

The Old School House,  
GlenShiel,  
By Kyle,  
Ross-Shire,  
IV40 8HW  
31/08/24

Dear Sir/Madam,

I Isabelle Campbell Councillor for Ward 5, Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh hereby fully support Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust in their plans to acquire two areas of forestry land in Ratagan and in Saraig from Forestry and Land Scotland through a community Asset Transfer, and then apply to the Scottish Land Fund and other funders to bring the project to reality. I know that Loch Duich Community Council and many local people support the proposals as we see it as a way of strengthening our community and keeping families and children in the area.

The aims of the project are to retain people and families in the Loch Duich and wider Lochalsh area through the provision of housing, support for business and access to land.

The demographics of Loch Duich are particularly stark with Lochalsh, which is an area that is losing families and has a demographic pattern that is heavily weighted to the older generations, particularly in the communities outwith Kyle. The Loch Duich school roll shows clear evidence of this demographic imbalance, as it has dropped from 16 in 2020 to 9 in 2024 which puts the school in danger of becoming unviable.

The project will provide

6 affordable homes

2-4 affordable house plots for self-build

2 business units for rent and additional land or space in homes for home working or home based businesses

Access to land for croft homes and land-based businesses with the provision of 5 crofts

Community access to land for food growing through a community growing area which KLCT will donate one or two polytunnels.

A community owned campervan or camping site providing services to tourists and supporting local employment.

I fully endorse this project and wish it every success in succeeding in the CATs request in securing the funding it needs to make it happen.

Yours faithfully,

*Councillor Isabelle Campbell.*