

**WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CALL FOR SITES
SUBMISSION BY ISLE OF RUM COMMUNITY TRUST:
A COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN FOR RUM - SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT
MARCH 2015**

Introduction

The Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT) commissioned PAS in May 2014 to prepare an engagement-based Community Land Use Plan for the 100 hectares of land which in 2009 was transferred from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to the Trust. Community Land Use Plan for land in the Trust's ownership. The plan also considers how that land can be integrated with land on the island in the ownership of SNH.

This is a summary report of engagement undertaken. A full engagement report will be presented to The Highland Council at a later stage.

The Isle of Rum Community Trust

www.isleofrum.com/contactandlinks.php#cl1

IRCT was established in 2007 to manage community land and assets in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the community, and to promote rural regeneration on Rum.

PAS

www.pas.org.uk

PAS is an independent organisation that helps people in Scotland to understand and engage with the places they live in through the provision of advice, training, education and awareness-raising, to ensure that everyone has the capacity to create positive places for the future. PAS works at grass-roots level with local communities and community groups to help them reach a shared vision for their local area in terms of land use and community assets.

Project Aims and Outcomes

- Production of a Community Land Use Plan for land in IRCT's ownership also considering how this can be integrated with land on the island in the ownership of Scottish Natural Heritage.
- Facilitation of population growth and stabilisation of population turn-over on Rum by providing a framework for locations for new homes and other accommodation.
- Achievement a high level of engagement with residents of the island and key stakeholders, including The Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- Protection of the island's built and natural heritage.
- Production of an engagement-based Community Land Use Plan which can be adopted by The Highland Council as supplementary planning guidance.

Engagement

The PAS ethos is based on achieving genuine participation within any engagement process, through detailed research and preparation; use of effective engagement methods; and involvement of trained and experienced engagement professionals.

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Planning Aid for Scotland, known as PAS.

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Any PAS engagement process is frameworked by SP=EED™ (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) - PAS's guidance on effective engagement which is mentioned in Scottish Government Planning Advice Note 3/2010. SP=EED™ sets out 3 levels of engagement to aim for, with Level 3: Partnership regarded as “achievable in many scenarios and could be accomplished in community-led proposals”. With a limited time - frame and budget the aim was to reach some aspects of a Level 3 engagement approach.

Two PAS Associates with expertise in both landscape architecture and engaging communities were appointed to lead the project assisted by two PAS volunteers (both professional planners); and with back up from PAS staff members and a PAS intern. All PAS volunteers are fully briefed on the PAS approach to engagement and offered their professional skills to add value to the engagement process.

PAS, in collaboration with IRCT and supported by The Highland Council, has undertaken two visits to Rum to undertake detailed engagement with the local community. This has involved speaking to residents of the island and also stakeholders such as SNH, as well as on-going dialogue with The Highland Council. Initial desk-based research to inform the engagement and initial phone calls with key stakeholders identified also took place.

Visit 1 (29 Aug- 2 Sep 2014) involved undertaking site visits, detailed landscape analysis, meeting some of the key stakeholders (eg IRCT board members, SNH representatives, Highland Council staff), plus a deliberately informal approach to introducing the project to the residents of the islands, including attendance by the project team at a community social event. Dedicated engagement with the children and young people on the island, parents, and the primary school teacher was also undertaken.

Visit 2 (27-29 Sep 2014) was informed by the findings of the first visit and was organised around a series of “community forums” and drop-in sessions to obtain more detailed input from stakeholders. Interactive techniques were used in informal workshops, with visual and map-based materials to promote discussion and analysis. All residents and key stakeholders received an invitation, as well as posters being displayed, and other stakeholders from The Highland Council and SNH were also invited.

A draft plan was then produced. This was initially reviewed for comment by the IRCT Board and Development Officer, and the key SNH representatives with an interest in the island.

The plan was then presented to the community for a 4-week period of consultation as required by The Highland Council, with all other key stakeholders also offered a further opportunity to comment. PAS is still awaiting comment from some stakeholders. These will be integrated into the plan at a stage to be agreed with The Highland Council – likely to be by the start of the Main Issues Report stage of WHILDP.

This findings of this engagement process and the landscape analysis undertaken by the PAS project team forms the basis of the finalised draft of the Community Land Use Plan being submitted to the Call for Sites stage of the West Highland and Island Local Development (WHILDP) Plan. IRCT's aim is that their Community Land Use Plan can be adopted as supplementary guidance within the WHILDP.