



GALE RECEIVES SCOTTISH LAND FUND AWARD

We are absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news. GALE, has secured a grant offer from the Scottish Land Fund for use towards the purchase of The Shieling. The award is divided into two parts: one part is a contribution towards the acquisition costs of The Shieling and the other is to cover some initial staffing costs associated with the project.

GALE Managing Director, Janet Miles, said *"We are thrilled to receive this grant offer, as it symbolises an exciting milestone in a very challenging journey. The outpouring of support from numerous local individuals and partner organisations has been overwhelming. Everyone at GALE extends their heartfelt gratitude to all those who have provided letters of support, offered assistance, made donations, and continuously shared words of encouragement during every hurdle we've faced. This grant is a testament to the collective effort and unwavering commitment of our members and supporters, and we are truly grateful for their invaluable contributions."*

This exciting news is another massive step towards owning the Shieling, but it's crucial to note that this doesn't automatically transfer the ownership of The Shieling to GALE. There are still several steps we need to follow, including navigating through the complex labyrinth of conveyancing legalities. **continued....**

GALE
Newsletter

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SCOTTISH LAND FUND AWARD

Community Land and Asset Ownership

Community land and asset ownership is a relatively new concept in Scotland, but it has already started to bring about significant benefits for local communities. The idea is simple: instead of private individuals or companies owning land and assets, communities take ownership of them and manage them for the benefit of everyone who lives there.

We are already doing this in The GALE Centre which has been in community ownership since it was built in 2012. Like many community owned assets The GALE Centre helps to anchor wealth in our community, creating jobs and economic opportunities as well as meeting social and wellbeing needs. Our neighbour, Gairloch Heritage Museum, is also community owned and so GALE's ownership of the Shieling would close the gap along this roadside strip and create a corridor of community owned buildings/assets. The success of this corridor is itself evidence that community ownership can drive sustained and successful regeneration

Collective Action

We're thrilled to share this recent success with you and cannot thank you enough for the support you've given us throughout this process. However, our journey doesn't end here. As we move forward with the purchase of The Shieling, we are reminded that our work continues and our mission remains unchanged. Therefore, we humbly ask for your continued support in our endeavours.

If you're in a position to do so, we would welcome financial donations to further our efforts. Volunteering your time and skills is also an invaluable way to contribute to our work. Alternatively, by simply choosing to use The GALE Centre, you're not only showing your support and encouraging our team but you're also directly benefiting from its resources and helping to sustain our shared community.

We believe in the power of collective action and with your help, we can continue to make a real difference. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our work. Together, we can shape the future of GALE, The Shieling and our community.



The Shieling

The Scottish Land Fund

The Scottish Land Fund supports rural and urban communities to become more resilient and sustainable through the ownership and management of land and land assets. Funded by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership by The National Lottery Community Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Scottish Land Fund offers grants of up to £1 million to help communities take ownership of the land and buildings that matter to them, as well as practical support to develop their aspirations into viable projects.

In conclusion **Janet said**, *“Community land and asset ownership has already brought about significant benefits for our local communities. The addition of The Shieling would provide further opportunities to create local jobs and support local businesses, and build a more resilient and sustainable local economy.”*

Scottish Land Fund

Ionmhas Fearainn na h-Alba

Delivered by
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND


Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Funded by
 Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

GALE Shortlisted in SURF Awards

GALE is pleased to announce that we have been shortlisted for the prestigious SURF Award national awards scheme, which showcases success in responding to regeneration challenges in communities across Scotland. GALE is one on three finalists in the Community Led Regeneration category.

SURF Awards

SURF is a regeneration forum with over 300 cross-sector member organisations across Scotland. Since 1998, the SURF Awards have identified successful regeneration projects of all sizes from across Scotland. This year's shortlisted projects feature major place-making investments, employability initiatives, and activities delivered by community groups and arts organisations in both urban and rural contexts, from Dumfries and Galloway to Unst in Shetland.

The 2023 SURF Awards are delivered by SURF in partnership with the Scottish Government, with additional support from Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Institute of Employability Professionals, Scotland's Towns Partnership and Scottish Procurement Alliance.

2023 marks the 25th Anniversary year of the SURF Awards process. **SURF's Emma Scott said:** *"SURF were delighted to mark the 25th Anniversary year with a record number of applications, showcasing the remarkable efforts of communities and organisations throughout Scotland to improve lives and outcomes for both people and place. The volunteer judging panel have had the unenviable task of narrowing those excellent applications down to a shortlist of 15. We look forward to celebrating with all 15 projects at the Awards Presentation Dinner in December, and thank all of the applicants who took the time to share their work, and story, with us."*

The Shortlist

Having assessed applications from Shetland to the Dumfries and Galloway, across five categories, SURF's independent panel of 15 judges, drawn from national bodies and community groups, have agreed upon 15 shortlisted projects for 2023.

Housing and Regeneration:

- City of Edinburgh Council Mixed Tenure Improvement Scheme (Wester Hailes)
- Glentroll Community-led Housing & Regeneration (Dumfries & Galloway)
- Goathill Housing and Care Home project (Isle of Lewis)

Removing Barriers to Employability:

- Topgolf Recruitment (Glasgow)
- All in Dundee (Dundee)
- ABZWorks Employability Support (Aberdeen)



Creative Regeneration:

- Wild Skies Shetland (Unst)
- Deaf Action: Inclusion & accessibility to the arts (Edinburgh)
- The Beacon Arts Centre, Creative Minds (Greenock, Inverclyde)

Community Led Regeneration:

- Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE) (Wester Ross)
- Govan HELP - The Govan Pantry (Glasgow)
- Kerrera North-South Road Project (Isle of Kerrera)

Improving Scotland's Places:

- Vibrant Gala Project (Galashiels, Scottish Borders)
- Rockfield Community Hub (Oban)
- Shapinsay (Orkney)

The five category winners will then be announced by Scottish Government Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning, Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, on the evening of Thursday 7 December at the 25th Anniversary SURF Awards Presentation Dinner.

Scottish Government Minister Joe Fitzpatrick commented: *"The SURF awards have showcased inspiring projects of all sizes from across Scotland for 25 years. They recognise the best examples of place-based, community-led regeneration, and I am pleased the Scottish Government is able to continue its longstanding support."* **continued...**

“Regeneration is at the heart of our approach to the key priorities of reducing poverty and increasing opportunity - it creates jobs, brings buildings back into use, and supports the development of local facilities and services.”

“By celebrating projects undertaken by communities and their partners, the awards help to spread knowledge and experience of what works in regeneration. I congratulate the projects shortlisted for this year’s awards and look forward to announcing the winners at the award ceremony later this year.”

Conclusion

Being shortlisted at the SURF Awards 2023 is a testament to GALE’s dedication to community-led regeneration. We are honoured to be recognised for our efforts in delivering exceptional experiences that benefit both our visitors and the local community. As we look to the future, we are excited to further strengthen our collaborations and continue making a positive impact on our community.



Joe Fitzpatrick

*Scottish Government Minister for Local Government
Empowerment and Planning*

Membership Adopts New Articles of Association

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of GALE members, held on 14th September, our members overwhelmingly voted to adopt new Articles of Association. (Just 3% of members voted against the resolution.)

The GALE Board called an EGM to which all members were invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a Special Resolution to adopt a new set of Articles of Association. GALE is a democratic, community owned company. Therefore its Individual and Corporate Members have a right and responsibility to vote on matters such as the consideration of a Special Resolution.

The Board encouraged its members to exercise this right and responsibility by attending the meeting or appointing a proxy to attend in their name. We are delighted that so many of our membership exercised their rights and participated in the democratic process.

Why the Changes Were Proposed?

Our articles must fit within boundaries set by legislation. GALE like any incorporated organisation needs to update its articles from time to time due to legislation changes and new laws coming into place. As GALE is a democratic, community owned company our Individual and Corporate Members have a right (and responsibility) to vote on changes to our articles.

There are two key pieces of legislation that GALE’s Articles must comply with, the 2006 Companies Act and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The latter has opened new opportunities for community owned companies like GALE in terms of land and property ownership for local people. The GALE Board has spent the last two years reviewing the company’s articles of association with guidance from our solicitor who is a specialist in community trust law.

GALE members were consulted on proposed new Articles at our AGM last December and while largely in favour of them some points needed some reworking, mainly around GALE’s Area of Benefit, the retention of Corporate membership and the lower age limit for members.

Conclusion

This is a significant step forward for our organisation having articles which fit with current legislation. It opens up greater opportunities for our community in terms of inclusion and democracy as well as increased potential for community ownership of land and property.

Read more: galeactionforum.co.uk/membership-adopts-articles-of-association/