

GOOD NEWS ITEMS
H&P Committee August 2026

Achmelvich Beach – HIAA awards – winners announced 13 Nov

The Achmelvich Beach Hub project has been recognised at the Highlands and Islands Architecture Awards (HIAA). Delivered in partnership between The Highland Council's Countryside Projects Team and Assynt Development Trust, the project showcases a successful collaborative approach. Designed by Fraser Livingstone Architects and developed through to completion by the Council's Design and Construction team, the hub replaces outdated facilities with a high-quality, sustainable visitor amenity in a sensitive coastal location. The project demonstrates best practice in rural design, community partnership, and environmental stewardship, and is a positive addition to the Highland visitor experience, with winners announced on 13 November.

Sara Fraser, MArch
Programme Manager





National award for Tenant Participation Team and Gypsy/Traveller volunteers

Members are invited to congratulate the women from the Gypsy/Traveller community, Tenant Participation Officers and partner organisations on their recent nationally recognised Tenant Participation Advisory Services (TPAS) award for their work in creative tenant engagement.



(From left to right) Kerri Macdonald - Tenant Participation Officer, Karin McKay - Tenant Participation Officer, Jessie MacPhee - Community Health worker and Linda MacPhee - Community member

A strong collaboration between Housing Services, NHS Highland, MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project), Highland Council Adult Learning, local community organisations, Merkinch Family Centre (Inverness) and Caol Youth Centre (Fort William) alongside local groups and community members has successfully built trust, improved engagement and established a Highland-wide Women's Group. This work has increased participation, strengthened relationships with services, and enabled women to actively shape decisions affecting their community.

The success of this work reflects the leadership and commitment of the women involved, supported by co-ordinated partnership working and represents a positive example of inclusive, co-design practice delivering meaningful outcomes across the Highlands.

Vivienne Smith in the Property & Assets team has recently passed her professional review and has obtained Chartered status with the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors).

As well as being an international recognition of professionalism, Chartered status and membership of a Professional Institute raises the profile of the industry by requiring its members to abide by codes of conduct and ethics as well as undertake a certain number of hours of continuing professional development annually.

Vivienne currently works as Quantity Surveyor in the Project Management, Design & Construction section and is involved with contractual and financial aspects of construction projects. She is an asset in the team and also mentors the graduate apprentices and work experience placements.

Sharon Barrie MSc FCIQB

Strategic Lead – Project Management, Design & Construction

Congratulations also to Ayo Daudu, who works for the Flood Team in Dingwall, for passing his Incorporated Engineer's exam with the Institution of Civil Engineers. There are many benefits to professional qualifications through an accredited body, including personal development, growth and contributing to the strengths of our teams. Well done to Ayo and thanks to the other team members who supported and mentored Ayo in the preparation for the exam.

Sharon Barrie MSc FCIQB

Strategic Lead – Project Management, Design & Construction

The Project Design Unit is currently supporting 4 summer placements as follows:

- Alexander Feacham has completed a two week placement as part of his Foundation Apprenticeship at the UHI.
- Lucy Hodgson is on a four week placement as part of the school work placement programme. She will be returning to school to undertake 5th year.
- Fiona Eades is a student at Edinburgh University and is with the team for eight weeks.
- Andrew Mackenzie is a summer student working in the Council's Materials Testing Lab. He will return to University of Strathclyde where he is studying BEng(Hons)/MEng in Civil Engineering commencing in the second year of study.

Sharon Barrie MSc FCIQB

Strategic Lead – Project Management, Design & Construction

Forbes Fraser in the Project Design Unit has obtained Chartered status with the CMI (Chartered Management Institute) and is now a Chartered Manager. Forbes is a Senior Engineer in the Site team and provides a vital role in the maintaining the suite of contract documents used by the team. Well done to Forbes for the commitment to the process and for the achievement in reaching this level.

Sharon Barrie MSc FCIQB

Strategic Lead – Project Management, Design & Construction

