

Kinghorn Community Land Association 2005
34 Pettycur Road, Kinghorn, KY3 9RL

27 November 2006

Dear Member

Register of Community Interest in Land (RCIL)

In June over 600 people, some 25% of the Kinghorn electorate (and well over the 10% required), signed the petition to accompany the application to the Scottish Executive to register an interest in the Right to Buy 18 separate land holdings around the Loch for the long term benefit of the community. **Thanks for all your support.** The application was submitted at the end of October and all 18 items are now listed on the Register, pending confirmation by Scottish Ministers. See <http://rcil.ros.gov.uk>

Before submitting the application, KCLA wrote to landowners, assuring them that the community wishes only to buy from a **willing** seller at a **time of their own choosing** and at a **fair market** price set by an independent valuer. Likewise, Kinghorn residents will at such time be able to choose, by public ballot, whether or not they wish KCLA to buy a specific plot.

The Scottish Executive has asked for our comments on the responses received from the half of the landowners who have objected. These we are now preparing. Amongst these responses was also a submission from Ron Edwards, co-opted environmental adviser, on behalf of Kinghorn Community Council that suggests the application be suspended or refused. Our Community Council's stated purpose and duty is to express the views of the community it represents. We were surprised and disappointed to find it not supporting the application and questioning the judgement of the quarter of the Kinghorn electorate who have clearly expressed in the petition their support for our application.

Please help us by e-mailing or writing to Marilyn Livingstone MSP requesting she continue to support our full application and to represent your views to the Minister. (Marilyn.Livingstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk) or at The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP)

The Minister, Rhona Brankin, MSP, will make her formal decision by the end of December. Watch out for news!

Key points about registering an interest in land at Kinghorn Loch:

1. Registration gives Kinghorn people first refusal when land comes on the market.
2. This only applies if a landowner **chooses** to sell. Make no mistake, as some appear to believe, the Land Reform Act, which gives communities a Right to Buy, is **not** about compulsory purchase or forced sales.
3. Kinghorn will face more development pressure. Registration gives Kinghorn people influence to secure the future the community wants for this land.
4. A formal community ballot is required before any and every purchase.
5. KCLA would apply for the bulk of the costs to the Lottery 'Growing Community Assets Fund', created to 'fund local communities to buy land and buildings that will help them become stronger and more sustainable'.
6. We are starting a process. The plans are sound but not set in stone. We are starting detailed business, land management and financial planning to realise the community's vision over time. Consultation is central to that. We seek a partnership with others. We welcome the wish of the Chair of the Community Council to develop a spirit of partnership in such consultations.

You can read a rationale and vision, an outline of our plans and a summary of all our consultations in 'the Big Picture' available on the above website or from the Board.

Fund-raising

At present KCLA exists on goodwill and donations – the common denominator for all voluntary, part-time organisations. Board member Clare Brown composed another fiendish set of anagrams for this year's prize quiz sheet. The winner of the gift voucher, drawn on 23 October, was Mrs Jean Drummond of Kinghorn. Congratulations to her! In total £135 was raised from the quiz and the children's bean-bag game at KCLA's stand at the Ecology Centre's Summer Festival. Many thanks to Clare and to all who took part in the activities. Do you have any suggestions for other fund-raisers? Most people enjoy puzzles, so would you like to see more 50p quiz sheets, both for yourself and to pass on to family and friends?

New Board members

At the AGM in the Community Centre in September, Directors Ann Donald, Mick McMillan and Hugh McNeill stood down owing to other commitments. Nominations for five Board vacancies were approved, but one has since stood down. The Board is now :

Chair Chris Mitchell
(890921)

Secretary Richard Brewster
(new: 892306)

Treasurer Ewen Campbell
(new; 892320)

Minutes Secretary Clare Brown
(890162)

Julie [Samuel] Farr (891410)
Rosalind Ramage (890042)

John Lancaster (new; 890027)
Simon Wakefield (new; 890681).

Please contact any Board member if you have queries about KCLA or can help or support in any way. Would you like to fill the vacancy on the Board? Please join in!

New website: www.kcla.org.uk

This is being developed at the moment and will, we hope, serve as an added means of communication to everyone near and far who is interested in KCLA's progress. Again, if you have suggestions to make or help to offer, please get in touch.

Greetings cards

Sets of four blank (all-occasion) greetings cards, showing beautiful views around the Loch, will shortly be available in time for Christmas, either to send or as gifts. You may have seen examples already on KCLA's stand or at the AGM. Tullis Russell Ltd has kindly donated the paper. To see and/or order the cards, please phone John Lancaster tel. 890027. Prices are: £1 each or £3 for four.

Recollections of Kinghorn Loch

Come and enjoy a short talk by well-known resident, Mrs Nellie Phillips, on her life-long love of the Loch area and its importance to people past and present. Share your own reminiscences over a cuppa and a mince pie! Make a date: Thursday 7 December, Sailing Club, 8 for 8.15pm. (The scheduled Board meeting will be earlier at 7pm.) Everyone welcome! Advance notice would be helpful, to ensure sufficient supplies of food and drink – please phone any of the numbers above.

I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you in December.

Chris Mitchell, Chair