

What's Next?



Northmavine Community Development Company

We fight da slokkin o da light.

Current NCDC Directors

Margaret Roberts—Chair
John Alex Cromarty—Vice Chair
Malcolm Thomson—Secretary/Treasurer
Alistair Williamson
Drew Ratter
Susan Bowie
Chevonne Laurenson
Pete Bevington
Guy Turnbull

NDC becomes NCDC

The Northmavine Development Company has existed as a company since the early 1990s and is a company is limited by guarantee without share capital. After a period as a dormant entity, the company was re-established as the vehicle to help deliver the Initiative at the Edge (IaE) status gained by Northmavine in 2004.

In early 2008 the structure of the NDC was reorganised. We gained charitable status and became the Northmavine Community Development Company .



Project priorities

Based on the Northmavine Development Plan and the NCDC forward strategy, three key areas have been identified as priority themes. The NCDC will concentrate on these themes over the next 5 years. These are:

Renewables

Social Enterprise Development

Housing

A number of strategic activities have been identified as part of these themes. A mix of social, environmental and economic benefits will be drawn from the activities and these will contribute to the sustainability of the company and help support the aims of the NCDC.

The projects identified are:

Small –scale renewables

Employment of a Powerdown Officer for Northmavine

Leasing of space - outbuildings as office space and/or incubation workshops

Community shop at Hillswick

Land register, craft creation support and housing information packs

Empty properties renovation

Gateway housing

Lease of house at Hillswick shop development.

Letting agent services for Rural Homes for Rent housing at North Roe



Future funding

The NCDC requires an average core budget of £50,637 per annum over the next 5 years to sustain its operations. Core costs include 1 full-time project officer, 1 part-time admin assistant, travel, training and office costs.

During 2009/10 the company hopes to generate 22% of the required core costs and this will rise steadily over the following years until 76% of the core income is generated by the NCDC in 2014. The company hopes to secure the core funding deficit via applications to public funding bodies.

With regard to the activities identified in the priority themes, the company will seek to attract public funding and in addition will use any disposable income it may be in a position to input.

We recognise that our plans are ambitious, but we hope with help from the folk of Northmavine and by working with partners, we really can ***'fight da slokkin o da light'***.

Options for the future

latE status ended on 31st March 2009 and throughout the second half of 2008, directors of the NCDC spent considerable time looking at a number of options for the future.

These included:

1. Do nothing. Allow the Company to cease its activities once the Initiative at the Edge funding ceases.
2. Rely solely on volunteer activity instead of employing dedicated staff. Scale down the number and variety of activities currently being undertaken, focussing on just one or two key projects and concentrating the sourcing of funding on just these key areas.
3. Become a continuously grant funded organisation. In this option the key task of the principal Project Worker becomes almost entirely that of sourcing and applying for funding.
4. Become a 'business', i.e. develop as a social enterprise organisation, producing goods and/or services either directly, or indirectly through profits, for the benefit of the community. This might also include the 'service level agreement' or 'tendering' model, where the organisation competes for work outsourced by other bodies, statutory or commercial.
5. Develop into a community trust operating one core business suitable for Northmavine and using the income from that business to fund community development projects.
6. Become a community development company, partly grant funded but also generating an increasing proportion of income from social enterprise and income generating projects.

The overall financial aim of the company is to become financially independent for core funding costs.

It was decided that the NCDC will be a charitable company with trading arms that can trade as social enterprises, passing any profits made, back to the charitable company

Forward Strategy

In line with the vision, aims and objectives of the NCDC, a forward strategy has been developed. The main focus of the strategy is based on the following five strategic elements:

- 1. First and foremost, remain a community-led company.**
- 2. Further develop strong relations with current and potential local businesses in Northmavine as well as agencies and networks.**
- 3. Actively identify and evaluate opportunities and pursue those that will benefit the community of Northmavine socially, economically or environmentally.**
- 4. Seek to attract public and private sector funding to further the development of the Northmavine community.**
- 5. Strive to employ development and 'project dedicated' staff to continue the development of the Northmavine community.**



Housing

Without somewhere to live in Northmavine, the outward drift of our population will continue. To remain in the area, folk need a home.

We will also assist people who wish to relocate to Northmavine in the future.

Business and Social Enterprise

We place real value on our existing businesses and are committed to supporting them.

New business may encourage people to move into Northmavine and help create opportunities for those already living in the community.

The folk of Northmavine can fill current gaps and gain social and economic benefit for the area through social enterprise and community-led business opportunities.

Environment and Renewables

Our environment in Northmavine is a priceless resource and this should be promoted locally, nationally and internationally.

Awareness of the importance and potential of the environment should be increased.

Northmavine has potential for renewable energy. Community based schemes would produce revenue for community benefit.

Some of Northmavine's achievements

- Development Plan
- Tourism group established
- Tourism Action Plan for Northmavine
- Re-Development of Mavis Grind
- Picnic Benches at Mavis Grind
- Sign for Northmavine
- Empty Houses Audit
- Housing Needs survey
- Crofters group established
- Community Website
- Afore da Doors community archive
- Childcare Needs report
- Sustaining a Healthy Community For Northmavine* published
- Renewables Audit
- Interpretation Nort* established
- Projects with young folk —healthy meals, treasure hunt, Gie it a Go
- Visitor's guide published
- Powerdown officer employed
- Shop purchased at Hillswick
- Support given to potential business start ups
- Support given to community groups
- Economic benefit using local labour for projects

