

Balmaha

Community-led housing initiative

May 2023



Image credit: Dave Arcari

- > **CHT supported the community to obtain land through the Community Asset Transfer scheme, as well as further funding, and construction procurement**
- > **The site, a former Forestry & Land Scotland plantation, will provide 20 affordable homes of mixed tenures (including social rent and shared equity)**
- > **Four homes will be owned by the community and prioritised for local workers**
- > **Additional land made available for community uses**
- > **Increases & diversifies affordable housing for local community, helping to grow and sustain the population and wider economy**
- > **Construction will focus on using Scottish materials and low-energy design**
- > **Exemplar partnership working**

Balmaha is a small village located in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. It's a popular tourist destination situated on the West Highland Way with a plethora of holiday homes and a large hotel.

As it's fairly remote, with high property prices and a lack of affordable housing, local workers and families struggle to find a place to live, which in turn puts pressure on local businesses wanting to recruit and retain staff.

The community were keen to build and manage their own homes, and via the East Loch Lomond Community Trust, approached CHT to help develop their project plans.

Following a Community Asset Transfer of land from Forestry & Land Scotland, the plan is to create a mixed development of 20 homes, in partnership with Rural Stirling Housing Association. Four community owned affordable homes will be prioritised for local workers.