



Society's Objectives:

Dùthchas Arainn Community Benefit Society aims to carry on business for the benefit of the community, particularly the residents of the Isle of Arran. Its specific objectives are:

- **Advance rural regeneration** on the Isle of Arran by enabling land use that directly benefits the local community.
- **Facilitate research and knowledge sharing** on sustainable practices with the wider community and interconnected industries.
- **Advance education** about sustainable land use and promote an equitable local food system.
- **Protect and improve the environment** by supporting small-scale agro-ecological farming, improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity, upholding high standards of animal welfare, and eliminating chemical use.
- **Remove barriers to entry** for diverse people in crofting and offer affordable rental properties.
- **Promote the use of renewable energy** as much as possible.
- **Preserve the unique heritage and culture** of the Isle of Arran.

These objectives reflect a commitment to both social and environmental stewardship within the local community.

Membership

The Society has two types of members: **Community Members** and **Supporter Members**. Both have distinct roles in supporting the Society's operations, governance, and decision-making.

1. Community Members:

Membership Admission:

- **Eligibility:** Any individual who resides within the KA27 postcode area can become a Community Member. They must support the Society's objectives and apply for at least one share in the Society.
- **Application Process:** Individuals complete an application form approved by the Board. If they meet the criteria, the Board must accept their membership.

Membership Commitment:

- **Participation:** Community Members must actively participate in the governance of the Society and act in the interests of the Society and the community it serves. This includes attending meetings, voting, and possibly running for election to the Board of Directors.
- **Governance:** Community Members play a key role in decision-making as they elect representatives to the Board. They must also uphold the Society's rules and objectives.

Termination of Membership:

- **Conditions:** A Community Member's membership will be terminated if:
 - They are no longer eligible (i.e., no longer residing in KA27).
 - They fail to pay any due subscription within three months.
 - They hold fewer than the minimum shareholding.
 - They resign in writing.
 - They fail to participate in the Society for 12 months (e.g., missing general meetings).
 - They are expelled (see below).
 - They pass away.

Expulsion from Membership:

- **Grounds for Expulsion:** A member may be expelled by an Extraordinary Resolution at a general meeting, provided the Board has given them at least one month's notice of the grounds for expulsion. The member has the right to attend the meeting and make representations in their defence.

Legal and Financial Responsibilities:

- **Shareholding:** Community Members are required to hold at least one non-withdrawable share in the Society.
 - **Liability:** Their financial liability is limited to the amount of their individual shareholding. They are not responsible for any additional debts of the Society.
 - **Voting Rights:** Community Members are entitled to one vote on decisions made during general meetings. They have the right to vote on resolutions, elect Board members, and participate in decisions concerning the Society's objectives.
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2. Supporter Members:

Membership Admission:

- **Eligibility:** Any individual, corporate body, or nominee of an unincorporated body that supports the Society's objectives can apply to become a Supporter Member. Residency within KA27 is not required.
- **Application Process:** Supporter Members apply through the same process as Community Members, but their membership can be denied by the Board if the application is not made in good faith.

Membership Commitment:

- **Support for Objectives:** Supporter Members must agree to support the Society's community-focused objectives and participate in governance by voting and attending meetings.
- **Governance Participation:** Supporter Members also elect representatives to the Board of Directors from their own constituency, ensuring they are represented in decision-making processes. However, they cannot comprise more than 49% of the membership to maintain majority control by Community Members.

Termination of Membership:

- **Conditions:** The conditions for termination of Supporter Membership are similar to those for Community Members, including failure to pay subscriptions, resignations, and lack of participation.
 - Supporter Members may also be expelled under the same procedures as Community Members.

Expulsion from Membership:

- **Grounds for Expulsion:** Supporter Members may be expelled via an Extraordinary Resolution at a general meeting. The grounds and processes for expulsion are identical to those for Community Members, including the right to defend themselves.

Legal and Financial Responsibilities:

- **Shareholding:** Supporter Members must hold at least one share in the Society. Like Community Members, they are limited to one vote, and their financial liability is limited to the value of their shareholding.
 - **Voting Rights:** Supporter Members have similar voting rights as Community Members, but they cannot outnumber Community Members. Their role in decision-making ensures broader community engagement but preserves the local majority.
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Membership Provisions (For Both Types above):

Member Commitment:

- **Participation in Governance:** All members agree to actively participate in the Society's governance and decision-making processes, acting in the Society's best interests.
- **Agree to comply with Information contained within this document 'the rules':**

Termination and Expulsion:

- **Voluntary Termination:** Members can resign by notifying the Secretary in writing, or their membership can be terminated if they fail to meet minimum participation requirements (e.g., not attending meetings or holding shares).
- **Involuntary Termination:** Members can be expelled following a vote at a general meeting, after due notice and an opportunity to defend their case.

Financial Responsibilities:

- **Shareholding:** The minimum shareholding requirement is one non-withdrawable share. This serves as the member's financial stake in the Society.
- **Liability:** Members are not liable beyond their individual shareholding. The financial liability is limited to the nominal value of the shares held by the individual member.

Voting and Representation:

- Each member, regardless of whether they are a Community or Supporter Member, has one vote at general meetings. Decisions are typically made by a simple majority, although some resolutions (like expulsion) require an extraordinary majority (75%).

By categorising members into Community and Supporter constituencies, the Society ensures that both local residents and external supporters can contribute to its objectives, while preserving the majority control of Community Members. This governance structure promotes transparency, local engagement, and responsible decision-making in line with the Society's core mission.
