



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

It's been a busy year at the Community Company with grants, apprenticeships, and the completion and official opening of Caledonian Court. Read on to find out about our latest opportunities, news and plans for the future!

AGM

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held on 25th January 2022. Members will receive copies of the agenda in the coming weeks. The meeting is also open to non-members, so if you are interested in learning more about the work of the Community Company or getting involved in what we do, please do come along– or consider becoming a member!

Directors

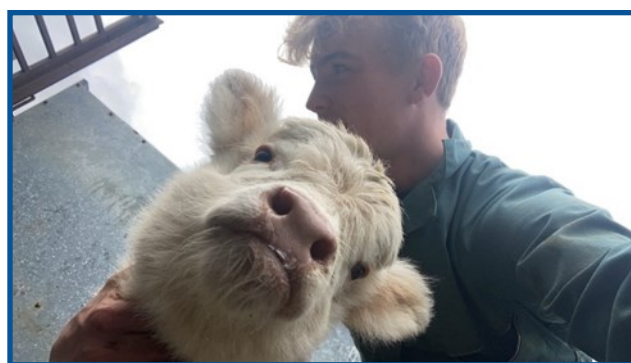
Are you interested in getting involved in the future of your community? Do you live in the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council area? If so, you might be just the person we are looking for!

We are looking for people to serve as Directors on the Community Company Board. As a Director, you will represent your community and develop a forward looking strategy for the company. The role is very diverse and there is the opportunity to get involved in various projects. Our Directors come from all walks of life, so whatever background you have, we'll be sure to be able to use your skills and experience!

So, if you are committed to making a difference in your community and would be interested in standing as a Director, or would like to learn a bit more about the role, contact us on 01320366800, email Karen on contact@communitycompany.co.uk or drop into the office at Fort Augustus Village Hall to have a chat.

Apprenticeships

We've had another successful year with our apprenticeships. Earlier this year George MacEachen secured a pre-apprenticeship in livestock and arable farming with Ringlink and is really enjoying it. Working with Shewglie Farmers in Drumnadrochit, George is helping to manage over 700 sheep and 80 cattle, some of which are known for taking the occasional selfie!



If you are either in school and are planning what to do in the future, or have already left and are looking to develop your career, why not consider an apprenticeship? It can give you a great head start as you earn whilst training in a career that will give you lifelong skills.

Community Action Plan Review

The Community Company is facilitating a review of the Community Action Plan that was carried out a few years ago. We'll be holding two open days early in the new year to update you on the progress and to get your feedback, so please come along and have your say.

Grants

Over the last year, we have given out a number of grants to various groups and individuals however they have been fewer in number than usual due to Covid restrictions limiting the activities for many. The Community Company runs three grant schemes, one for groups, one for individuals for community benefit, and one for students. Each works slightly differently, but all are designed to benefit the community.

There are certain criteria that applicants need to meet, and this is simply to ensure that we can use the money effectively to create the best impact. So when our Directors assess a grant, they are looking to see how the money will benefit not only the people participating in it, but also the wider community.

Directors do have guidelines, stipulated by our funders' terms and conditions, that they have to follow. For example, they are not able to approve a grant retrospectively, so if you booked a trip to a panto, you wouldn't then be able to apply for a grant to fund it. Groups also need to have at least two signatories on their bank account. Directors are also unable to fund something that is a statutory requirement. An example of this would be equipment for a sports activity at school during school hours that is part of the curriculum and therefore should be government funded.

A real life example would be a grant given recently to the Telford Centre to help with refurbishment of the day rooms. The NHS are obliged to provide basic repairs and furnishings but only to a very basic level. When Kerry wanted to make the space more appealing, and all that the NHS could do was paint it cream or white and repair damaged chairs, she applied for a grant to improve on that. As this was over and above the basic requirement, we were pleased to support her in making the space more visually appealing and comfortable for residents and visitors alike. See what you think below!



Before



After

We are always happy to discuss a project with you to make sure that it fits the criteria and makes the most of your opportunity to apply for a grant. Do check the guidelines provided or give us a call on 01320 366800 or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk We would love to chat about your plans.

EV Car Club

Carbon reduction and response to climate change is something we have all heard a lot about recently, and at the Community Company we are keen to develop ways to address this issue at a community level. We are also aware that access to transport is vital for people, both for work and for accessing amenities.

With this in mind, the Community Company is working on developing an electric car club for the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston area. The project is in its early stages and we need to know if there is enough demand for it so please take some time to complete the survey— scan the QR code or paper copies are available at Great Glen Trading Centre. Just drop them in the letterbox at the hall when you've completed it.

