

www.landreformact.com

A project to raise awareness and promote the
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - Community Right to Buy

This project has been supported by the
Carnegie United Kingdom Trust
and the
Caledonia Centre for Social Development

WELCOME

Welcome to the May 2006 newsletter of the landreformact.com project. The aim of the project is to promote awareness of the community right to buy provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and to empower communities by providing them with the information, capacity and means to take advantage of the Act.

Please distribute this newsletter to other Community Councils and individuals who might be interested.

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY - MODEL APPLICATION

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - Community Right to Buy provisions - enables communities such as yours to register an interest in land and/or property. Once a registration is secured, your community will then have the option (it need not exercise it) to acquire the registered land and/or property if and when it is sold.

The Act has been in operation now for almost 2 years but awareness and uptake remain low. Some communities have missed out on opportunities through having failed to register their interest or have failed to submit a competent application.

To assist in the process we have prepared a Model Application consisting of a completed application form together with Notes and sample Maps. See www.landreformact.com for further information.

HOLMEHILL

Holmehill Ltd. is a community body in Dunblane. Its application to register an interest in land at Holmehill was refused by Scottish Ministers whose decision was the subject of an Appeal to the Sheriff in Stirling. The Sheriff has now issued his judgement and Holmehill Ltd. has lost its appeal. This has significant implications for communities and for the future of the Community Right to Buy. I have prepared a [Preliminary Analysis](#) of the judgement. For further background see www.landreformact.com

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations on the Community Right to Buy and on Common Good land are planned for Kelty (3 May), Dingwall (4 May), Lockerbie (9 May) and Maybole (10 May). Further details on website (or contact me) and everyone is welcome.

COMMON GOOD LAND

Common Good includes land that was formerly owned by the burgh in the name of the Town Council before local government reorganisation in 1975 and the abolition of the Town Council. It also includes land gifted to communities in the past but held in the name of the Council. This land forms part of YOUR Common Good and belongs to the town although title is held by the current Local Authority. Such land is likely to include the former Burgh Chambers, Town Hall, market square and parkland. It makes sense to register an interest in such common good properties. I wrote a report on this topic. See

www.caledonia.org.uk/commonweal/commongood.html

For the latest on Edinburgh see

http://www.caledonia.org.uk/commonweal/cgl_progress.html

PERTH AND KINROSS

For those living in Perth and Kinross, the Council is in the early stages of planning a major disposal of property. Some of this will probably be common good land but much of it may be of interest to communities and if so, then register an interest now! Links to Council papers are available at

www.caledonia.org.uk/commonweal/cgl_progress.html

under 3 May Latest News.

Thank you.

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3 May 2006