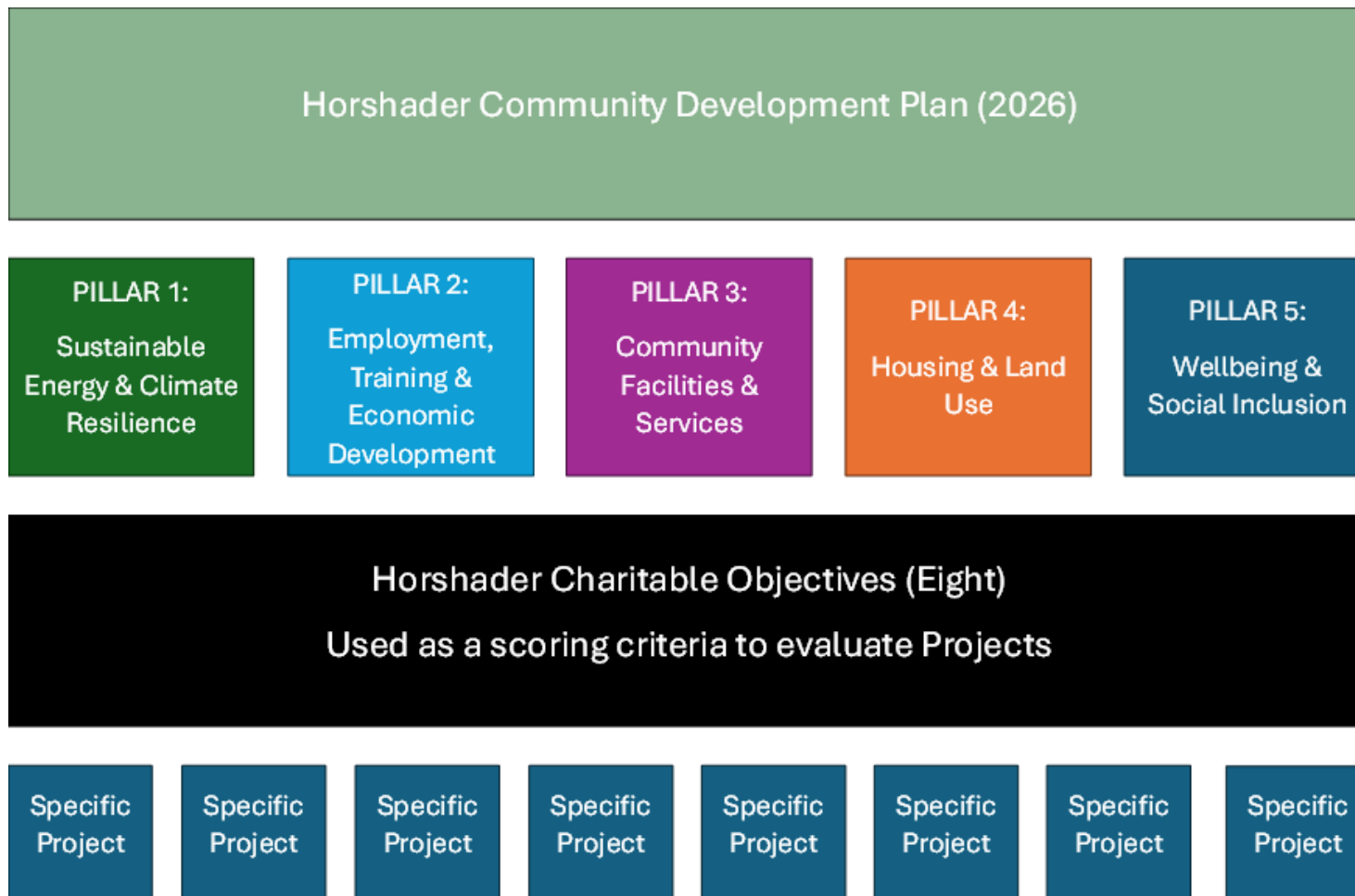




## Horshader Community Development Plan 2026

Our mission is to make the Horshader community an attractive, sustainable and vibrant place to live.

We will achieve this through initiatives which clearly demonstrate alignment with one or more **PILLARS** and are tested against the criteria of our **CHARITABLE GOALS**. The diagram below illustrates how projects are assessed against our five Pillars and eight Charitable Objectives.



Each initiative is mapped to all relevant charitable objectives; this ensures compliance and supports transparent prioritisation.

**Five PILLARS:** The Trust will work towards this mission in five pillar areas:

1. Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience
2. Employment, Training & Economic Development
3. Community Facilities & Services
4. Housing and Land Use
5. Well-being and Social Inclusion

**Charitable Goals:**

“The Trust's object[sic.] is to promote the benefit of the people of the Western Isles and in particular the residents of the Horshader area (i.e. townships of South Shawbost and Dalmore/Dalbeg) by all or any of the following means:-

1. **the promotion of community development**, including urban or rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development, where "sustainable development" means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
2. **the provision of assistance to people who are disadvantaged** by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial or other disadvantage;
3. **the advancement of education**, through the support and promotion of all forms of formal and informal education, training for work and life skills and through the provision of bursaries and training grants;
4. **the provision of housing** or affordable housing plots for those who are in a condition of need and the improvement of housing in the public sector and charitable ownership provided that such powers shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing;
5. **the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage**, including support for the Gaelic arts and the protection of buildings and sites of architectural or historic importance;
6. **the advancement, protection or improvement of the physical resources of the Community** through the preservation and conservation of the natural environment, the maintenance, improvement or provision of environmental or public amenities for the Community, the provision of other environmental and regeneration projects and/or the preservation and conservation of buildings or sites of architectural, historic or other importance to the Community;
7. **the relief of poverty** in such ways as may be thought fit, including supporting and encouraging those people who are in financial hardship, or are in danger of experiencing hardship, to access opportunities for employment, training and acquiring skills.
8. **The provision of recreational facilities**, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended, and only in relation to recreational facilities or activities which are:
  - a. primarily intended for persons who have need of them by reason of their age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage,
  - b. or available to members of the public at large or to male or female members of the public at large.”

*(Taken verbatim from the Trust's Articles & Memorandum of Association – due for review in 2026)*

<b>Sustainable Energy &amp; Climate Resilience</b> Strengthening climate resilience and expanding sustainable energy will protect the local environment and secure long-term community wellbeing. By reducing vulnerability to storms, coastal change and rising energy costs, we make Horshader a safer and more sustainable place for future generations. Success will mean increased local capacity to generate renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and a community better equipped to respond to environmental challenges.	Community Development	Support for the Disadvantaged	Education & Training	Housing & Affordable Accommodation	Arts, Culture & Heritage	Recreation & Well-being	Environmental Conservation	Poverty Relief
<b>Energy Workshops &amp; Partnerships</b> Work with other local agencies, (e.g. Tighean Innse Gall (TIG), Warmworks) to deliver home efficiency advice, and/or access to support schemes/grants. (Workshops in 2026)		✓		✓			✓	✓
<b>Risort Power Generation Ltd.</b> Continue the Future Energy Project, to deliver renewable energy to the local grid supply, and harness these opportunities for Community Benefit. (Repowering Plan in 2026)	✓	✓						✓
<b>Loch Raionebhat Community Woodland</b> Develop a new community woodland project, in partnership with South Shawbost Common Grazings. This project will aim to incorporate community access and amenities; outdoor learning spaces for young people; and a focus on biodiversity, showcasing that in our context on the Westside of Lewis. (Full Scoping by Easter 2026)	✓		✓			✓	✓	
<b>The Hebridean Tree Ark</b> Continue the Hebridean Tree Ark, as a nursery for locally sourced Tree stock, aiming to supply both large and small-scale tree planters in the Western Isles. Note that the Tree Ark will be committed to supply the Community Woodland in 2026-onwards.							✓	
<b>EV Charging</b> Deploy EV charging, possibly with incentivised rates for HCDT Members, at TOSC		✓					✓	
<b>Coastal Erosion</b> Investigate the scale of coastal erosion at Shawbost Beach and liaise with the Comhairle regarding possible mitigations.	✓					✓	✓	
<b>Horshader Freecycle / Upcycling Services</b> Refresh the recycling offer through HF, and other initiatives (e.g. clothing, scrap metal, etc.)	✓						✓	

<b>Employment, Training &amp; Economic Development</b> Supporting jobs, skills and training helps local people thrive and strengthens the area's long-term resilience. By opening pathways for young people, nurturing local enterprise and developing the skills base, we help retain population, attract families and build a confident, self-sustaining community. Success will mean more residents accessing training, more local employment opportunities and a stronger, more diverse local economy.	Community Development	Support for the Disadvantaged	Education & Training	Housing & Affordable Accommodation	Arts, Culture & Heritage	Recreation & Well-being	Environmental Conservation	Poverty Relief
<b>Governance &amp; Diversification</b> This will include a review of Board composition, membership engagement, and options for diversifying income beyond turbine revenues. Continue to develop the Trust's Governance with particular attention in 2026 to the Trust's Governing Document and membership-level processes. Continue to make wise investment decisions around the Trust's finances to ensure sustainability past the Turbine's replacement date in 2032. Promote a diversification of groups to ensure Sustainability in the wider Community.	✓							
<b>Business Development Workshops</b> Work with other local agencies (e.g. Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE), Business Gateway) to deliver business support to local enterprises – particularly to support young people developing new businesses in the area. (Workshops in 2026)	✓		✓					
<b>Crofting &amp; Land Use Skills Workshops</b> With input from other groups (e.g. Young Crofters Network) run workshops looking to develop the skills of, in particular, younger people interested in taking up crofting.	✓		✓				✓	
<b>Student Placements &amp; Career Support</b> Facilitate opportunities for students to get work placements with local businesses. Offer careers advice workshops and/or source funding to facilitate this locally. Organise a local jobs fair and/or organise transport to the island-wide events in Stornoway.		✓	✓					
<b>Bursary Scheme</b> Review the scheme's rules (e.g. support rates on/off-island study; age-limits). (Review of policy before September semester start, 2026)		✓	✓					
<b>Driving Lessons Scheme (Expansion)</b> Investigate extending the scheme beyond current provision (currently only the first 4 lessons reimbursed). (Review alongside Bursary Scheme policy)		✓	✓					

<b>Community Facilities &amp; Services</b> High-quality facilities and reliable community services improve everyday life and make Horshader a more attractive and vibrant place to live. By maintaining and developing shared spaces, improving local amenities and supporting essential services, we encourage social interaction, strengthen community identity and improve quality of life. Success will mean well-used, accessible facilities that meet local needs and enhance community cohesion.	<i>Community Development</i>	<i>Support for the Disadvantaged</i>	<i>Education &amp; Training</i>	<i>Housing &amp; Affordable Accommodation</i>	<i>Arts, Culture &amp; Heritage</i>	<i>Recreation &amp; Well-being</i>	<i>Environmental Conservation</i>	<i>Poverty Relief</i>
<b><i>The Old School Centre (TOSC)</i></b> TOSC will be redeveloped in line with the 3-phase plan (Repairs; Relocation of users; Deliver of new services, e.g. Community Gym; Archive Centre in partnership with Comman Eachdraidh an Taobh Siar (CEATS); After School Club, etc.)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
<b><i>Paths &amp; Access / Other Outdoor Activities</i></b> Create path access between the main road and the waterfront areas of the village. Look to improve the coastal walking routes; and amenities/Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) at the three beaches. (PRE Feasibility Study in Summer 2026)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
<b><i>Raebhat House (RH)</i></b> Raebhat House will remain as the Trust's staff-base during the redevelopment of TOSC. Beyond this, it will remain as the location of the Hebridean Tree Ark, and the base for the Grass-cutting team. Identify a long-term use for RH beyond the move to TOSC (ideally a venture focused on economic development).	✓	✓				✓	✓	
<b><i>Playpark for Shawbost</i></b> Create a playpark for amenity use in the village of Shawbost, ideally in proximity to other services (e.g. toilets and baby changing services). (Site identified for 2027 development)		✓				✓		
<b><i>Community Grants Fund</i></b> Continue to support the work of other community groups and organisations through the CGF, support by the Project Evaluation Group (PEG).	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<b><i>Community Noticeboards</i></b> Create Community Noticeboards at locations throughout the village (e.g. Grinnebhat Crossroads; North Shawbost Crossroads; Carnan Road-end) (Delivered Summer 2026)	✓	✓						

<b>Housing &amp; Land Use</b> Improving housing availability and making effective use of community land helps residents live securely and affordably in the area. By exploring new models of housing, supporting younger people to stay local and using land strategically for community benefit, we support long-term population sustainability. Success will mean clearer pathways into affordable housing, better use of community-owned land and stronger support for residents seeking to build their lives here.	Community Development	Support for the Disadvantaged	Education & Training	Housing & Affordable Accommodation	Arts, Culture & Heritage	Recreation & Well-being	Environmental Conservation	Poverty Relief
<b>Community Growing Project</b> <i>NB – This project fits across multiple pillars: Sustainability; Well-being; and Facilities &amp; Services.</i> The Trust will continue to provide: Polycrub allotment spaces; Community Growing Spaces; and Youth Activities. In 2026, we expect some of these activities will relocate to new polycrubs at the school, but our staff will continue to support these activities. Sale of produce will continue at the Market Stall in TOSC. Surplus produce to be sold in “Still Good to Use” Bags, before clearance to Eilean Siar Foodbank (ESF). <i>(NB – ESF now serves the community directly, following the closure of Westside Foodbank in 2024.)</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
<b>New Housing</b> With input from other local organisations (e.g. Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP)) investigate the provision of affordable housing in the village, making efforts to secure suitable housing for younger people. (Create Westside Housing Forum in 2026) Consideration to be given to modular homes as a route to affordable housing provision.				✓				
<b>Housing Workshop</b> With input from architects, or housing developers, run a workshop for people/community groups interested in different models of house building in the community. (Aim to deliver these by Winter 2026.)		✓		✓				

<b>Wellbeing &amp; Social Inclusion</b>  Promoting wellbeing and inclusion strengthens community life and ensures that everyone feels valued, connected and able to participate. Through social activities, practical support and services that reduce isolation, we create a friendly, supportive and culturally rich place to live. Success will mean measurable reductions in social isolation, more intergenerational activity and increased opportunities for people of all ages to come together and thrive.	<i>Community Development</i>	<i>Support for the Disadvantaged</i>	<i>Education &amp; Training</i>	<i>Housing &amp; Affordable Accommodation</i>	<i>Arts, Culture &amp; Heritage</i>	<i>Recreation &amp; Well-being</i>	<i>Environmental Conservation</i>	<i>Poverty Relief</i>
<b>Minibus Service</b>  The minibus service will provide transport for local children attending Shawbost Primary School, living within the statutory limit for public transport. The minibus service will be available for community groups or private runs on an arranged basis, normally using the Trust's driver. Look into: Out of hours runs; school holiday uses; transport to live events.	✓	✓				✓	✓	
<b>Grass Cutting Service &amp; Village Plant Boxes</b>  Continue the Grass Cutting Service for older and vulnerable residents of Shawbost and the Horshader Area. The Team will also maintain the village plant boxes.		✓			✓			✓
<b>Winter Fuel Scheme</b>  Continue the Winter Fuel Scheme, passing benefits of the wind turbine to offset high energy costs.		✓						✓
<b>Events to reduce social isolation</b>  Look at increasing the number and range of community events, e.g. <i>Blasta!</i> Lunches; cookery groups; bake off-style events; a buddy/befriending scheme; movie nights/film club; talks; etc.	✓	✓			✓	✓		
<b>Provide a Café at TOSC</b>  Address the immediate and growing demand for a community-based social meeting place. Additional benefits to support visitor economy.		✓			✓	✓		
<b>Youth-Proofing All Projects</b>  Establish a Youth Board to gather input on future project development.	✓	✓	✓					
<b>Short-Term Projects</b>  Investigate provision of a pop-up art gallery at TOSC or displays of local artwork at Horshader Offices. If viable for 2026, go ahead at TOSC or RH. Investigate organising Art (and other) Classes in winter 2026.	✓		✓		✓	✓		



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