

# Applecross

## Community-led housing initiative

May 2023



- > CHT supported Applecross Community Company (ACC) to acquire the land via Community Asset Transfer
- > Jointly developed the first community-owned homes on the peninsula: 3 affordable rental homes next to the GP surgery
- > Homes are accessible, including 1 which is fully wheelchair compatible
- > Homes help older residents stay within the community, close to health facilities, improving accessibility
- > Community-owned and run development sits within wider context of other community-owned initiatives e.g. hydro scheme, broadband, allotments, petrol station, community woodlands, and others
- > A great example of what a small rural community can achieve

Applecross is a small village on the north west coast. It is reached by the mountain pass of Bealach na Bà and is on the popular North Coast 500 route, receiving thousands of visitors a year.

Facing a lack of quality, affordable housing for residents, and particularly older residents with health or care needs, CHT worked in partnership with Applecross Community Company to purchase the site from NHS Highland, adjacent to Applecross GP surgery, via Community Asset Transfer with funds from the Scottish Land Fund.

CHT provided development agency services to ACC, to build three accessible homes at An Toll Bàn with further funding from the Rural Housing Fund, HIE, SSE's Sustainable Development Fund, and Apple Juice Hydro.

Residents moved in during March 2022.

## Community and partner involvement

CHT acted as Development Agent for the project on behalf of Applecross Community Company (ACC), undertaking community engagement work including Housing Needs Surveys and Business Planning, to identify the need and sites for affordable homes, as well as project-managing the build.

In particular there was a need to provide for older members of the community, or those with increased health needs, to enable them to stay in the village.

The NHS surgery site was identified as a possible site, and the NHS was supportive from the outset, as the project would enable them to provide their services more efficiently in the area and further support local people. CHT supported ACC to acquire the land through the Scottish Government's Community Asset Transfer scheme in 2020.

The three homes were built next to the GP surgery (see right), and provide increased access to health facilities if needed.

The homes were built by Kinellan Building Ltd, and are affordable to run, as a key aspect for affordability of homes.



## Future

The community-owned homes are managed by CHT on behalf of ACC.

ACC is an active organisation with many initiatives for improving the lives and sustainability of this small and remote community. This includes a community-owned broadband scheme, hydro, petrol pump, community woods, allotments and gardens, and other community facilities.

The demand for these homes was high, with many more people in need of quality, secure and permanent housing. Further sites for affordable housing and other community facilities have been purchased with Scottish Land Fund support, and development is hoped to begin in 2023.



Scottish Land Fund:

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