

Summer 2007

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Development Programme

The Association has been awarded grant funding of £5 million to enable the following projects to be progressed.

Edinbane

Four tenants took occupancy in April and will benefit from the comfort offered by the super-insulation, underfloor heating and solar space and water heating system installed in each house. We believe that these features will have a significant impact in reducing fuel costs.

Home Farm, Portree

The first phase of the development is nearing completion and will provide 31 houses for rent

and 10 houses under the Homestake Scheme. In addition, work has started on ten houses for private sale. Phase II is also now underway and will provide another 21 houses for rent along with 12 Homestake properties.

Kyle

The Association is working with Highland Council to convert Hamilton House into flats for temporary homeless accommodation.

We are also working with Tulloch Express to redevelop a gap site in Main Street. This development will include a shop and six flats for rent.

The Salvation Army building in Station Road has been acquired by the Association to provide a three-bedroom first floor flat. The ground floor premises will continue to be used for a range of community purposes.

Broadford

The third phase of development at Campbell's Farm will provide 15 properties for rent.

Isle of Raasay

The Association will develop a site at Pairce na Sgoile to provide ten family homes for rent. It is intended to commence the first 6 houses in Spring 2008.

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Dornie

The Association has acquired land at Carr Brae, and intends to build 35 houses and a day centre as well as providing open space throughout the development for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The first phase of the project will deliver eight properties for older people as well as the day centre.

Plockton

The site at Burnside was acquired in March 2007. Much work has to be done to overcome infrastructure issues and it is intended to commence construction of the first phase of 14 homes in Summer 2008.

Annual General Meeting

**Monday 11 June 2007
at 7.00 pm**

Cuillin Hills Hotel, Portree

**You are invited to join us
at our Annual General Meeting**

**A light buffet and refreshments will be
available at the end of the meeting**

Home Fire Safety Visit

Worried about keeping your home and family safe? It's easy to find out how to protect your home.

Throughout Highlands and Islands, the Fire and Rescue Service is offering a FREE home safety visit for you and your family. Our staff will be happy to have the chance to visit your home, offering expert and friendly advice to keep you safe.

- Your local fire service staff will phone to arrange a visit, at a time to suit you.
- When they visit, they will have a chat about possible hazards in your home and, if required, will fit a Smoke Alarm with a 10-year battery free of charge.
- The aim of the visit is to make your home safer, the fire service are not in the business of selling or promoting fire prevention products or companies.
- A short visit could save your life!

This service is part of the national drive to cut fire deaths and injuries across Scotland.

This is a free service, which has recently commenced with great success in your area. We also provide training to partner agencies who visit people in their homes.



To arrange your free visit, call **FREEPHONE 08000 12 13 12** or visit our website at www.hifrs.org.

New Management Committee Members

New members of the Committee have been recruited to fill casual vacancies.

Mr John Murray from Totescore formerly practiced as a solicitor and is currently a Director of Skye Properties Limited. He is a former Secretary of Kilmuir Community Council and past Chairman of Kilmuir School Board.

Mr Gordon Wight is the Manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau and a tenant of the Association. He has a wide knowledge of housing issues and previously served as the Chair of a Residents Association.

If you would like to consider becoming a member of the Management Committee, please contact our office and ask for the Application Pack or e-mail us at info@LSHA.co.uk.

Charitable Status

At a Special General Meeting of the Association held on 5 March 2007, our membership agreed that the Association should adopt Charitable Rules and apply for charitable status.

There are a number of advantages to the Association having charitable status, particularly in relation to Corporation Tax exemption and our ability to obtain relief on the payment of Rates on

our office buildings. These savings help reduce our costs.

Our application for charitable status was successful and we became a Scottish Charity on 3 April 2007.

Thinking of building or buying a house?

...you may qualify for

Grant Assistance with a

Rural Home Ownership Grant



The Grant...

- Available through the Association in all areas of Skye & Lochalsh
- Grant levels vary depending on cost of house and income levels
- Size of house must be compatible with your needs
- Cost of house should come within cost limits
- Applicants should be resident in the area or have work or the offer of employment

If you would like further information on this or any aspect of the grant, please contact **John Lamont**, Development Officer, e-mail: john@LSHA.co.uk

It is with great regret that we report the passing of Norman MacInnes, Vice-Chairperson of the Association.

Norman was a valued member of the Committee for over 11 years, and he will be sadly missed. We would like to offer our sympathies to Katie and express our thanks for his years of service to the Association.

Re-Launch of Website



The Association's website has been redesigned to display information about us in a more easy-to-read style. The address is www.LSHA.co.uk.

We would welcome any comments or suggestions for inclusion in the website.

Please send comments/suggestions to **Marion Douglas**, E-Business Development Officer, email marion@LSHA.co.uk

Electrical Safety

Residual Current Devices are a necessary protection when using electrical equipment outside your property, which is connected to a socket within the house. Installation of these devices was made compulsory in 1992 and although the Association did fit this protection prior to that date we are discovering, through our periodic testing of properties, that not all our houses have Residual Current Devices installed. We will undertake a survey of properties to establish where remedial work is required later this year and once this has been completed, a programme of work will be organised to rectify matters.

In the meantime you are advised to use a portable Residual Current Device if you are operating electrical appliances, such as lawn mowers or vacuum cleaners, outside your property. These devices can be purchased for a few pounds from most hardware or electrical stores.

For further information, please contact **Wilfar Matheson**, Property Services Officer, email: Wilfar@LSHA.co.uk



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