

Oban, Argyll | 12<sup>th</sup> May '25

## Community-Run Re\_Store Shop Eyes Permanent Home ...With Your Help



A major opportunity has emerged for the people of Oban and the surrounding area: the chance to secure permanent community ownership of one of the town's most loved recent success stories - the Re\_Store charity shop on the town's George Street. With growing local momentum behind the project, some of the team behind Re\_Store is working with the community on a bold plan to buy the building it currently leases - but to make it happen, they need your support.

Re\_Store has become far more than a charity shop. Since opening its doors, it has offered much-needed low-cost goods, volunteering opportunities, mending and upcycling workshops, the Rescued Food project, a sense of community connection, and a strong signal of the town's social and environmental values. Whether repurposing items that would otherwise go to landfill, offering work experience and volunteering opportunities, or simply being a warm and friendly place to stop in for a chat, Re\_Store represents the best of community resilience and creativity.

Now, with the building's owner open to a community sale as well as a route to funding available via the Scottish Land Fund, a rare window of opportunity has opened - but only made possible with community support:

*'In order to access the funding to buy the building, we need to demonstrate that the community is right behind us'* explains Jane Churchill, one of the steering group members managing the project. *'That means people expressing their support by becoming members of a new body that's being set up to hold the building on behalf of everyone in the area.'*

That new body, the Oban and District Development Trust (ODDT), would act as the legal owner of the property and take on the lease with current tenant Re\_Store (Hope Kitchen). ODDT's ownership of the building will help to ensure it is managed in a way that serves the community and protects Re\_Store in the long-term. The Trust isn't just for the Re\_Store project; it's being created to give the people of Oban and surrounding area a new tool for taking action on the issues that matter to them, from local regeneration to sustainable development. But the Re\_Store building purchase is the first major test and it can't move forward without public backing.

### WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

To strengthen the application to the Scottish Land Fund, ODDT must show evidence of strong, widespread local support. That support isn't just measured in words, but

in membership numbers. The more people who sign up as members, the stronger the case that this is truly a community-backed initiative.

Membership is free, open to anyone living in or connected to Oban and the surrounding area and comes with voting rights and a voice in the Trust's work. No special expertise or time commitment is needed - just a belief in the power of local people to shape their own future.

*'This is a moment of choice,' continued Jane Churchill. 'We can either allow important community assets like Re\_Store to remain vulnerable to commercial pressures, or we can come together and say: this matters, and we'll protect it — not for profit, but for people.'*

#### RE\_STORE: A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE

At its heart, this project is about more than just bricks and mortar. It's about what happens when communities believe in improvement. Re\_Store is already proof that Oban has the imagination and energy to create meaningful change from the ground up. The building currently leased by Re\_Store has become central to this vision. Buying it would mean long-term security for the shop, the ability to invest further in the space, and a permanent foothold for community enterprise in the town centre.

Some of the team behind Re\_Store has already taken practical steps: forming a steering group made up of local leaders, entrepreneurs, third sector workers, and finance professionals; hosting community conversations and public consultations; and beginning the grant application process to the Scottish Land Fund. But the next stage depends on you.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP RIGHT NOW

1. Become a Member of the new Oban and District Development Trust (ODDT):  
**This is the single most important way to support the purchase.**

Visit [www.obancollective.org/re-store](http://www.obancollective.org/re-store), or pop into the shop and sign up — it only takes two minutes.

2. Spread the Word: Encourage friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to join. The more people on board, the stronger our bid.
3. Visit Re\_Store. Support the shop, volunteer, and keep an eye out for updates in the shop windows or on social media.

Members of the team will be available on the following dates/times if you have any questions: Tues 27th 1pm - 4pm, Thurs 29th 1pm - 4pm, Fri 30th May 2pm - 4pm and Mon 2nd June 10 - 12.

#### To Join or Learn More

Visit- [www.obancollective.org](http://www.obancollective.org)

Follow us on Facebook- Oban Re:Store

Contact: [hello@obancollective.org](mailto:hello@obancollective.org)