**Dornie & District Community Council Annual Report**

**1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

**Meetings:**

The Community Council (CC) held 9 meetings since 1st April 2024 (29 April, 27 May, 24 June, 2 October, 14 November (special meeting), 25 November, 27 January 2025, 24 February, and 31 March). All meetings have been quorate.

**Topics**

The main work carried out by the CC during the year was:

1. Traffic management in and around Dornie

In September, the CC held a meeting with Highland Council to discuss concerns about traffic management. This was also attended by representatives from Eilean Donan Castle. As a follow up, the CC carried out a comprehensive survey of residents of Dornie, Ardelve, Carr Brae, Camuslongart, Nostie and the Glen to identify the key issues around traffic and opportunities to address these. There was a high number of questionnaires completed and individuals were generous in spending time providing views and recommendations.

The key messages were:

* Insufficient parking space in Dornie village, with concerns that any increase in available space does not detrimentally affect the appearance of the village
* The parking area at Dornie Hall is dangerous and needs to be changed substantially
* Speed limit reductions on both the A87 trunk road and the side roads were requested by many
* Linked with the issues around human waste, a reduction of overnight parking at certain locations was recommended
* Active travel options were recommended

Since the survey, the following has been done:

* A request for a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph from east of Eilean Donan Castle to the Ardelve junction has been submitted to Transport Scotland and follow-up correspondence issued.
* A request for a reduction in the speed limits on the U4936 from Lag to Bundalloch road and the U4940 Ardelve-Camuslongart road.
* Transport Scotland has been reminded of an earlier request for active travel route between Ardelve and Nostie.

Post-year end, further work has been carried out including logging a range of traffic issues with HC by individuals and discussed by the CC on how to progress these. A request has been made to HC to deter coaches from parking at Dornie Hall as they cause a significant safety issue.

1. Highlighting issues with sewage pollution, dirty toileting and dog waste

During the summer of 2024, the CC made contact with ScottishWater and SEPA to inform them that there was sewage pollution particularly along the foreshore in Dornie. Despite correspondence with the MSP on this matter, there has been no obvious progress as it appears that this is not considered a pollution matter by SEPA. The CC first raised this issue in 2021.

Similarly, the reports of dirty toileting both in the village and at the Castle Viewpoint have not instigated much action by Highland Council. Last year, the seasonal warden provided information to campervans and vehicles parked at the Viewpoint. At the time of writing this report (June 2025), HC has said that a new seasonal ranger will be appointed but further information is not available.

The CC decided to provide additional information for visitors and dog walkers and so, post year-end, signs have been erected in different areas advising people not to toilet on the ground, and also for dog walkers to bag and bin their dog poo.

1. Receive updates from Dornie & District Community Trust on Shop/Cafè Development and Graham House at each meeting

It was hoped that the shop would be able to open in Spring 2025. However, due to the nature of the available funding, the target date was postponed. Good progress has been made with the building works and an open day was held in March 2025. Further work in sourcing funds is being carried out.

A business plan was developed for Graham House by Impact Hub Inverness following consultations. The sub-group taking forward the Graham House project has continued to meet.

1. Receive updates from Dornie Moorings Association Ltd at each meeting

The Association reported that they had received £31,000 of funding for admin, fundraising, and design fees and planned to concentrate on installation of moorings at Totaig. However, MOWI’s planned equipment for Totaig had to be deployed on their own sites. The Association held various community consultation events during the year and are continuing this work.

1. Reports from Energy sub-group

The sub-group extracted data relating to Dornie from the Skye & Lochalsh Warm Homes Survey. They provided information on various activities and funding streams for energy efficiency developments.

1. Road maintenance

Requests for repairs to various sections of road have been made to HC and some of these were actioned. However, others remain unaddressed. Issues also remain about road safety. The CC thanked both HC and their contractors for the swift repair to the Bundalloch road when a section was washed away during the Christmas holidays.

1. Road Safety

At the April 2024 meeting, Police Scotland advised that they would be increasing mobile and static patrols with a key location being Dornie/Eilean Donan Castle. They reported that they had held a session in Inverinate on 14 June 2024.

1. Tidy-up in Dornie

The CC organised regular sessions for tidying up in the village centre during the summer months. These were attended by others, not just CC members.

1. Footpath between Francis Street and St Duthac Drive

It was identified that this had not been completed by the Housing Association despite it being in the approved plans. The secretary contacted Planning Dept of HC to highlight that this work was still required to be done.

1. Community Tourism

The CC co-ordinated a meeting of those involved in tourism as part of SCOTO’s (Scottish Community Tourism Organisation) project to develop local responses to tourism. The meeting in February 2025 involved Eilean Donan Castle, Dornie Hotel, Dornie & District Community Trust, Dornie & District Community Hall as well as other local tourism businesses.

1. Local Place Plan

The CC provided feedback on the Local Place Plan which was prepared by Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, and submitted to HC and validated on 11 October 2024.

1. Burial service

The CC asked HC to provide new felt for use at burials as the old one looked poor. It was noted that this had been done.

1. CC information distribution and administration

The Secretary continued to provide regular information via the CC facebook page and website, covering a wide range of matters. It was agreed to provide a one-stop place for members of the community to find information on how to report concerns or issues, which the CC would then follow up if they had not been addressed. A template for recording declarations of interests was developed.

**Volunteering**

Thanks to all those who volunteer in Dornie and District to ensure that projects are taken forward and there are mechanisms in place to provide a voice for residents.

Shona C MacLennan

16 June 2025