

Letter of Support from Loch Duich Community Council

All members of the above Community Council are in favour of the developments proposed by Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust at the Saraig and Ratagan sites which are being sold by FLS :

- The recent local area survey highlighted that the demographics for the LDCC area show one of the highest ageing populations in Lochalsh. There is an urgent need for affordable housing to try and reverse this trend. There has been no social housing built in the area since 1995, almost 30 years ago. As a result of this families have had to leave the area due to lack of affordable accommodation and the local primary school numbers have drastically declined. As a result , pupils aged from 5 to 11 years are all educated in the one classroom . This reduces opportunities for team sports, other events and limits social skills.
When properties or land come on the market, young people cannot compete with the inflated prices caused by the properties being sold as second homes for holiday letting.
The development may also provide much- needed accommodation for key workers, especially in health and home-care.
- Historically, summer holiday jobs in the tourist season were taken up by local teenagers and students but now local businesses struggle to find staff because there are very few youngsters living locally . As a result local businesses have to restrict their opening hours due to staff shortages. Graduates from the local area are unable to return after completing their studies as there is no available accommodation for them.
- In our opinion the planned crofts will be very popular with young people who are well aware of the importance of sustainability and climate change. They are also keen to become more self-sufficient and the planned crofts and community growing areas will provide ideal opportunities for them to do this. Working outdoors will also be good for mental health and well- being.
- We are aware that there are a number of local people who are interested in workshop type space to run their small business in this area rather than having to travel to Kyle or Skye to secure premises.
 - We would welcome the provision of a serviced space for camper vans a think that a scenic spot such as Saraig would be very popular. We have all witnessed the problems caused by the number that already park in lay-bys and car parks.

In conclusion, all Community Council Members would support the proposals.

