

## **North Harris Trading Company Limited**

# **Annual Report**

**November 2016 – October 2017**

### **Board of Directors**

**Chairman**  
Tim Langley

**Vice Chair**  
Shaun Hayes

**Directors**  
Gordon Ness

**NHT/NHTC Directors**  
Iain MacSween  
Steve McCombe

Barbara MacKay  
Donnie MacLeod

**Company Secretary**  
Gordon Cumming

# Chairman's Report

## Year ending 31st October 2017

It has been another successful year for the company. Most significantly, the Huisinis Gateway project has been delivered, on budget and on time. This is a flagship project for the estate, provides much-needed improved facilities at Huisinis and is already proving to be popular with residents and visitors.

The Monan and Bun Abhainn Eadarra renewable energy schemes continue to generate income for the estate. Although there is currently no scope for further renewable energy schemes, it is hoped that in the next few years that will change with the installation of the new interconnector to the mainland.

The business units at Iomairt an Obain remain fully occupied, and the recycling site at Urgha still operates successfully.

The company now finds itself at the point where it has capacity to explore the possibility of new developments on behalf of the North Harris Trust. We expect that the Trust will soon provide details of the areas of development on which it intends to concentrate over the next few years, and we look forward to helping to deliver them.

As always, I am very grateful to the board of directors for continuing to give their time to the company, and to the North Harris Trust board and their staff for their support. In particular, I thank David Wake for his consistent enthusiasm and professionalism.

# **Development Officer's Report**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

The North Harris Trading Company (NHTC) is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the North Harris Trust (NHT). It was established in 2003 to deliver new income streams to the Trust to allow it to expand its community development activities.

The Bunavoneader hydro-electric scheme passed its first anniversary of commissioning in July. A number of support issues remain to be resolved. This contributed to the underperformance against expected generation.

The electricity grid remains closed to any significant new generation in the Western Isles. The proposed Maraig hydro-electric scheme was effectively closed down last year. The planning permission has now also expired. There have been positive noises in the press about the undersea interconnector, which will open up the grid once more. This however will happen within the next 5 years.

Away from Renewable Energy, a funding package was finally completed for the Huisinis Gateway project. With the help of CnES, Outer Hebrides LEADER and HIE a Design & Build contract was awarded in January. Practical Completion was achieved at the start of September. The visitor centre with changing facilities and campervan pitches opened at the end of the tourist season, but still managed to attract a lot of positive feedback, and significant Donation income for the Trust. The project could not have been completed without the cashflow loan offered by CnES. This addressed the gap between invoices being paid and grants being received.

The Iomairt an Obain development continues to operate at full occupation. Income from the solar panels will create a small fund for maintenance.

NHTC continues to operate the North Harris Community Recycling Site. This year the company has been successful in securing a further Community Jobs Scotland-funded post. This has allowed a small team to carry out estate management tasks for the Trust in addition to operating the site. Developments on site this year include the installation of CCTV cameras on the gates to help address the fly-tipping issue. A Portable Appliance Tester has also been purchased to allow all NHT/NHTC testing to be carried out in-house. A Chemical Disposal Point was installed at the rear of the site in August. Funded by CnES, this has helped address the issue of campervan waste disposal during the summer season, which was exacerbated by the closure of the point at Leverburgh pier.