

Community Land Ownership – What's it all about?

November 10th 2015

Speaker Profiles

John C Hutchison

John Hutchison is a chartered civil engineer, who retired in 2007 as the Highland Council's Lochaber Area Manager and lives near Fort William. He is a qualified mountain leader and chairs the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, and is co-Chair of the Scottish Rural Parliament. John holds a number of other community positions, has been involved in several campaign groups, and is a Justice of the Peace.

Lorne MacLeod

Lorne was one of the founding board members of Community Land Scotland, who saw the need for a group to represent the interests of this emerging sector, and to drive forward policy development. He is a chartered accountant who has specialised in working with charities and community businesses, and is also a director of a retail & distribution business based in Skye. He was a co-opted director of Stòras Uibhist, the community landowner for the islands of Eriskay, South Uist & Benbecula for five years until 2012, and a co-opted director of the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust for six years until 2008. He is a former board member of Cal Mac Ferries Ltd, and was previously Director of Strengthening Communities at Highlands & Islands Enterprise, and prior to that was Chief Executive of Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise.

Peter Peacock

Peter is the part time Policy Director of Community Land Scotland. He also serves on the Scottish Committee of the tele-communications and media regulator Ofcom. He was Chairman of the Customer Forum for Water in Scotland between 2011 and 2015. He was a Labour regional list Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Highlands and Islands between 1999 and 2011. Peter was appointed a deputy minister when first elected in 1999, and promoted to Minister for Education and Young People in the Scottish Executive after the 2003 election. Immediately prior to coming to Parliament, Peter was the Convener of Highland Council, having been an independent councillor for Ardersier in Highland Region since 1982.

Ailsa Raeburn

Ailsa Raeburn is Head of the Community Assets Team at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE.) HIE is the Scottish Government economic and community development agency charged with leading growth and development in the Highlands and Islands region, in line with Scotland's Economic Strategy, improving competitiveness and helping build a fairer society. The work of the Community Assets Team is focussed on increasing the role of communities in the ownership and management of land and assets, and the sustainable management of these resources for the benefit of the community.

Ailsa is a Chartered Surveyor by training and has worked across the public and private sectors for a number of years. She has also worked closely with communities and social enterprises in the acquisition and development of assets and has an understanding of the challenges they can sometimes face. Volunteer Boards require and value robust professional advice and support to ensure they maximise the use and development of their land and property. She is keen to work with the professional support sector to enable better understanding of the mutual opportunities arising from community asset ownership.