



# Torridon District Community Association

## Community Development Officer

6 Month Report and Future Priorities



Katie Anderson started work as Torrion and Kinlochewe Community Development Officer on 29 April 2024, thanks to funding from the Community Regeneration Fund, Lottery Awards for All Scotland and a small grant from MOWI. She is now halfway through her 12 month contract with Torrion District Community Association (TDCA).

TDCA is delighted at what Katie has accomplished so far and very much hopes to obtain funding for a second year. Suggestions for priorities can be found in the last section of this report and TDCA welcomes discussion on these.





## Achievements in the first six months

These were focussed on addressing priorities in the Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Development Plan (CDP). Members of TDCA Development Plan Sub-group had started some of this work but much remained – and still remains – to be done.

Katie has researched funding opportunities and developed a funding strategy for actions in the CDP. She continues to monitor changes and adapt the strategy accordingly.

## Priorities for the next six months

These will be focussed on completing some of the short-term projects already started, plus driving progress on the longer-term, larger-scale actions.

Katie will continue monitoring the funding landscape and look for possibilities to support implementation of CDP priorities.

With Katie's programme for the next six months already full, she is not looking to take on further work. However, if important challenges or opportunities for the community emerge, she will respond if possible.

## **Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Local**

### **Place Plan (LPP)**

#### **Achievements in the First Six Months**

Katie supported the finalisation of the LPP and undertook considerable work to organise the consultation process and TKCC's submission to Highland Council. This meant that, unlike many other Community Councils, TKCC did not need to obtain additional funding for a consultant to do this work. Finalising the LPP was very time consuming and thanks also go to Laura MacDonald from SCDC for her support. The LPP has now been registered and we hope it will play an important role in helping to shape Highland Council's Highland-wide development plan and planning decisions.

Katie has made links with key local organisations and supported community engagement activities where possible. She supported TKCC in preparing a funding application to North Highland Initiative for vital repairs to a bin store in Fasaig village.



## **Torridon School and playpark**

### **Achievements in the First Six Months**

Katie played a key role in organising information boards and holding a community event to update people on progress with a possible Community Asset Transfer (CAT). She has also liaised with Highland Council, such that we now have more clarity on the best way forward. The final decision rests with TDCA directors, but it is likely that if we go ahead we will request separate CATs for the school and playpark. This is because a CAT request requires a clear funding plan and this can be achieved more quickly for the playpark than for the school project. For the playpark, a small community working group has been formed to take forward work. For the school, funding remains a major challenge, however Katie and TDCA Development Plan Sub-group are continuing to follow a number of leads.

### **Priorities for the Next Six Months**

Working with the community working group, Katie will develop a funding and management plan for the playpark. This will include agreeing the design, obtaining cost estimates for installing equipment, and approaching funders, so a realistic funding package can be considered by TDCA directors and, if approved, accompany a CAT request. Katie will also continue to work with TDCA Development Plan Sub-group to determine the viability of a project to develop the school, with the aim of enabling TDCA directors to make a decision in 2025 on whether to go ahead.



# Kinlochewe Projects

## Achievements in the First Six Months

Katie has identified a number of possible action groups to take forward ideas from GALE's Planning for Real exercise. In partnership with Kinlochewe Village Hall, she has also started developing a Wester Ross Village Halls Equipment Lending Library. This aims to allow a network of Village Halls to borrow items, such as bouncy castles or catering equipment for minimal or no cost and enable them to avoid purchasing duplicate items. This will save costs at a time when funding is difficult, it will also improve sustainability and the circular economy across the region.



## Priorities for the Next Six Months

Wester Ross Village Halls Lending Library development work should be complete by April 2025. Once the scheme is up and running, it is expected that participating village halls will keep contact details etc updated themselves and will be in touch directly to arrange loans. In relation to possible action groups, if there is sufficient local interest, Katie will assist in setting up a Fairtrade Group, Local Speed-Watch Group, and a Growers Group. Katie will also run a regular games night in Kinlochewe as part of efforts to reduce social isolation.

# Torridon campsite

## Achievements in the First Six Months

Exploring a CAT of the campsite in Fasaig is a CDP priority. It also represents a potential new funding stream for TDCA, which is currently vulnerable because it has a narrow funding base. Katie has begun research for a feasibility study, this has included sending surveys to and visiting local and other community owned campsites. The study will look at options for the site, and the likely costs and revenue to be generated. Again, the employment of Katie has enabled the community to do this initial work itself rather than requiring funds for a consultant. Katie also submitted a successful Expression of Interest to Crown Estates Community Development Fund. If our full application is successful, it will fund the technical design work for the site, including groundworks, layout and facility design.

## Priorities for the Next Six Months

Katie will continue to support work on the feasibility study with a view to completing a report, to include outline revenue projections, by April 2025. Katie will also make a full application by December 2024 to Crown Estates Community Development Fund for the technical design and detailed cost appraisal. If this application is unsuccessful, an application could be made to the Scottish Land Fund.

## **Local services information pack**

### **Achievements in the First Six Months**

Katie made a successful application to the Community Regeneration Fund to develop a local services information pack, and is now working with a designer. The information pack will help people access local services in the area, thereby increasing service usage and improving sustainability.

## **Community recycling hub**

### **Achievements in the First Six Months**

Katie also secured funds from the Community Regeneration Fund to develop a community recycling hub at Loch Torridon Community Centre. The hub will make recycling easier for those who cannot travel to larger population centres, and reduce the number of trips made by those who can. This will improve the community's carbon footprint and should act as a springboard for further local climate action. The hub will complement other initiatives across the Highlands that are tackling climate change, and contribute to Zero Waste Scotland's plans for a circular economy.

## **Information Pack and Community Recycling Hub**

### **Priorities for the next Six Months**

Katie aims to complete these projects by Spring 2025. The day-to-day running thereafter should require minimal input.





## Loch Torridon Community Centre (LTCC)

### Achievements in the First Six Months

Katie made two funding applications to support the renewal of LTCC's heating system. She has taken over running Torridon Community Cinema, and has plans to expand this. As a member of the LTCC team, she has also given ad hoc support with running the centre.



### Priorities for the Next Six Months

Again, as part of a broader strategy to reduce social isolation, Katie will progress ideas to increase the audience of Torridon Community Cinema and explore other projects. This may allow access to grant funding for the arts. Katie will also continue to give other support to LTCC when required and to the extent possible.

## Projected Actions for a Second Year

In order to consolidate work done so far and set a path towards long-term sustainability, a second year's funding for our development worker is vital. We simply cannot progress the larger projects on our own as a group of volunteers.

The aims for a second year would be to advance the longer-term projects that are currently in their early stages, show clear, tangible benefits to the community and develop revenue streams.

New short-term projects could be undertaken if the need and opportunities arose.





## Likely priorities include:

- **Torridon playpark** – assuming the CAT is agreed, secure funding and oversee re-design and installation of equipment. Revitalised playpark to be opened in late 2025/2026
- **Torridon school** – submit a CAT and start to secure funding
- **Torridon campsite** – manage the technical study and finalisation of design, develop a possible funding package, complete a CAT request
- **Combatting social isolation** – Further development of Kinlochewe Games Night and Torridon Community Cinema
- **Climate action** – further projects may be developed after the launch of the recycling hub, this could include circular economy projects such as repair and reuse cafés. Also, initiatives to reduce the community's emissions, such as community growing and composting, and projects focussed on restoring and protecting the natural environment
- **Community resilience planning** – help the community deal with the impacts of climate and other emergencies

We welcome discussion on these!

To have your say, please contact Katie -  
[development@lochtorridoncentre.co.uk](mailto:development@lochtorridoncentre.co.uk) - or come to a  
drop-in at the Loch Torridon Community Centre 6th  
December 12:30-3pm or Kinlochewe Village Hall 11th  
December 1:30pm - 4pm



AWARDS  
FOR ALL  
SCOTLAND

**MQWI**