



Brora Community Newsletter Autumn 2025

Prepared by **Brora Development Trust**



info@broravillage.scot



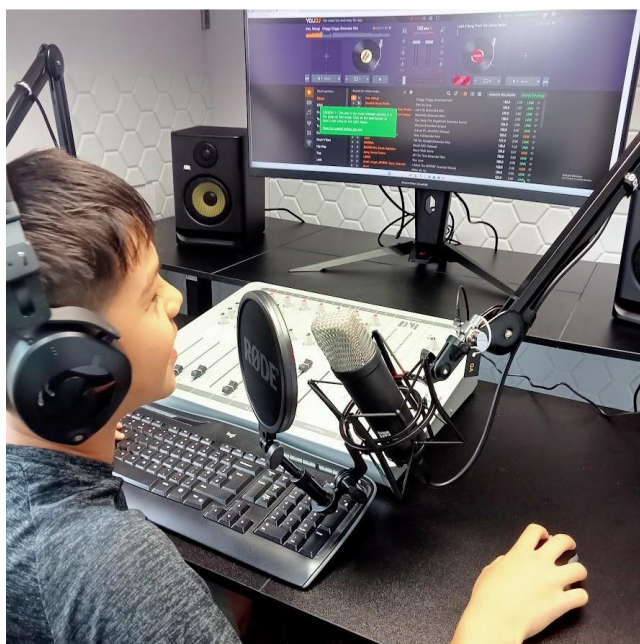
07535622755



www.discoverbrora.scot

NEWS

Radio Sutherland



The Radio Sutherland recording studio has been set up and over the next few weeks, volunteer Presenters will take part in familiarisation sessions. The next session will take place on Saturday 20th September and if you are interested in being a Presenter, please come along. Radio Sutherland is looking

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for volunteers as radio presenters, studio assistants, and advertising salespeople. Anyone interested in getting involved should get in touch with Sarah at Brora Development Trust.



We are absolutely delighted to be supported by Highland Broadband who recognise the importance of community radio and have provided Radio Sutherland with a 900Mbps connection at no monthly charge, with no installation charge, for two years.

BRORA YOUTH INITIATIVE



We're delighted to announce that Lynsey Gilmour has joined the Brora Development Trust youth work team, as a Lead Youth Worker. Lynsey has a rich experience of working with young people in a wide range of settings, from being a foster parent, to youth work. Lynsey is a key figure in the Feis, which recently ran a highly successful week of music at Golspie High School for young people from all over Sutherland. Lynsey enjoys music, poetry and is passionate about youth work. Lynsey is working part time to support the Trust's youth initiative, which includes twice weekly drop in sessions on Wednesdays (6.30pm to 8.30pm) and Fridays (5.30pm-7.30pm), in the Youth Room at Brora Community Centre.

Image: Lynsey Gilmour, new Lead Youth Worker

Special guests this summer included some of the Network Rail team who came along and spent time with young people talking about different career options with Network Rail.

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Image: Network Rail presentation at a drop-in youth club session



Image: Network Rail very kindly made goodie bags available

Feedback from young people about Network Rail's visit was very positive and young people have asked if they can have more employers coming in to visit them. We will be reaching out to other employers over the next few months and inviting them to talk about career opportunities, skills and qualifications needed for different occupations.

Other news from Brora Youth Room, includes the success of a family bingo night, which was held in June to raise funds for a special event this summer. Over £240 was raised by the event, organised by Brora Youth Development Team. Over 40 friends, family and supporters of Brora Youth Room came along to the event.

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Image: Family Bingo night underway

A big thank you goes to Rachael Payne for volunteering to help with the event and of course, to everyone who came along on the night and the young people who organised the event.



Image: Bingo night organisers - Young leaders from Brora Youth Development Team



Image: Bingo night was well attended by supporters of Brora Youth Room

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Images: A windy BBQ at Dornoch beach

Another event organised by members of Brora Youth Development Team was a trip to Dornoch beach for a BBQ. In spite of the blustery weather, a great time was had by all.

We would like to extend our thanks to Go Golspie for the use of their mini bus and to the volunteer driver. Thanks too to Brora Co-op for the kind donation of groceries for the event.

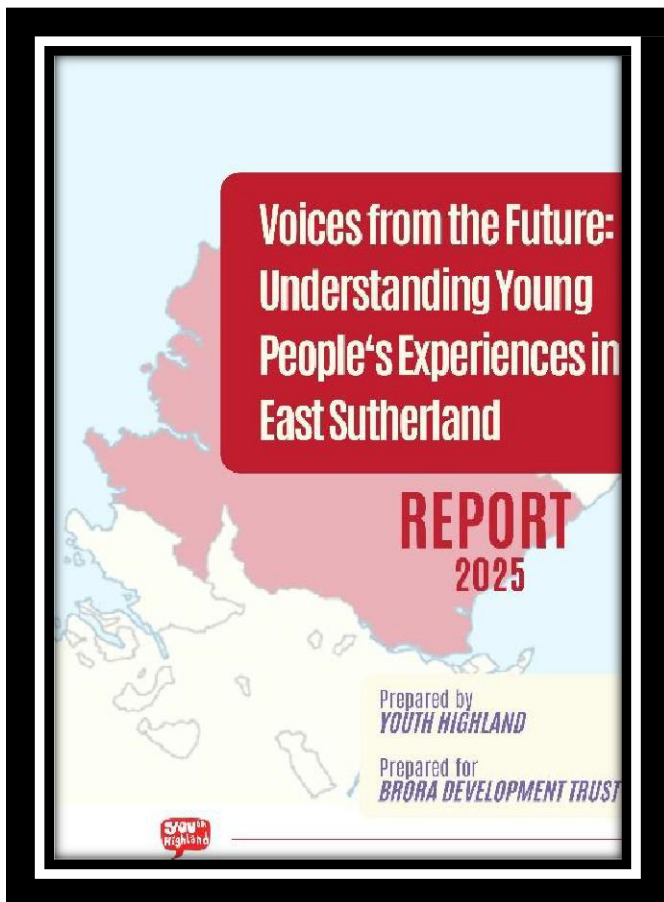


Images: Smiley faces at Dornoch beach

Voices From the Future: Understanding Young People's Experiences in East Sutherland

The need to create links with local employers as a way to help young people get on the employment and training pathway they would like to be on, is one of the recommendations in a report prepared by partner organisation, Youth Highland.

The consultation and report was commissioned by Brora Development Tryst as a way to aims to increase our understanding of young people's experiences in East Sutherland regarding employment and training pathways. The findings will also provide valuable information on how rural areas can retain and attract a young population.



As part of the consultation process, Youth Highland delivered three introductory presentations at Golspie High School, six general consultation sessions with young people in 1st to 6th year at Golspie High School, three intensive focus groups with 1st to 3rd years at Golspie High School. 155 young people took part in the consultation groups and 21 young people engaged in the focus groups. The report contains recommendations, suggested actions and possible outcomes, which we can take forward as well as highlighting potential barriers. Recommendations are:

- 1). Young people are actively involved in the decision making processes in their Youth Club and have the opportunity to get involved in organisational decision making.
- 2). Strengthen relationships between young people and local employers.
- 3). Discussion circles where a youth worker and a group of young people talk about the topics that impact the young people.

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We have gone some way to addressing the first recommendation by enabling and creating a framework for a young leaders group, who have called themselves Brora Youth Development Team. We are now developing a programme to address the second two recommendations, which are to strengthen relationships between young people and local employers and have discussion groups around topics which impact on young people.

Meet the Groups Event

A 'Meet the Groups' event will take place on Thursday 30th October at Brora Scout and Guide Hall, from 4pm to 7pm.

Brora Development Trust reached out to representatives of groups and organisations operating in Brora to determine if there would be support for a 'Meet the Groups' event and received positive feedback.

The event will provide an opportunity for members of the public to meet and speak with group representatives, for respective groups to promote volunteering opportunities, attract new members and for people new to the area to have the opportunity to get involved in the local community.

If your group or organisation is interested in having a table at the event, please get in touch. Contact details are in the footer.

The Otter's Couch

Article by Dawn De Havilland, The Otter's Couch volunteer

Volunteers

Milo our youngest volunteer has recently joined us and will be working alongside Ellen in the shop out with school time, a day a week. The other volunteers include Gail, Irene and myself Dawn, you may have met me if you called in on a Wednesday. I'm delighted to be part of the excellent team of volunteers in The Otter's Couch. We all enjoy supporting local artisans. We are dedicated to showcasing and selling the work of the talented independent local Artisans. Artisans are very appreciative to have an earning opportunity here in Brora.

Image: Milo Ainsworth



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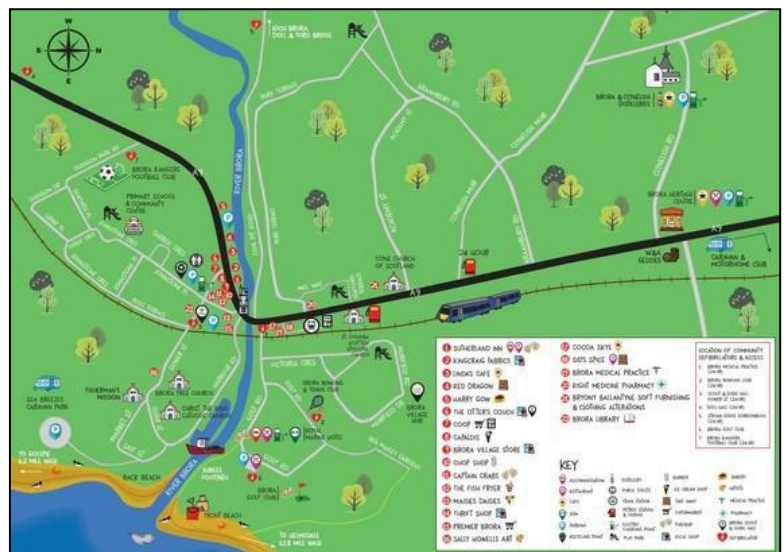
What's Available



The Otter's Couch Facebook page gives a good flavour of what's currently on offer in the shop. Emma from Two Blue Dogs Designs, along with Oscar the Otter, looks after the page for us! Currently we have a wide range of original art and contemporary craft, along with marmalade, jam and Brora Bees Honey from John who is currently running 45 hives over 3 sites in the local area. Not forgetting the Brora Rangers merchandise part of which is being modelled by Milo who is a huge fan.

Visitor Information Point

All of the volunteers enjoy assisting visitors with information about the local area, including attractions, accommodations, where to eat and events. It's a great way for us to contribute to local tourism by encouraging visitors to spend more time in and around Brora.



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BRORA'S ARTISAN MARKET



Brora Development Trust worked with a local volunteer, Sally Howells, to organise a Brora Artisans Market on the Friday of Brora Carnival Week in July.

The market took place in the Scout and Guide Hall and was well attended by members of the public during the day.

There were 9 individual Artisans who took a stall at the event as well as Brora Art Group. Participants reported significant sales and felt it was worthwhile taking part.

DISCOVER BRORA

Brora Development Trust have been working with local volunteers to develop a village map for visitors. The map can be used as a guide for visitors around the village, to points of interest, place to eat, sleep, shop and things to do. The map is available in participating venues in Brora and online at:

<https://discoverbrora.com>



If you have an interest in community led tourism here in Brora and would like to join the Brora Together group, please contact Sarah at Brora Development Trust.

We will add you to the WhatsApp group and connect you with other people with a vested interest in local tourism.

Image: Brora Village Map

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Images: A selection of Discover Brora merchandise

Brora Development Trust official charity merchandise is now available to purchase online through our trusted supplier *KSTM Embroidery*. Working closely with *KSTM Embroidery*, we've created a range of high-quality items featuring bespoke designs for Discover Brora and Brora Youth Room. Every purchase helps to raise vital funds for Brora Development Trust, whose work directly benefits people living in Brora, making a real difference to those we support.

Credit goes to Morgan Dennett, a young leader at Brora Youth Room, for designing the youth club logo, chosen by youth club members. The Discover Brora logo was chosen by community volunteers to represent the community led tourism work taking place here in Brora.

To shop the full collection, go to: <https://discoverbrora.com/shop/>

A selection of these items is available to purchase in store at The Otter's Couch Brora, a social enterprise arts and crafts shop run by Brora Development Trust, in the centre of Brora village.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Working Together for Stronger Communities

Brora Development Trust and Brora Community Council have jointly prepared a brief outline of the roles and goals of a Development Trust and a Community Council, which we hope will help clarify the roles and responsibilities of Brora Development Trust and Brora Community Council.

This document is available on the Discover Brora website and is available to view on the community notice board and library notice board. If you have any questions, please do get in touch with either Sarah Morrison, Brora Development Trust Manager at info@broravillage.scot or call/WhatsApp 07535 622755 or by emailing the Secretary of Brora Community Council at secretary.broracommunitycouncil@gmail.com.

Brora Community Council holds public meetings on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7pm in Brora Community Centre.

Minutes of previous meetings will be shared with the Development Trust who will post on the Discover Brora website, along with the Roles and Remit document at: <https://discoverbrora.com/brora-community-council-minutes/>

Here is an abbreviated version of the document:

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Development Trusts & Community Councils – Different Roles, Shared Goals

Development Trusts are community-led organisations that deliver local projects, own assets, and trade for social good.

Community Councils are statutory bodies representing local voices to the council & public service.

Key Differences at a Glance

Feature	Development Trusts	Community Councils
Role	Deliver projects, own assets, support regeneration.	Represent community views to the local authority, elected members and external companies/organisations.
Legal status	Incorporated. Can own assets, hire staff, apply for funds.	A voluntary organisation set up by statute by the local authority and run by local residents to act on behalf of its area. Can not own fixed assets or enter major contracts.
Approach	Proactive: “What does our community need, and how do we achieve it?”	Mostly reactive: Responds to planning and local issues. But needs to be proactive to drive public engagement.
Decision-making	Membership elects board. Community-driven and accountable.	CCs follow a model constitution set down by the local authority. Members are elected every 4 years unless the number of vacancies exceeds candidates.
Funding access	Eligible for major grants and public and private funding.	Can apply for funding from a select list of 17 bodies. It will usually pass this funding to a third party to deliver a project/programme.
Statutory Role	None officially, but impactful through delivery.	Official statutory consultative role in certain circumstances, e.g. energy planning

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Feature	Development Trusts	Community Councils
Examples of work in Brora	Brora Development Trust run community-led projects including The Otter's Couch social enterprise shop; youth initiative with drop-in youth club for 11-18 year olds; food support for children and young people in Early Years, primary & secondary education in school holidays; Discover Brora website; Radio Sutherland digital radio station. Brora Development Trust's participate in a number of forums and groups.	Brora Community Council is: leading on the Local Place Plan; disbursement of micro grants from windfarms; facilitating public feedback on planning applications. Brora Community Council directly channels public requests towards the Highland Council for areas where it has responsibility such as road repairs and council housing. Brora Community Council advocates for the local interest on a range of issues to elected MPs and MSPs.

Why Work Together?

Shared vision: better communities for everyone

Joint planning = stronger outcomes

Combine delivery and representation

Community-wide benefit through collaboration

Ways to Collaborate

- Create a **community plan** together
- Set up an **MOU** (Memorandum of Understanding)
 - Hold **regular update meetings**
- Community Council members attend Development Trust Board meetings, on a rolling basis, in a collaborative and information-sharing capacity

"When Development Trusts and Community Councils work together, the whole community benefits."

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The work of Brora Development Trust would not be possible without the support of members, volunteers, partners and donors, for which we are very grateful. Brora Development Trust's work benefits from membership of and support from, a number of professional organisations: Development Trusts Association, Youth Scotland, Youth Highland, North Highlands Climate Hub and Scottish Community Tourism (SCOTO) network.



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