



The Applecross Trust  
**APPLECROSS ESTATE**

Our Ref: AM/RC

Date: 13 November 2012

Dear Mr Wightman,

Thank you for your application to become a member of The Applecross Trust.

The Trustees have given this matter careful consideration and have consulted with the community.

Quite independently of the Trust's own consultation, two of the Applecross crofters were inspired to organise an informal poll to gauge local support for the Trust in its current form. An overwhelming number of respondents, representing a significant majority of the permanent residents on the peninsula, expressed the wish that if any changes to the formal relationship with the Trust are deemed desirable, then they be dealt with by careful inclusive negotiation, rather than by radical changes to existing structures.

There were no negative responses to that initiative. Indeed the Trust has quite separately received many more unprompted letters, emails and telephone calls from crofters, residents and businesses on the peninsula, all in full support of its work, and expressing a desire that the existing strategy of community engagement through partnership working be continued.

For your information, I enclose a copy of a letter sent to all residents on the peninsula in response to these various letters, phone calls and emails. Although the Trust is proud of its success in promoting community engagement for many years, it agrees with the community that there is always scope for innovation and moving forward, and will therefore strive to strengthen the various partnership groups so as to take new ideas forward in tandem with them on an ongoing basis, in particular through the development of the Applecross Landscape Partnership Scheme (ALPS) which has been established for a number of years and includes representation from the Trust, Applecross Historical Society, Applecross Archaeological Society, Applecross Walks & Traditional Craft Group, Applecross Community Council, Applecross Crofters, the Bealach (Gaelic) Group and 2 co-opted residents with particular experience and involvement in Applecross.

However in view of the manifest concern locally about an unwelcome and politically motivated campaign to hasten change without regard to local feelings, and also the track record of successful delivery by the Trust of a large number of projects as evidence of their good management, the Trust respectfully refuses your application for membership.

Yours sincerely



Archie MacLellan  
Trust Administrator