



# Community Trust Update:

## *Update 2: May 2005*

### **At Last We've Made it!**

The official formation of the Isle of Luing Community Trust Company took place on 31st March 2005, and we now have the official certificate of incorporation to prove it! As explained in our previous Update, this is a *company limited by guarantee* with charitable status, with the liability of individual members limited to the sum of £1.

In addition we are forming a subsidiary company, wholly owned by the Isle of Luing Community Trust, to be called the Isle of Luing Trading Company. All profits made by this company will pass to the Trust, who must then spend such income within the terms of the Objects of the Trust (see previous Update). This arrangement will enable profit-making activities to take place to the ultimate benefit of the Trust and hence of the community of Luing without infringing charitable status.

### **The Memorandum and Articles of Association**

These are the vital documents that have taken so long to be prepared, and have now been accepted by the Inland Revenue for charitable status. Now the Trust has been incorporated, the Memorandum of Association is virtually impossible to change. The Articles of Association could be changed, but it would be serious matter to do so at this stage, and certainly not a sensible step to take before the Trust has even got under way; however changes could be agreed in the future if the Members of the Trust decided that was necessary.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles will be available for consultation at the Trust's current registered office, the shop at Cullipool. Prior to the Inaugural General Meeting (IGM) further copies will be posted for consultation at the ferry shed and in each village hall. Finally, electronic copies can be obtained by e-mail by sending an email request to [a.robertson70@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.robertson70@ntlworld.com)

### **The Rules of the Trust**

Attached to this Update is a copy of the proposed Rules of the Trust. The Articles of Association empower the Directors to make Rules or Bye-laws to govern the administration of the Trust. The Interim Directors have approved the attached draft for public consultation before the IGM; they would be pleased to have written comments and suggestions for amendments and improvements to these draft Rules, pro-

vided these are received no later than 23rd May 2005. The directors will then take these into account when they approve the final version of the Rules. No further amendments will be accepted at the IGM, when the Rules are proposed for formal adoption.

However, the Rules are entirely the responsibility of the Trust, and can be changed at subsequent AGMs. Indeed we expect that such changes may well be needed in the light of experience of the working of the Trust in its early years.

Further copies of the proposed Rules will be available at the shop.

### **Membership of the Trust**

The definition of eligibility for Membership of the Trust is set out in paragraph 12 of the Rules. We have tried to make this definition as open as possible, given the need to keep the Trust firmly in the hands of island residents, avoiding any risk of outside influences over-riding their wishes and interests. We hope we have struck the right balance from the start. Please bear in mind that it is only paid-up Members that have an entitlement to vote at General Meetings, but also carry the legal liability, limited to £1. The IGM itself is a slight exception to this – please see the membership application form.

In addition we have defined Friends of the Trust to accommodate those who do not come under the definition of eligibility, including those under 16 who live on the island. We are suggesting a subscription at half the rate of a Member, or free for those under 16 who live on Luing.

The various benefits of being a Member or Friend of the Trust will evolve as the Trust grows. They will include reduced or free participation in some of the activities of the Trust, including its sub-groups such as the Luing History Group. But the most substantial benefits will be to the Luing Community as a whole, and that is the reason we urge everyone to consider becoming a Member or Friend by paying a small annual subscription.

Application forms are attached to this Update. Please use them; further copies are available at the shop, and completed applications may be returned to the shop or brought to the IGM.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

*Until such time as the Community Trust has its own business premises the Trust's postal address will be c/o Luing Store, Cullipool, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4TX*

*The purpose of the Isle of Luing Community Trust is to enable the island's community to run a democratic, not-for-profit and non-political structure for the common benefit of the whole community.*

*Please support the Trust and get involved where you can.*

### **The Inaugural General Meeting**

This really will be the launch of the Isle of Luing Community Trust! At the IGM, chaired by an independent person, the community will have the opportunity to:

- approve the formal adoption of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Rules
- elect its own board of directors, and other committee members
- determine the first year's subscriptions for Members and Friends..

The IGM will be followed by a forum to allow the interim directors to report on current progress with initial projects, and the views of those present to be heard by the newly elected directors, in particular in relation to the priorities for the Trust in the coming year.

### **Work to be done – your island needs you!**

We need proposals for up to seven Directors, a Membership Secretary, a Public Relations Officer and three Ordinary Members of the Management Committee. Three of the Directors elected will serve for one year in this first year of the Trust, four for a full term of two years, in order to establish some guarantee of continuity in future Boards of Directors; the Directors elected will decide among themselves who will serve for one year only.

**The Directors** carry the ultimate responsibility for the success or failure of the Trust! As such anyone proposed for election as a Director has to appreciate the nature of this role, involving necessary paperwork and meetings, and the taking of responsibility for making important decisions – commitment to the task is essential! Much business is likely to be done by email contact.

**The Membership Secretary** is the person entrusted with maintaining an accurate list of Members, including their subscription status. He or she will also maintain the list of Friends, and supply updated lists as needed for Trust activities and mailings. Both lists will be maintained in an electronic format, so anyone proposed needs to be able to use the appropriate computer skills. The Trust is likely to issue membership cards for both Members and Friends.

**The Public Relations Officer** is the person who will maintain contact with the media and the outside world generally, so the person proposed needs to have a broad knowledge of the activities of the Trust, and of how to present these to

those outside the Trust. He or she may be the editor of future issues of this Update.

**The Ordinary Members** of the Management Committee will be there to keep the Directors in touch with the rest of the Members! They could be seen as potential future Directors, and would be expected to take on specific tasks and roles as the Trust develops.

**Nomination forms** for all posts will be available at the shop, and should be returned before the IGM. At the IGM further nominations will only be accepted for any post for which one or more nominations have not been received by the closing date of 23rd May 2005. For all nominations, a proposer and seconder need to sign the form.

### **Administrative support**

Clearly there will be a lot of paperwork to be maintained, letters to be written, minutes of meetings to be taken, and so on. This is essential work, and the Trust would hope to be able to employ someone in such an administrative support role at the earliest opportunity. However, this does require funding, and the Trust will first need to have sufficient funds to sustain this job on a part-time or casual basis before anyone can be appointed.

### **Location, location, location!**

The Trust will require office facilities, and the intention is to provide these within the planned Museum/Heritage Centre

### **The Inaugural General Meeting**

The IGM is scheduled to take place on Monday 30 May at 7.30 pm in Toberonochy Hall. Formal notices will be posted on notice boards, including the official agenda. Afterwards there will be a free glass of wine or soft drink, with nibbles, to toast the future success of the Trust!

### **Please be there!**

