

# Melvich Community SCIO

Update for Melvich Community Council:  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

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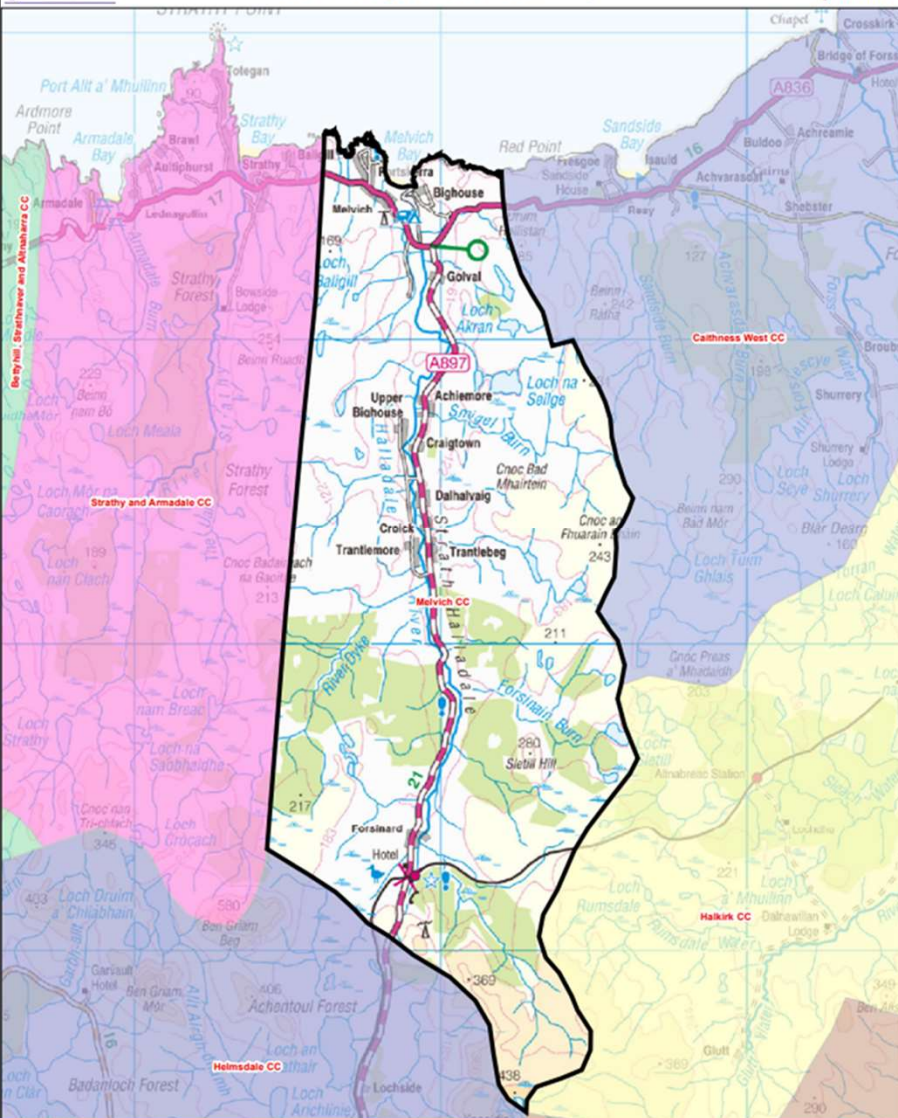
# Melvich Community Hub project

- Community Asset Transfer request for Melvich Public toilets going through due process (Application submitted 16/05/2022).
- Working to deliver outputs required for RIBA Stage 1. This stage should be complete ~ Summer 2023.
- Got initial costs for RIBA Stages 2-4 from extant architect team. Costs higher than expected due to PassivHaus specification.
- Positively discussed collaboration with Highlands and Islands Climate Hub team on helping us move forward with the project (including funding for PassivHaus elements).
- In order to make grant funding applications stronger, it has been decided to retender for RIBA Stages 2-4 to provide updated cost comparisons and better demonstrate value for money. This won't take place till RIBA Stage 1 is complete as the stage 1 outputs will form part of the invitation to tender pack. ITT for next stage likely to be issued in ~Autumn 2023.



# Portskerra Play Park

- Community Asset Transfer (CAT) application submitted for Portskerra Play Park on 15/11/2022.
- Not yet shown on Highland Council CAT website page (18/4/2023). Process flowchart shows that Highland Council have 6 months to complete the “Assessment and Consideration” stage from receipt of the CAT request.
- Work ongoing on draft ITT for play park equipment however this can't be issued until uncertainties in lease/ownership issue resolved.
- Lease/ownership of the site is on the critical path – can't secure grant funding without this matter resolved.



# Community Action Plan

- As mentioned previously, preferred independent consultant selected to perform the work had been selected for Melvich Community Council area.
- Grant funding application submitted to Local Energy Scotland however another application was received for CAP work for the Bettyhill, Strathnaver and Altnaharra CC. Local Energy Scotland asked for the communities to explore whether a more efficient delivery could be achieved collaboratively.
- Caithness West CC, Strathy and Armadale CC and Bettyhill CC have indicated that they wish to be added in as additional scope on our contract. Revised pricing received for delivery of CAPs for the 4 CC areas.
- Discussions ongoing with Local Energy Scotland in relation to funding the 4 CAPs.
- Formal contract award will be made as soon as grant funding for the CAP is confirmed.
- Programme for delivery of the CAP will be finalised with contractor once commencement date known (awaiting grant funding).



## Community events and fundraising:

- Photo competition for 2024 calendar ongoing (See <https://melvichcommunityscio.org/latest-updates-1/f/photography-competition-for-2024-calendar> for more info).
- Held Whist on 24<sup>th</sup> March & 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- Next events: Quiz night on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 at Halladale Inn and Whist on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Reay Hall.
- Community Growing Project will be meeting again soon to discuss the coming growing season.
- Dates for CAP consultations to be announced in due course
- More events being planned but if you want to get involved and help out then please get in touch.



## Work planned in coming months:

- Progress community asset transfer of Melvich public toilets and Portskerra Play Park.
- Finish delivering RIBA stage 1 (Preparation and briefing) for Melvich Community Hub. Issue ITT for RIBA stages 2-4 in ~Autumn 2023.
- Work with MCC and other stakeholders to deliver a Community Action Plan using the independent consultant (subject to grant funding award).
- Issue ITT and assess tenders for Play Park equipment and installation / maintenance (when confident of lease/ownership agreement).
- Run regular local fund raising initiatives and community events.



Any comments / questions ?



For more information, please visit [www.melvichcommunityscio.org](http://www.melvichcommunityscio.org)  
or email us at [secretary@melvichcommunityscio.org](mailto:secretary@melvichcommunityscio.org)