

Trustees' Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2017

The trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31st March 2017

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Arran Community Land Initiative

Charity Number

SC043886

Address

c/o Primrose Cottage, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran, KA27 8RH

Current Trustees

Keith Robertson	Chair
Ishbel Gordon	Secretary
Juliette Walsh	Treasurer
Jane McCartney	Trustee

Structure Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity was granted SCIO status by OSCR on 26th March 2013.

Appointment of Trustees

The board, which normally meets on a twice monthly basis, are the charity's trustees. Membership of the board is open to all those living on Arran with an interest in the project and trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting which is usually held in October/November. Under the constitution there must be a minimum of three and not more than six elected trustees.

Management

The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the group.

The trustees are particularly aware of their responsibilities for Health and Safety, especially for children and other visiting groups. In addition to comprehensive insurance, any employees working independently with visiting groups must have disclosures under the Protection of Vulnerable

Groups (PVG) scheme. They must also be competent tool users able to deliver effective tools safety talks, prepare activity and site risk assessments for each outing and hold a First Aid certificate.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

1 The organisation's purposes are:

- 1.1 . To advance education, training and broader education in the development of individual capabilities, skills and understanding by providing an area of land on which training courses may take place, as outlined in Section 7(2) of the 2005 Act.
- 1.2 To advance public participation in sport by providing a recreation area for the development of sports such as mountain biking, pony trekking and walking, as outlined in Section 7 (2) of the 2005 Act.

Activities

Our activities are about developing sustainable uses for land which not only provide education and recreation opportunities but secure the future of the island for the present and future generations with planet-friendly socio-economic gain.

Achievements and Performance

2016-7 was a very busy year for ACLI with several small to medium grant successes to support food growing and establishing further infrastructure on site. The project has now achieved up to 31st March 2017:

- 12 outdoor allotments and 12 raised beds in polytunnels for individuals and students
- a 'showcase' or demonstration allotment with tie-in horticultural courses
- opportunities to work on shared growing spaces
- a community garden, planned and maintained by local volunteers
- a tree nursery to nurture different species, locally sourced or indigenous to Arran to plant on the land

- a demonstration composting area (cold and hot aerobic, anaerobic and vermicomposting) to show people who are considering investing in composting the options, and to provide a site for others to bring their garden and vegetable waste for composting
- a hub cabin to serve as a indoor classroom for training courses, a meeting place for allotment holders and a base for events and organised activities
- a composting toilet
- monthly family fun days*
- event days*
- NPA in Horticulture*
- Carbon Literacy course
- kids Brass Rubbing trail
- hosting school groups taking part in Health&Wellbeing Week, John Muir Award, DofE, Community Garden groups (Kilbirnie)
- waymarked paths

*Family fun days or the ‘Grubby Greenies Club’ runs monthly in addition to event days and workshops throughout the year. These have included a range of topics, from green woodworking and composting to growing successful fruit and veg. A group from Arran High School visit each week for outdoor learning. A group from the Arran Outdoor Education Centre visit each week in term-time to help with a range of site growing and maintenance tasks. An NPA in Horticulture was successfully delivered by tutor Darren Townsend through Arran Learning Centre with all participants passing the course.

The above work was achieved by 4 sessional workers (Jenny and Andy MacDonald, Ceilidh Keyworth, Matt Searles) and volunteers, Project Manager, Pippa Downing, the board of trustees, visiting school groups and contractors. Our thanks goes especially to the Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Whiting Bay Primary School and Arran High School for their continued support and involvement in the project.

Financial Review

Incoming funds for this period were stable due to grant successes. The opening balance was £18817.39 and the closing balance £9302.84.

The financial year ended with a successful application to the Climate Challenge Fund for a further year’s funding April 2017-March 2018 (£52,430) to support a new project called ‘Arran Fabulous Community

Food' which is projected to be able to save 42.4 tonnes of Carbon in the first year and 424.1 tonnes over the 10 year lifespan of the project.

Plans for Future Periods

After trials of local heritage varieties of potatoes this spring/summer, plans are underway to make a larger potato crop-growing area with a view to growing significant quantities of potatoes and squashes with the possibility of 'Pick-Your-Own' event days as well as further educational 'Plot to Plate' days where use is made of the outdoor cooking campfire and pizza oven cooking facilities. Trials of polytunnel and outdoor crops have produced interesting results which will influence the types of seeds propagated next spring. It is hoped that food can be sold from a table with an honesty box at the bottom of the track and the High School will make further use of gluts in their cookery classes. There is scope for the award-winning Organic Veg. Box scheme started up by Jenny and Andy MacDonald at Woodside Farm to include ACLI produce which is organically grown. ACLI will continue to organise further environmental awareness events such as the Arran Big Green Show in collaboration with Eco-Savvy, an island charity with similar environmental aims – namely reducing the island's carbon consumption by actively promoting upcycling and recycling. Further tree-planting is planned for the site with grant money for further 100 fruit trees and 100 soft fruit bushes to fill up the orchard areas in winter 2017/8. Native trees (420) have been donated by the Woodland Trust which will be planted in the more deer-safe lower areas of the site. Four fields are now rented out with 3 pony lets in total. The manure is being rotted for use on the vegetable plots. The Arran Bee Group hives on the land produced approximately 60 lbs of honey in late spring which was a promising start to the four new hives. Plans are being drawn up to produce a map for the site and to install brown tourist signs to the site. It is hoped that with further grant funding in 2018, a walking trail through the site leading onto the Forestry path adjacent to the site on the Glenashdale side, will be enabled. Data will continue to be collected on carbon-savings (results of composting and food growing) and submitted to the Climate Challenge Fund. Pippa's role up to March 2018 is now to manage the two part-time gardener's work and to submit claims and reports to the Climate Challenge Fund. There will be an additional government-funded post created of Assistant Gardener, to work alongside two part-time gardeners, which is through the government scheme for getting young people into employment. This will bring the total number of employees to 4. This person will greatly help progress the work of the gardeners in the community garden, allotment and crop areas. The NPA in Horticulture was a success and there are plans to re-run this course in

Sept. 2018 subject to a minimum of 8 attendees. It is hoped that further short gardening courses may be a run in 2018 either run through UHI or independently. It is hoped that with our latest funding bid to the Climate Challenge Fund (submitted Nov. with outcome Beg. Feb. 2018) Pippa Downing will be able to continue in her part-time role as Project Manager through to 2020 and oversee the improvements of the site's infrastructure as well as being the main contact for visiting groups. Trustees continue to meet twice monthly and welcome any input from ACLI members. They endeavour to support Pippa and take on some additional tasks of seeking grants, accounts management, publicity, planning, membership and fundraising.

Signed:

Position:

Date: