necessary funds for the balance.

We have obtained Planning Permission and Building Warrant for the proposed extension to accommodate a WC and tea point. We have obtained an Asbestos Survey of the premises. Efforts continue to identify funding which will enable the proposed extension to proceed. Our thanks to our Architect, Olli Blair for his work and advice.

We have submitted an offer to purchase the premises from the National Trust for Scotland which has been accepted. The necessary conveyancing is being carried out on our behalf by Campbell Smith

LLP, Edinburgh and it is expected that the purchase will be concluded in early course. Our thanks to Campbell Smith for their assistance and advice.

3.2 Community Lunch

The Community Lunch is going well. We have a regular attendance of between 15 and 22 each time. Could do with some more! We run a raffle each time and this money goes to the Trust funds. It does not make a lot of money but the attendees seem to enjoy the lunch and it is proving a valuable opportunity for people to come together on a regular basis.

3.3 Paddock

Agreement has been reached with the new owner of the paddock that it should be retained for community use. The Trust await the signature of the lease which will allow us to take on the management of the paddock for the benefit of the community.

3.4 Traffic & Tourism Plan

Following ongoing discussions between Highland Council, Plockton and District Community Council and PCDT, it was agreed we should seek funding to develop a Tourism Plan for Plockton. We invited representatives from local organisations and businesses to a meeting on 15 November 2023, to discuss the issues. There was unanimous agreement to work together and for PDCT to seek funding.

In February 2024 we secured £15,000 from Highland Council's Community Regeneration Fund towards a tourism place plan. A condition of the award was to include traffic management alongside tourism, as these issues are interlinked. In February 2024, we were awarded £3,500 from North Highland Initiative and received a £500 donation from Highland Coast Hotels to undertake a SCOTO 'Press Pause Workshop'. This is to help find community-led, sustainable solutions to ensure tourism delivers for visitors, residents and tourism operators alike.

A follow-up meeting of local groups and interested parties was held on 4th March 2024, to prepare for the SCOTO workshop on 30th May 2024. We will use the awaited workshop report to inform a tendering exercise to commission consultants to help us to develop a Traffic and Tourism Master Plan for Plockton.

3.5 Short-Term Letting Control Area

The Trust continued to make representations to Highland Council who agreed to hold an all Elected Member's Workshop to discuss the various options for progressing Short-term Let Control Areas across Highland (i.e. the entire Council area versus smaller areas such as Ward 20 and Plockton). Unfortunately the planned workshop was delayed due to the legal requirements of the General Election. However, a new date for this workshop has been set for 3rd September 2024.

Following this Highland Council should be able to advise in which direction the Council will be looking to proceed. In terms of Plockton, regardless of the outcome of the workshop, our local Elected Members have signalled their desire to progress with a Short-term Let Control Area and, therefore the workshop will determine if this is stand alone or part of a Highland wide one.

3.6 Plockton airstrip

In July 2023 we submitted an Expression of Interest to Highland Council with respect to possible community use/lease/ownership of Plockton Airstrip for community benefit purposes. This followed a report to the Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee in May 2023, recommending that Plockton's Airstrip be offered on a long-term lease or sold. The EoI simply noted our interest as we consider if there are opportunities for community use.

Progress has been slow since then and we continue to engage with Highland Council who have just put a further paper to their Economy & Infrastructure Committee giving an update on the Council's four airfields. In terms of Plockton Airstrip the intention is that Highland Council would wish to explore options with the Trust and wider community before making any decisions or recommendations. We will continue to engage on this.

3.7 Fundraising / Social Events

Since summer 2023 we have held a number of fundraising events. These include:

- A ceilidh/dance and a disco in the hall. The main income from these events came from the bar.
- A Film Night was arranged by John MacLean in December 2023 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the filming of The Wicker Man, part of which was filmed in Plockton.
- A very successful Race Night in the hall.
- As noted in a separate section, the Community Lunches continue to happen, contributing a small, but regular amount to the kitty.

These events have raised around £1,700 in total but we will need to up our activities in the coming months to help fund the purchase of the Old Post Office in particular.

3.8 Website

We continue to update the website with minutes of meetings and information on key projects. In August 2023 we made a successful application to Community Enterprise's Accelerate programme. This provided 6 days of free support from a professional web designer to help us improve our website and to design a logo for the Trust. The website's structure has been improved and some 'back-end' format issues have been fixed. Unfortunately we were not able to settle on a logo, so this aspect remains outstanding. Thanks to the Bruce family for the continued use of 'Plockton.com' domain name.

4 Election of Trustees

Our governing document requires one third of elected trustees to retire at each AGM. Retiring Trustees are welcome to stand again for election. David Skilling, Alaisdair Mackenzie and John Maclean will retire at our AGM on 25 September 2024.

5 Summary of Accounts and Treasurer's Report:

Receipts and Payments Account

To 31/07/2024

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Ceilidh/Dance	1078.71	Various Licences	154.40
Community Lunch	253.00	Village Hall Hire	215.00
The Wicker Man	461.15	Ceilidh etc. Expenses	1617.56
Race Night	1978.13	Phonebook, Trust Expenses	247.42
Donation	200.00	Old Post Office Professional Fees*	6463.00
Phonebook	7.00	Lawn Mower*	2199.00
Highland Council (CRF)	4621.00		
		*Taken from restricted funds	
Total	8598.99	Total	10896.38

	£
Balance brought forward from 2023	6502.01
Balance as of 31/07/2024	*4204.62
*(Including restricted funds)	

Treasurer's Report

Much of this year's expenditure has been on the future development (proposed extension) of the old PO. This includes payments for topographical surveys, planning applications and advertisement, architectural drawings, etc. These expenses were covered by the Community Regeneration Fund through Highland Council. Other expenses include outgoings for fundraising events (such as alcohol for our ceilidhs or paper, etc. for our phone book).

We have had some great success in fundraising efforts this year. Our race night held in the village hall raised £1973.13*, two dance/ceilidh evenings raised £1078.71* a screening of The Wicker Man raised £461.15* and donations taken at the community lunches held at The Plockton Hotel totalled £253.

Thanks to the fundraising subcommittee for their continued efforts in organising and hosting these events.

(*Takings, not profit)

This report was approved at our AGM on 30 October 2024

Mary Jane Campbell 16/11/2024

Chair

Alasdair Mackenzie 16/11/2024

Vice Chair

