

LETTER TO USCA MEMBERSHIP: ULVA FERRY HOUSING PROJECT

Dear Member,

As you are no doubt aware, the Ulva Ferry Housing Project is a joint venture between USCA and the Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) to bring affordable rental housing to Ulva Ferry. This aspiration is at a critical point as with the Building Warrant approved and a local contractor appointed we are on target to start building this spring – however we are still £47,000 short of our funding target. We are appealing to you, as a supporter of USCA and the Ulva Ferry community, to consider making a donation.

The total build cost of the houses is £440,000 reflecting the high cost of building in such a remote spot of Mull, and also the very high quality of the design. These houses will be built to last: using modern 'Passive House' principles the houses will be highly insulated and well ventilated to ensure there are no problems with damp. Remaining with the community's original aims for low-energy housing, these new homes are expected to cost just £300 per house, per year to heat, making them both affordable to rent, and to heat.

We believe rental tenants at Ulva Ferry deserve the very best housing as we tackle inherent problems of the lack of affordable housing here, and the all too common problem of fuel poverty. These new houses will be an example of how high quality, affordable rental housing can be delivered here on Mull, driven by the community.



Two houses might not seem like much, but the difference to Ulva Ferry cannot be underestimated – our primary school, previously threatened with closure, will continue to thrive with additional pupils, local families will have the reassurance of secure tenancies to remain in, or return to, the area, and thus the confidence to secure jobs and create businesses locally.

If you would like to support us in achieving our aim to start building this spring, please do consider making a donation to this innovative and life-changing build. Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/ulvaferryhousing, or directly to MICT's offices (An Roth, Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY), or alternatively you can speak to Moray Finch, MICT General Manager, in confidence on 01680 812 905 or email mfinch@mict.co.uk.

I do hope you will consider supporting us, and any donation, however small, will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Helen MacDonald