Kyles of Bute Community Broadband

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| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE |  |
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 Kyles of bute community broadband project

A community led initiative to provide a reliable, fast broadband service which is financially sustainable and available to all the residents and businesses in the communities of, Colintraive and Glendaruel, Tighnabruaich and Bute which BT will not reach during their current New Generation Broadband rollout programme

Three community groups have joined forces to establish a reliable broadband service to defined areas where BT will not be able to do so under their current new generation broadband programme. The project is being supported through Community Broadband Scotland set up by the Scottish government and managed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The three groups; Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust, Tighnabruaich District Development Trust and the Bute Rural Community Broadband Group had each separately identified the need for a better Broadband provision within their communities. However, in order to develop a project which will be financially viable, the sharing of fixed infrastructure costs amongst a larger customer base was considered to be essential. The Kyles of Bute Community Broadband Project (KBCB) was therefore established and has now been accepted by Community Broadband Scotland for project planning funding under the leadership of the Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust.

The procurement process to find the best business partners to help design, build and maintain the network is underway and in December informal market engagement will begin. The steering group made up of representatives from each of the communities want to ensure that a much wider audience take part in considering the suggested solutions and to ensure that they fully determine their requirements. Three community meetings are therefore planned in January and all are welcome to attend. Following these consultations tender documents will then be prepared and issued in March 2016.

The meetings are being held in three locations: Kingarth Hotel, Isle of Bute on Wednesday 13th January at 7.30pm. Kames Recreational Hall, Tighnabruaich on Sunday 17th January at 2pm and at the Glendaruel Village Hall on Sunday 17th January at 4pm.

For more information telephone Margaret Shields 01700 504931 or email margaret@cgdt.org

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

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The Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust was formed in 2008 and is one of more than 200 Development Trusts across Scotland. It is community controlled and was set up to make Colintraive and Glendaruel a better place to live and work. CGDT are involved in a wide range of projects from improving the 57 mile long Cowal Way long distance footpath to woodland access and environmental projects in its community owned forest.