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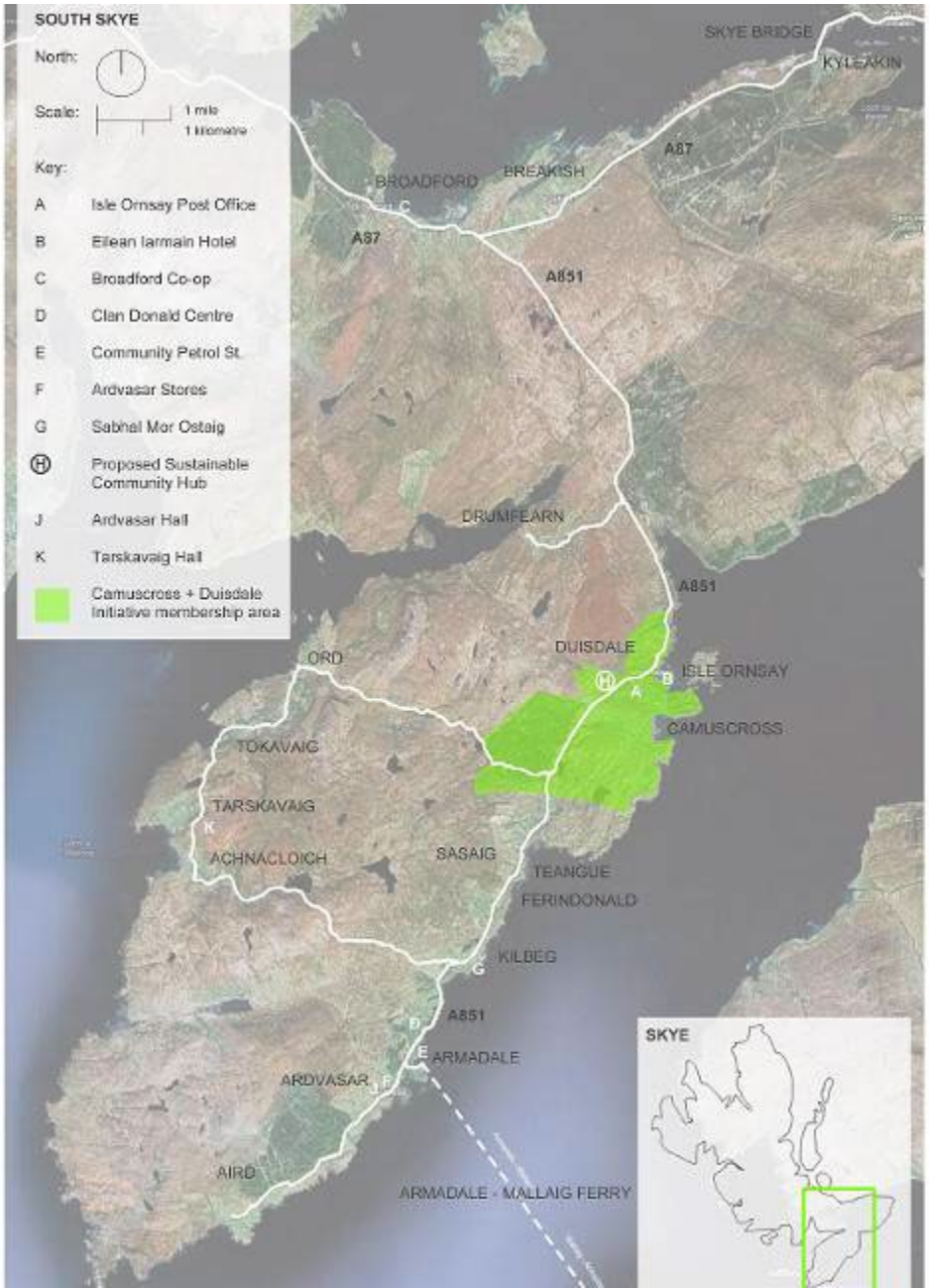
"Our vision is to develop and support social, cultural, economic and environmental initiatives and to create a resilient, sustainable community where everyone feels welcome and valued."

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Our ‘area of benefit’ marked in green. Our community lives in postcodes IV43 8QS, 8QR, 8QT, 8QU, 8QH, 8QX (Camuscross, Duisdale Beag, Duisdale Mòr, Eilean Iarmain, Cruard, Brae Ord)

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Community Consultation driving developments

2001 Do we want a community shop?

Questionnaire sent to all households 92% said Yes

2008 Open Day, Questionnaire Results:

	Yes	No	Maybe
Affordable House Plots	78%	2%	20%
Shop	95%	3%	2%
Café	94%	-	6%
Shop/Café	96%	-	4%
Paths	92%	2%	6%
Museum of Outdoors	71%	4%	25%
Historical Displays	89%	2%	9%

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Community Consultation driving developments
2010-11 Five Year Development Plan

2010-11 5-Year Township Development Plan

Funded by HIE, researched by independent consultant, using interviews, questionnaires, working closely with CDI board

Development Plan Results

- 84-95% supported a multifunctional community hub:
- It was Identified as single most important thing for the community
- Number One priority in 5-year development Plan
- Also support for local food and employment for young people

2011 CDI designed a path network and heritage interpretation An on-line survey showed strong support for developing paths.
It was not possible to agree a route with land users, so was put on hold.

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Community Consultation driving developments

Community conversations

August 2023
November 2024
September 2025 – to support the development of a Sleat-wide Local Place Plan
November 2025 - Open Day

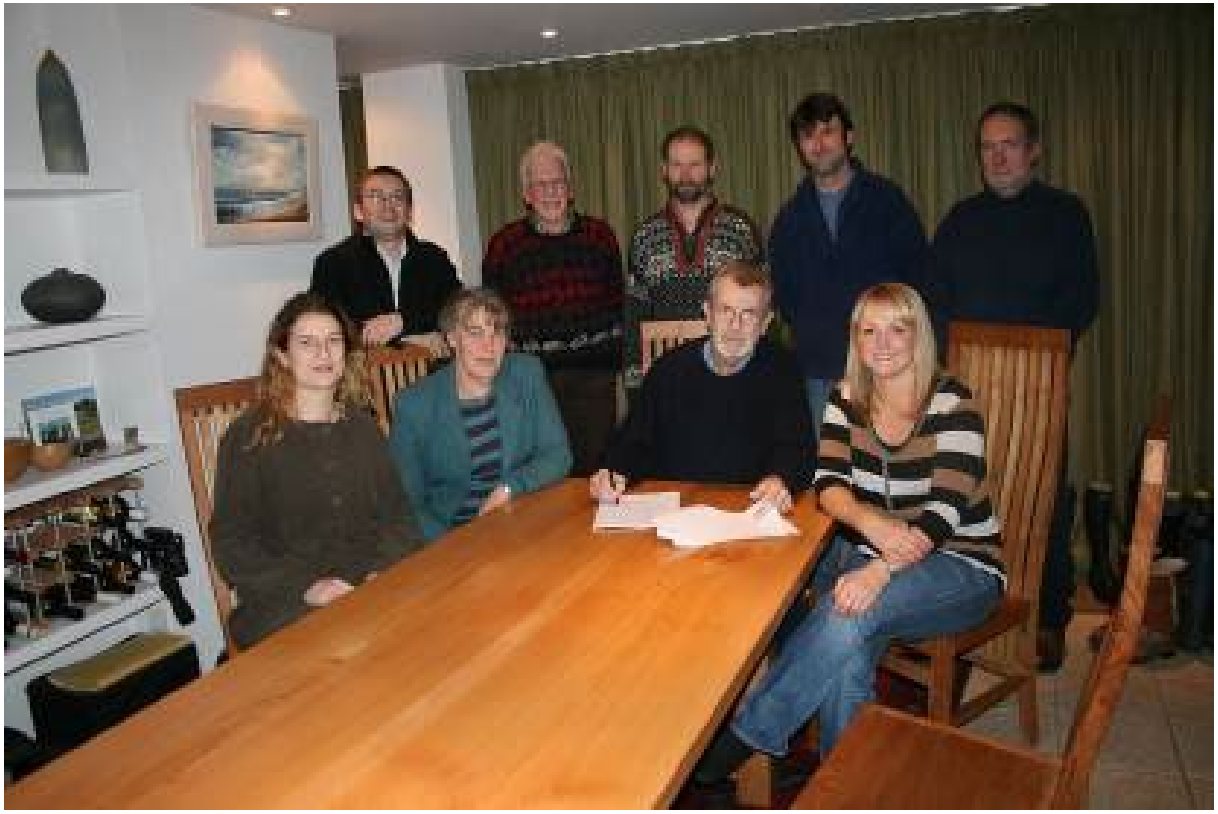
The ideas and comments gathered are shaping developments from 2026 onwards

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2007 Camuscross Community Steering Group was set up to explore developing a village shop, affordable house sites and renewable energy

2008 Camuscross Community Initiative (CCI) was registered as a charity and incorporated, with a Land Reform Legislation compliant Articles



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Allt Duisdale Reservoir

2008 Allt Duisdale Reservoir was put on the market. CDI started the process to register a 'Right to Buy' under the Land Reform Act.

2008 became Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative when Duisdale postcodes were added to the 'area of benefit'.

2009 Allt Duisdale Reservoir was bought from Scottish Water with the aspiration to develop a hydro scheme.

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Growing community through events – 2007 Boat Day





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Crofting Olympics 2011







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2011 Raft Race



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2011 Hydro feasibility and local food project

CDI secured Climate Challenge funding for a feasibility study into a hydro scheme using Allt Duisdale Reservoir, and for a local food project, Grow to Eat. Unfortunately, shortly afterwards, funding for community groups to develop renewable energy schemes was cut.





GROW TO EAT Project

Events, activities, visits and training, in gardening, ploughingjam and chutney making

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Community hub project

2011 started to develop community hub project
September - Big Lottery awarded almost £50,000 to develop the Hub project and apply to Stage 2
Appointed design team, business consultants, community resource worker

2012 Visited other community enterprises in the West Highlands and Islands to write the business plan
Held a one day café and shop in Duisdale Hall
Sent postal questionnaires to all Sleat households

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2012 Designing our community hub

- 3 Community consultation events with professionals present
- Architects ran 2 school workshops
- Set up a Facebook page
- 1 Community Q & A Session
- 1 presentation and Q & A with crofting shareholders





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The community hub design



WTArchitecture / David Narro Associates / Max Fordham / Morham and Brotchie

LOTTERY FUNDED

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2015 Site bought for community hub

- Only feasible site was part of Camuscross common grazings = subject to crofting legislation
- Crofting landlord Lady Lucilla Noble agreed to sell the site for £10 + legal costs
- Land had to be “resumed” from crofting tenure through an application to the Scottish land Court
- After negotiation, all 27 Camuscross crofting shareholders of the common grazings signed a minute of agreement to resume the site

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2015 The funding year

A local fundraising group was set up to raise the £6,000 locally required by funders

Late 2015, all funding secured

- A total build budget of £1.9m
- Revenue funding from Big Lottery of £200,000 to support the business over the first 4 years

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2016 Construction



Started in January, completed in December 2016.

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Our community hub, asked for by our community. Named An Crùbh after suggestions from the community and a ballot

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2017

An Crùbh Ltd set up to run the shop and café as a wholly-owned trading subsidiary of Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative. It rents the space.



Staff recruited

Business Development Manager started in February 2017

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An Crùbh officially opened to the public on 1st April 2017

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2018 – 2019 Electric Vehicle Charging points, funding approved from Energy Saving Trust installed.



2019 Driveway bottomed, first sections of driveway filled and tarred costing £6,500

2020 Second section of driveway tarred

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2020-2021 The Covid Years

- During the Covid lockdowns the café + hall were closed
- Furlough funding paid the staff, but no income for CDI from hall rentals
- The shop turnover trade doubled because of our safety procedures
- We organised grocery deliveries to those shielding and boxed orders for pickup using volunteers + staff and delivered free meals

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2021 Recovering from Covid lockdown

2021
Childrens
playground

Funding for
5-vehicle
motorhome
park
applied for



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2022 – 2023 Tough years! The bad bits!

- Huge energy price rises. An Crùbh's new electricity contract was at a crippling 59p kw for 3 years
- The café had to close for 2 weeks at Easter 2021
- Major, costly breakdowns of the waste treatment plant, and the boiler + replacement of hopper floor due to wet wood chips. Cost £10,000
- Manager left December 2023

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2022 – 2023 Tough years! The good bits!

Community Lottery Fund provided £34,000 to open a Warm Hub in An Crùbh

Work on the campervan park started.

This major infrastructure project completed April 2023 on budget

Income from the campervan park has proved crucial



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2024 Fighting back!

- A management team of 3 volunteers replaced the manager as no finances to appoint a new manager
- Nearly 3 years later, An Crùbh is still managed by a small team of volunteers
- Café Manager appointed to support management
- CARES + SSE funding secured for solar pv project
- But solar pv not operational till 2025, meaning still very high electricity prices in 2024

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2024 Fighting back! Onwards to 2025….

- Applied to Aviva Community Fund
- Set up a crowdfunder with match funding from Aviva Community Fund
- Raised £28,000 with gift aid
- Secured CARES funding for 80% of costs
- SSE covered the 20% match funding
- The solar pv array + battery storage will make an important contribution to An Crùbh's finances



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2025 35 kW solar array with 15 kW battery + solar diverter installed



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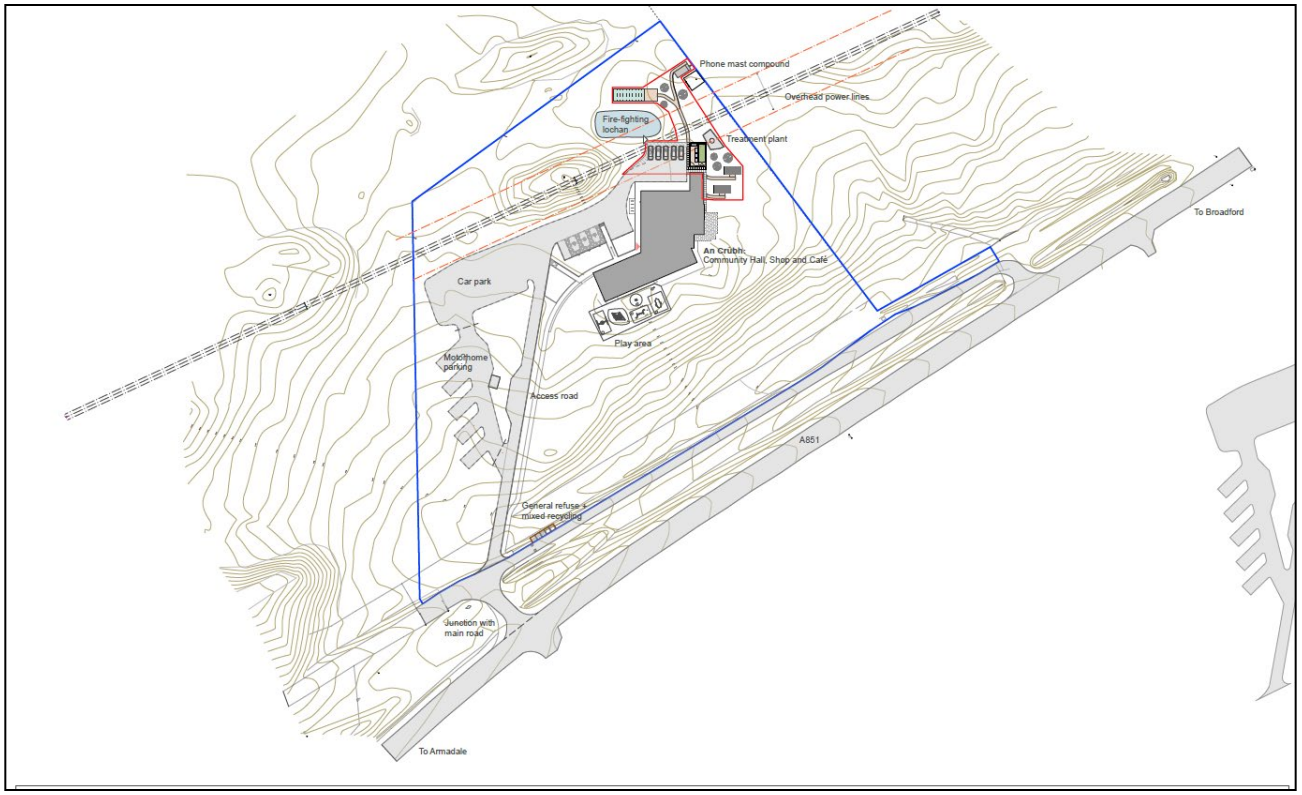
Savings from 35 kW solar array with 15 kW battery + solar diverter

- Electricity costs @ 59p kW reduced by 30% from £25,000 pa (ex-VAT) in 2024 to £17250 pa (ex-VAT) in 2025
- A new electricity contract @ 28p kW from April 2026 will further reduce electricity costs to approximately £13,000 in 2026/2027
- The solar diverter which pre-heats hot water using excess solar pv has reduced the frequency of woodchip ordering in the summer from a 2 month gap to a 4 month gap
- Once set up by our new electricity provider, we will be able to sell excess electricity @ 12p kW

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Future plans to achieve resilience and growth



2 holiday accommodation bothies

Storage container

Generator + shed

Polycrub + growing space

Bins enclosure

We also want to reinvestigate Allt Duisdale Reservoir for hydro power and look again at previous plans for local housing

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Future plans to support our community

We are working on:

- More lunch clubs and events for our older residents
- Start providing live streamed productions from national theatres, opera houses etc
- Develop interactive heritage interpretation on the themes of Gaelic language and culture
- Work in partnership with Sleat Community Trust and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to improve community transport and sports facilities
- We can only achieve these big ambitions with more human resources and grant funding for capital expenditure
- We are currently working on multiple funding applications to allow us to implement our plans

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