

Owning Our Future: Call for Proposals – Coigach Community Development Company (CCDC)

Community Land Scotland is looking for creative practitioners to work with six community landowners across Scotland. The practitioners will use a process of [narrative change](#) to draw out how the Trust has supported its community through Covid19 and to help the community of Coigach think through their hopes for their community and wider society in 2021, post-pandemic. By narrative change, we mean using storytelling to shift people's perceptions about what society could look like.

This project is funded through the National Lottery Community Fund's Emerging Futures Fund and processes and requirements set out in this Call are based on requirements that come from that programme.

Over the past six months, community landowners across the length and breadth of Scotland have shown how well they were able to support their communities in a time of crisis. Some of these experiences were gathered by Community Land Scotland and published in our "[Built-in Resilience: Community Landowners' response to the Covid-19 Crisis](#)" report. The thoughts of many community landowners are now turning to the future and how they are going to support their communities through the partial-lockdown and the economic recovery beyond.

What are community landowners?

Community landowners are communities of place that collectively own land, buildings or other assets. They have open Membership to anyone living in their defined geographic community and local control is built into their governance structure. They operate as businesses with income being reinvested back in the community

Community Land Scotland

Community Land Scotland is the voice of Scotland's community landowners. We have a membership of almost 100 communities and work to: represent community landowners; promote the sustainable development benefits of community landownership; facilitate networking and mutual support between community landowners and collaborate with other organisations to ensure community landowners can access the support they need

Further information can be found at: www.communitylandscotland.org.uk

The project

We are looking for creative practitioners to work with community landowners to help draw out some of the detail about why they were able to respond to the Covid19 pandemic so successfully and what role the ownership of land, buildings or another asset played in that response. We also want to help communities look to the future. At the end of the process, each community should have something that helps them share their vision for the future with their community and wider society. The Lottery has suggested that this could be in the form of a printed Manifesto for Change or a graphic routemap.

As part of the project, we are asking the six communities to film some of the process (this could also be clips of Zoom meetings) which will be edited into a short film about the project.

What do we mean by a creative practitioner?

We are looking for practitioners who can take a creative approach to facilitation, drawing out stories and getting people thinking differently about the future. The creativity will be in the process rather than in the output. We want people who can think beyond the conventional in terms of gathering information from members of the community and helping people think creatively. This will be particularly important given the current restrictions caused by Covid19.

Role of the creative practitioner

The practitioner will:

- Work with Coigach Community Development Company to come up with creative ways of engaging the wider community. We have been guided by the funders to consider the role of narrative change in this process and how we might tell new stories that change people's ideas about how the future could look.
- Facilitate that community engagement
- Work with the CCDC to capture film footage of the process and any key insights
- Collate any relevant archive material from the community and feed that into the creative process
- Help the community think through what sort of output they would like at the end. The Lottery has suggested this could be a Manifesto for Change or a routemap out of the crisis
- Work with the community to get the Manifesto, routemap or other output designed and printed (there is a separate budget for this)

We are particularly keen to hear from creative practitioners who know Coigach, although this is not an absolute requirement

The other communities taking part in the project are: South West Mull and Iona Development, Kinning Park Complex in Glasgow, Peebles Community Trust in the Borders, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust) and Viewpark Conservation Group in North Lanarkshire

As part of this project, we are hoping to build links between the participating communities so there will be two or three group sessions bringing all the communities and creative practitioners together

The community landowner

Coigach Community Development Company (CCDC) in Wester Ross covers the village of Achiltibuie and surrounding settlements, which have a permanent population of around 230 people. It has a number of projects, including a wind turbine, affordable housing and is leading on the development of the Acheninver Path, part of the Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Partnership project.

See the end of this document for further information.

What does Community Land Scotland need out of this process?

Community Land Scotland wants to dig a little deeper into why community landowners were able to respond so well to the pandemic. We are particularly interested in the role that owning an asset, be that land, a building or a wind turbine, played in their response.

Anecdotal evidence suggests there could be a number of reasons responded so well: an entrepreneurial culture; collective ownership leading to stronger community connections; the resources generated by an asset allowing communities to respond quickly and the fact that people look instinctively to owners of assets during a crisis. We want to find out which of these ring true with communities.

We want to find out more about what the key challenges were that communities faced and what their hopes are for the future so that we can feed this into our representative work.

There has been a great deal of interest from the Scottish Government and public agencies about how community landowners have responded to the crisis. Community Land Scotland's Policy Director will take the key themes that emerge from the six communities and organise round table discussions with policy makers and key agencies to look at how Scotland can learn from community landowners' responses

Our role in this process will be:

- Project management
- Supporting the communities and creative practitioners to work together to achieve an outcome that is useful to the community and to the broader project
- Organising group meetings between all six communities and the practitioners who are working with them to facilitate shared learning
- Commissioning a film-maker to provide training on filming on mobile phones
- Using the outputs from the six projects to influence change on national level
- Reporting to the funder

Timeline

Timeline	Activity
20th October	Call for proposals closes
22 nd – 29 th October	Shortlisting and interviews
End October	Contracts issued
Early Nov	Group meeting (online) with all communities and creative practitioners
Early Nov – mid-December	Facilitation work with communities Film footage captured
Late Dec / early Jan	Outputs designed and printed Group meeting (online) with communities and creative practitioners

Value of commissions

Each creative practitioner will receive a fee of £2500. This will include any travel or other expenses occurred during the facilitation process. There is a separate budget of £1000 per community for design and print of whatever the output is

Covid-19

The practitioner must observe Scottish Government guidelines for social distancing and safe working at all times. Your proposal should set out how you intend to engage people within these restrictions. We aim to be as inclusive as possible so your proposal should reflect the fact that not everyone in the participating communities will have access to technology or the internet

Questions about this project

You can contact Community Land Scotland with questions about this project:

Linsay Chalmers, 07884 314297 or linsay.chalmers@communitylandscotland.org.uk (please note that Linsay will be on leave from the 2nd - 9th October)

Kristina Nitsolova, 07508 421886 or kristina.nitsolova@communitylandscotland.org.uk

How to apply

Please send a one-page proposal setting out how you would deliver this project to Linsay Chalmers, Development Manager at Community Land Scotland. In addition to this one pager, you can provide a CV and / or information about your past work.

Email your proposal to: linsay.chalmers@communitylandscotland.org.uk

Coigach Community Development Company: Covid Response

Like many Community Land Scotland Members, CCDC has been at the centre of its community's response to Covid, having been seen as an obvious 'go-to' organisation in its area. An Emergency Covid Response Committee was set up in the early days, which had membership from: CCDC, the Community Council, village hall and local businesses.

CCDC was able to set up a [crisis fund using income from the wind turbines](#), which was later supplemented by grant funding. This was aimed at people who might be falling through the cracks between furlough and other government schemes. They could access the funds through a simple and highly confidential process that covered essentials such as food, heating and access to broadband. This scheme has been very well received. CCDC was also able to give money to the Parent Association for tablets to help with home education.

A Facebook mutual aid group was set up and information materials have been produced and distributed.

Everyone in the community received a reusable face mask and hand gel. 'First Aid Covid Kits' were set up with PPE, visors and an apron. A team came together, including the local shop, to get prescriptions out to people and the shops have been doing deliveries

The importance of self-sufficiency came to the fore during the crisis. Unlike much of the rest of the country, the shops were able to stay well-stocked and the fact that some people have their own hens and the pub adapted to running a takeaway service, meant that there were fewer issues with food than in many other rural places.

The community broadband was invaluable and CCDC flags up that this small, localised solution provided from Ullapool has worked very well for the community. Young people were asked to provide support to older people to use software such as Zoom

The opening up of tourism during the summer brought some additional challenges due to a lack of appropriate infrastructure for campervans etc. The local ranger service, although stretched, was able to give friendly advice to tourists.

The community was able to run a virtual version of the Coigach Gathering to lift people's spirits. This included takeaway afternoon teas and a scarecrow competition. An informal, socially-distanced walking group was also set up

There was also information sharing between communities, particularly with Applecross, which has many of the same challenges with geography and demographics as Coigach.