

Housing and Regeneration

Winner



Glenurquhart Care Project

What is the aim of the project?

To develop suitable housing and facilities in Drumnadrochit that enable elderly people to remain in the community and be cared for locally.



Accessible and adaptable housing to meet resident needs

Where is it taking place?

Glenurquhart is located in the Highlands of Scotland, some 15 miles from Inverness. It is a rural community with the main village, Drumnadrochit.

What has been achieved?

In 2000 the Glenurquhart Care Project (GCP) purpose-built community day care centre opened. Clients attending the centre are from Drumnadrochit and surrounding areas. GCP provide a transport service to and from the centre.

GCP began their most ambitious project in 2015, building 12 community owned houses that are accessible and adaptable to the individual needs of residents. Funding for this development was raised by grants, donations and a loan from Social Investment Scotland. The houses are all two bedroomed, with adaptable floor space that could accommodate a hospital bed, medical equipment and a carer if need be. This was an important aspect as all residents interviewed, as part of an extensive community consultation, wished to remain in the community, and if need be, be cared for by family and support workers they already knew.

The new housing development is fully occupied, and this has enabled some mainstream two and three-bedroom social houses in Drumnadrochit to be re-allocated to families and working age people.

The additional income from the housing will make the Glenurquhart Care Project more financially sustainability and allow for the development of new services.

Who is running it?

The project is run by the GCP, who set up a subsidiary company with a skilled board to deliver on the build. They work in partnership with organisations such as Highland Small Community Housing Trust, Friends of Glenurquhart Care Project, Glenurquhart Community Association and the Community Council.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by how the community had taken advantage of the expansion of the village and new private housing development to secure an essential asset and service – housing that allows older people to remain at home, whilst providing care and support.

Volunteers running the project negotiated a complex development process, securing access to land and funding from multiple sources.

The project addresses two significant national problems – providing housing and support for an ageing population and securing community buy-in for new housing development. It is innovative - the housing is



A subsidiary company delivered on the build



The additional income from the houses is reinvested in new services

community owned and the project managed by a private letting agent, yet rent costs are pegged to a social rent equivalent.

Developing the community housing allows people to have a better quality of life whilst remaining at home, frees up larger homes when older people move, and helps support and sustain the existing care centre.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.glenurquhartcentre.org.uk

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