

## NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2020



*In these unusual weeks quite a lot has been happening around the village - and a bit has had to be postponed - here is news of the Community Company's projects and some other activities - but first some info from the Edinbane Coronavirus Community Support.*



### COMMUNITY RESPONSE

#### Edinbane Coronavirus Community Support

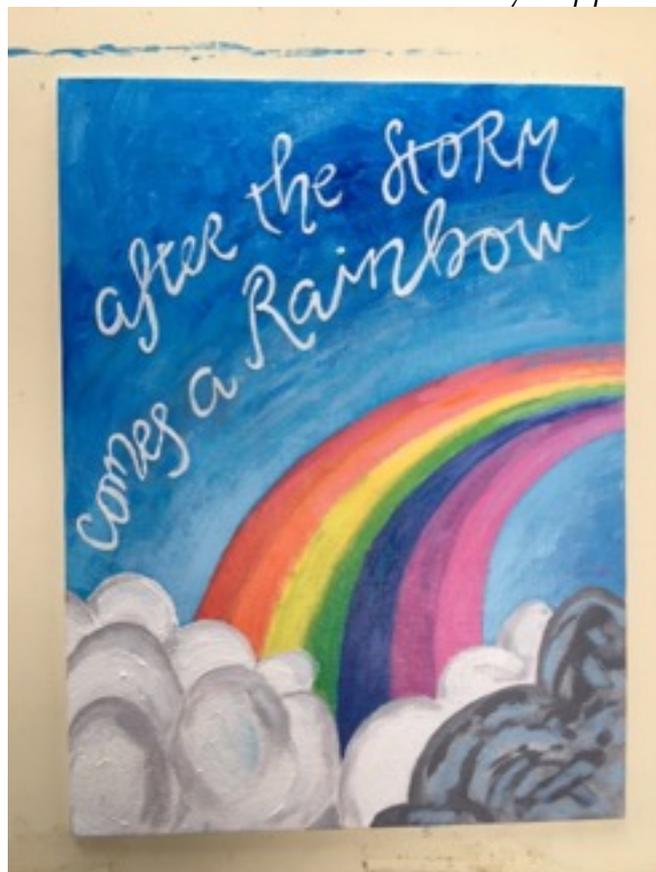
Hello all...We are here to help keep you and the community safe and well. We at the support group are here to help you in any way we can ... whether its a friendly chat on the phone or to pick up your prescription or shopping from Dunvegan or Portree We are promoting the government guidelines 'Stay at Home' so we would like to offer this service to anyone within the community especially those in isolation and the vulnerable groups ... we need to keep the number of people travelling in and out of Portree to a minimum.

One of our amazing volunteers will be in on the following days - Monday, Weds and Fridays also if its an emergency

Please call one of our volunteers listed below  
Davina 01470 582 324  
Isabel (Izzy) 01470 582 482  
Helen MacRae 01470 582 332  
Sandra 01470 582 210



We now have a blessing box outside village hall.... it contains a few bags of essential items, there's hand sanitiser too plus there's a box of



craft odds and ends for children ... If you need a wee bit of help right now for whatever reason please take what you need. Stay safe & stay well.

### PATHS

During the community opinions event last year, paths were one of the main things considered important. Shortly afterwards, also last year, a study with funding from Sustrans reviewed and costed all the possible options for paths in the area.

One route between Arnisort Church and the Edinbane shop stands out as it divides the village from safe access by any means apart from motorised vehicles.

We have funding for follow-on work to finalise the route in consultation with landowners and the community and the work should have started last month. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions the funder, Sustrans, have agreed to postpone the start till September so that there is a better chance of properly involving the community in the decisions that will need to be made.

After consultation the agreed funding allows for all the work needed up to receipt of tenders ready to start the building work. Further funds will need to be raised to move beyond this point.

The idea is that the route will become suitable for use by all regardless of age and physical ability - bikes, wheelchairs or prams and walking.

### SHOP

Another thing the community was keen to see was a shop return to Edinbane.

In recent months we have offered to buy the Edinbane Shop so long as we can raise the funds to buy it. We also have funding from the Scottish Land Fund for a feasibility study and business plan to support a forthcoming application for the funds to buy the building.

It's early days just now, but a key part of the project is to establish both a shop and a café. There may well be other aspects to the project to encourage the public in to and combine to form a viable business.

Normally we'd be consulting you - we'd hoped to do this at the AGM but this has been postponed.

Watch this space...

At this stage in the planning process, we'd like to reach out by way of a survey to find out if mini units would appeal to artists, craft and antique and dealers and would



contribute to the overall viability of the space.

### EMERGENCY FUND

*If you or anyone you know have exceptional hardship resulting from the emergency situation please apply to the fund which the Community Company has set up. Access is via the Citizen's Advice Bureau and is completely confidential.*

**Contact** email - preferred, [adviser@slcab.org.uk](mailto:adviser@slcab.org.uk) phone 01478 612032 Mon-Thurs 10-1pm, Mon/Tues/Thurs from 2-4.30pm and the fund is aimed at exceptional difficulties.

*The postcodes supported are:*

IV51 9NY	IV51 9PA	IV51 9PR	IV51 9PU
IV51 9NZ	IV51 9PN	IV51 9PS	IV51 9PW
IV51 9RE	IV51 9PP	IV51 9PT	IV51 9PX

*There's guidance on the website and both individuals and involved professionals can apply to the Emergency fund.*

### ENERGY STUDY

A study has been carried out by Community Energy Scotland into energy use in the village.

Among the interesting findings are that the average resident spends about £4000 per year on electricity, heating bills, and fuel for vehicles. Heating and travel emissions are 9.4T CO2 per year and car use is 14500 miles.

Other statistics break down as;  
Heating by oil 44% and electric 38%.

9% do not own a car, 40% have one car, 34% have two cars and 3% have up to five cars with the average car cost at £3900 per year.

27% might get an electric car, 3% have one.

If there was a cheaper local energy supply 97% would go for it.

The sample was only 18% of the 196 households so the results give general guidance.

With such a high heat demand there is the possibility of upgrading insulation levels and heating systems - if the Ben Sea wind farm goes ahead there will be funding towards these costs for households.

There's lots more in the report, it can be accessed on the website.



## SCHOOL POLYTUNNEL

Edinbane Parent Council writes:

Dear Community member, The pupils, parents and staff at Edinbane Primary would like to purchase a Polytunnel and place this on the land behind the school.

In order to do so we plan to source funding for this however to make this sustainable it has been agreed that this requires help from the community and we would plan to make this a community wide project. We would be looking for volunteers to help and we would look at utilising the space along the

idea of an allotment style type of arrangement.

We have seen the polytunnel which Struan Primary recently purchased and would like to go for something similar in size. This is a 4m x 8m Keder grower polytunnel. This would give plenty of scope for the community to utilise and would benefit the school children massively.

We would love to hear from you. If you would like to be involved please get in touch either by email:  
[edinbane.primary@highland.gov.net](mailto:edinbane.primary@highland.gov.net)  
Phone: 01470582229  
or speaking to any parent/ member of staff.

## AGM

The AGM was scheduled for mid May -but of course it's not to be. After consulting with the regulators it's been confirmed that it is fine to have it when lockdown allows. It'll be publicised later. Please consider being involved in the Community Company and stand to be a director. Please see the website for application forms, information and minutes.

## ECC Project and Grant Funding

The ECC has providing funding for a number of projects that serve the community.

Vein Finder at Portree Hospital (£500);  
support for the continuing work of the Community Council (£1000);  
support for the salary of a community worker engaged in the response to the COVID-19 crisis (£5745);

provision of funding to support the work of the Edinbane Coronavirus Community Support group (£500)

and in these exceptional times plans are underway to provide a Hardship Fund.

The ECC has also provided a number of grants under their regular schemes to assist local individuals and businesses: 12 Educational awards (£26,341); 3 Small Projects (£2404) and 2 Apprenticeships (£6000).

If you feel you may be eligible for funding support through the regular schemes check the website and/or speak to one of the Directors.

### MISCELLANY

Finally, just in case you haven't seen this Isabelnelson Rapson photography is asking for donations.

'I have had an idea which I think is a great idea , it will be a historic look at us all in Lockdown for future generations.



I will at your request come and take a photo of you , family , pets etc I will name the album Edinbane in Lockdown . I for now will only do this for Edinbane catchment area . But will consider other areas if there is enough interest

All I ask you to do is make a donation to a charity close to my heart . Which is Alzheimer's disease . I will put up a link .



So all I need to do is get all you folk in Edinbane to contact me through Facebook messenger or phone me on 482 and we can arrange a time .

No need for you to be dressed up but if that's your thing then all good . I will be observing social distancing I have a long lens so no worries that way, I Will have sanitiser and a cover for my face with me . Although I do feel like Dick Turpin with it on 😂😂. Needs must though . Look forward to hearing from you all xx '

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[If you'd like to follow the links in this newsletter](#) please download the digital copy from the website.

While you're there, why not download a membership application and join the company so that you can influence the progress of works around the village.

With so much to report on this time we've not mentioned all the grants available and the regular things that are supported - grass cutting round the village is one.

### HALL

Covid-19 has meant that very little is going on in the Hall at present. The only 'activity' is the

Post Office on a Tuesday 1pm-3pm. and of course there is the 'Blessing Box' at the door.

Once we have returned to the 'new normal' we hope to have all the previous regular activities returning and up and running again – Yoga, Choir, Skye Reading Room. We also have a list of new activities which were in the plans before the pandemic struck and so we are hoping to get more things on the go. BUT in order for that to happen and for the committee to remain sane we need helpers/ volunteers and members. So if you feel you can contribute in anyway for however short a time or want to find out how you can help please let one of us know and we'll keep you in the loop.

Committee: Sarah-Jane Kalaher (Chair) - 01470 582 397, Emma Shanks (Treasurer) – 07818477608, Wilf Docherty (Secretary) – 01470 582 208, Sam Peare (Hall **Bookings** Secretary) – 01470 582 247 and Dafne Mora (Member) 01470 582 353.



### FEEDBACK, suggestions and enquiries phone 01470 482

Roddy MacFarlane 270

Phil Ashurst 456

Alistair Danter 784

Joe Kalaher 397

Stuart Whatley (Secretary/Treasurer) 234

Davina Macluskie 324

Billy Shanks 307

or look on the Contacts page of the website.