Think about Plastic - Arran

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 January 2026

Charity contact information

Think about Plastic - Arran

Scottish Charity Number: SC048987

Address: Carraig Mhor, Lamlash, Isle of Arran

Postcode: KA27 8LS

Telephone number: 01770 600081

Email address: info@thinkaboutplastic.org

Website: thinkaboutplastic.org

Charity Trustees

1. Helen How - Chairperson
2. Hilary Maguire – Treasurer Ecosavvy
3. Jess Wallace – resigned 21 April 2026
4. Karen Watson Schools Liaison Trustee
5. John Connell – appointed 8 July 2025
6. Linsey Latter – appointed 8 July 2025 Co-op liaison
7. Nigel Maud – appointed 2 December 2025 Social media

C. O.A.S.T. vacant

Objectives and activities

Think About Plastic-Arran Trustees Report June 2026

Why was TAP set up?

TAP was set up in response to interest and concern expressed by individuals and environmental groups across Arran, through social media and a public meeting, to the problem of plastic in the sea. The steering group was formed to lead on island-wide initiatives and provide a co-ordinated approach to avoid duplication of effort and share information.

What are the objectives of TAP?

TAP's over-arching objective is ‘to prevent plastic entering the sea around Arran’.

This is divided into encouraging individuals, businesses and organisations on Arran to ‘Think About Plastic’ and act appropriately at three main contact points with plastic

1. At the point of acquisition

2. During use

3. In disposal

TAP aims to achieve its objectives through co-operation with other organisations and involving the island community in reducing dependence on plastic items and promoting the use of more sustainable alternatives. TAP also endeavour to respond to any relevant Consultations.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

TAP’s Governing document is a Constitution

TAP's steering group comprises Trustees and nominated representatives from local environmental charities.

Nominated representatives may also be Trustees.

Decisions are normally made on consensus, but if necessary Trustees have a vote should any decisions come to a vote.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

C.O.A.S.T, Arran Eco-Savvy and the Co-op are partner organisations who are allowed to nominate representatives who are then appointed as trustees. Re-structuring at the Co-op has resulted in the local Community post being removed but TAP have retained strong links through the Ayrshire Member Activator (Community Member and Participation) who has joined TAP because of personal interest rather than having been nominated through the Co-op. C.O.A.S.T. continue to have links with TAP but have not nominated a representative at this point in time.

TAP uses Arran Community Volunteer Service to advertise trustee vacancies. Direct approaches have also been made to individuals whom existing trustees consider have appropriate skills and values. The Isle of Arran has experienced a large influx of newcomers over the last few years and a positive effort has been made to include this relatively new group of residents as trustees.

TAP trustees have worked hard to recruit trustees this year, against a gener backdrop of increasing reluctance to commit time and energy to charities.

Achievements and performance

Community Engagement at Lagg Distillery



Against a background of personal, family. health issues and delayed/cancelled ferries resulting in trustees unavoidably missing meetings and events, the need to recruit additional trustees with the skills needed to support the charity continues to be high on the agenda.

The Chair and Treasurer have both attended specific training for trustees/finance during the year

TAP has continued to work towards its objectives with a remarkable degree of success. The Chair of TAP has continued to serve independently as the Arran representative on the Scottish Islands Federation Marine Litter Working Group and this had been a useful link.

Data collection by TAP trustees and others has contributed to local(

(Arran) and national policies and data banks and duhas continued to play a significant aspect of TAP's work. Over 100 individuals have been involved in collecting data over 15 sites around Arran for the

September Big Arran Beach clean and 27 individual data collections have been completed over the year.

In June, TAP held a public engagement event ‘The Delights and Dangers of Arran’s Beaches.’ was held at Lagg in the South-West of the island. The Distillery provided a beautiful space and the event included a display of TAP’s work, a Litter Critter Heilan Coo made from fishing ad aquaculture litter, on loan from SIF Marine Litter Working Group. Refreshments and illustrated talks by the Marine Litter Development Officer for the west of Scotland (Islands) and Arran Coastguard on ordnance and other dangers to be aware of on beaches. The event was extremely well attended and received but several trustees were unable to attend due to other commitments so Friends and relatives of Trustees assisted. The ‘Coo’ went on display at Brodick Ferry Terminal where it generated a lot of interest.

The new website was officially launched in July.

The business accreditation scheme continues to assist businesses in reducing their plastic. Auchrannie was revisited and ‘front of house’ staff have been provided with ‘pin badges’ with the resort providing a donation to TAP. In addition, The Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash and the Kinloch in Blackwaterfoot are progressing towards gaining recognition.

A major focus this year has been the engagement of Young People. The TAP for Change School Accreditation was launched. One trustee has become the link trustee for schools. All seven of Arran’s Primary schools have started activities towards accreditation. TAP was successful in making a bid to Auchrannie Charitable Trust in order to buy trophies for schools who gain the award at Gold level. TAP trustees presented assemblies about ‘making a difference’ a little at a time to the primary school children.

Arran Youth Foundations have completed data collections and beach cleans, after their leader received training. The young people started working on an art installation made from plastic water bottles which they wish to put on public display later in the year.

The glasses loan scheme has continued to be used but this is mostly confined to the summer months and a limited number of organisations and individuals.

Public liability Insurance was renewed.

TAP has had increased coverage in the local press and on social and ‘new’ community groups have signed up to litter pick, beach clean and data collect.

An Tarbh Flotsam Coo at Brodick Ferry terminal. July 2025



Financial review

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Receipts:			
Donations	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 85.00
Grants	£ -	£ 2,148.00	£ 2,148.00
			£ 2,233.00
Expenditure:			
General expenses	£ 130.00		£ 130.00
Funded expenditure		£ 1,825.00	£ 1,825.00
			£ 1,955.00
(Deficit) surplus for the year	(£45)	£ 323.00	£ 278.00

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees consider that the Charity has sufficient funds to cover any unexpected expenses.

Details of any deficit[i]

There was a small deficit of £45 on unrestricted funds but this was covered by unrestricted funds brought forward.

Future plans

Recruitment of trustees will continue to be important, In particular, the need for a Secretary is crucial. The need to deal with administrative issues is a curb on the Chair's role of networking and working with other organisations. Some of these tasks could be assisted by AI but again a trustee able and willing to fulfil this role needs to be recruited,

TAP has a robust future. The organisation has some excellent and reliable volunteers but this is a role which needs further people. If opportunities are to be grasped more people are needed to avoid volunteer burnout.

The friends scheme is ripe for development,

Artwork has proved a popular way of engaging people at events and this could be developed in future.

TAP have recently recruited a trustee who has the expertise to utilise social media more effectively so this a focus for development.

The island continues to experience population turnover at a rapid rate so the need to keep TAP's profile high is important,

Many strong links which existed in partnership working are still suffering from the aftermath of lockdown and changes in personnel.

Succession planning is necessary to safeguard the future of the organisation.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Helen P. How

Print name	Helen Patricia How
Designation	Chair
Date	18/07/26

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