



Autumn newsletter

Dear Neighbour – This newsletter focusses mainly on our current work in relation to affordable housing.

Housing on Skye

Finding affordable housing is a real issue for many Skye residents. Recent Scottish Govt research into housing prices showed that median prices for houses in the Highlands Islands (including Skye) is £249,000 a 30% increase in the last 5 years compared to a 23% increase for mainland Scotland. Additionally research indicates that 58% of sales are for cash. The full report can be seen at <https://bit.ly/3Xppbjx>. The figures on Skye are affected by a number of factors including: the impact of converting domestic dwellings to short term let businesses; the relative costs of properties compared with those in other parts of the UK and Skye's attractiveness as a place to live. The growth in the short term rental market in recent years has significantly reduced the numbers of properties available for long term lets. This has also impacted on businesses ability to recruit staff, with many operators highlighting recruitment problems due to lack of availability of housing.



A local solution? Following Highland Council's (THC) recent purchase of land zoned for housing at Coishletter in Edinbane, ECC is now working jointly with THC and The Community Housing Trust (CHT) to assess local demand for affordable housing with a range of tenures and to develop a Masterplan for the ground covered by THC's purchase. The first step is a local needs assessment for both domestic and business owners. An earlier needs

assessment survey was carried out in 2015, but this requires updating. The findings of the survey will contribute to a public consultation to create a Masterplan for the development. The 2 pieces of work will also inform ECC on options for entering into a 3 party agreement to take forward any housing development jointly with THC and CHT.

A key consideration for ECC is that any developments provide a range of tenures including affordable self build and rentals together with options for low cost home ownership.

We believe that this exercise is a great opportunity to bring more young people to the community and additionally increase the current dwindling school role in Edinbane Primary school, a key community asset that many have benefitted from over the years. We need to reflect on the fact that at the '23 Christmas dinner for senior citizens from the Edinbane Communities, supported by ECC there were over 35 participants while the current school role in Edinbane Primary is just 8.

Please participate and share your views

The surveys for domestic and businesses can be found at



ECC urges all locals with an interest in their own and longer term family needs to respond to the survey and then engage in the Master planning exercise once it is announced in a few months time.

Former residents, or people who wish to return to live in Edinbane can also participate. The survey will include postcodes to identify current location of responses.

A dedicated section on the ECC website [Housing | Edinbane Community Company](#) has been created to keep locals updated on developments, meetings, consultation events and key reference documents.

To encourage participation in the survey ECC will be offering the chance for all those responding to the survey to win a voucher for dinner at the Edinbane Inn.

SURVEY LINK:



GOVT RESEARCH LINK - <https://bit.ly/3Xppbjx>

COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST LINK - <https://www.chtrust.co.uk/>

EDINBANE HOUSING INFORMATION [Housing | Edinbane Community Company](#)

Upcoming Events:

ECC AGM + BYOB Ceilidh (Donations to Community Hall) - 30th Nov 7 pm Community Hall

Remembrance Day event at War Memorial + Community Social – 9th Nov 10:45 am

Senior Citizens xmas dinner – 13th Dec, Location TBC