



Dornoch Area Community Interest Company

About the Project

The objectives of the Dornoch Area Community Interest Company (DACIC) include enhancing and preserving Dornoch town and managing community land and buildings. DACIC manages two websites, one for local residents and **one for visitors** > A What's On compilation is available on the website and is also distributed to a broad range of locations, including self-catering accommodation and Bed and Breakfasts. The What's On features a variety of community-led activities, including the community market.

Many types of organisation can benefit from tourism

The community markets are organised by the Dornoch and District Community Association (DADCA). DADCA runs the local Community Centre and supports local volunteer-led groups and charities. It earns some income to fund its activities by organising the outdoor community market, which is held twice monthly from May to September on the Cathedral Green. The market can have up to 30 stalls. Each stall-holder pays a small fee, and some hire gazebos; there is currently a waiting list for stalls. Items sold include fresh local produce, refreshments, plants, bakery items, jams and chutney, rape seed oil, charcuterie, cheese, knitted goods, arts and crafts. The community market benefits the community in a number of ways. It is an important source of income to a number of small enterprises and charities.

For example:

- St. Finnarr's Charity Shop supports local groups with financial grants. The shop has a stall at the market, with ever-changing themes (for example "Sparkles and Spangles" and Teddy Bears).

- Dornoch Heritage, which runs the local independent museum Historylinks, sells bacon rolls at the market, thereby earning some funds and raising the museum's profile.
- The sale of excess produce (including jam and chutney) from community garden plots helps to pay for communal requirements such as grass cutting.
- Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs sells a range of branded goods to support its work enhancing access to beaches.

The town is very busy on market days, with the local shops and cafes benefitting from increased footfall. The Cathedral receives a donation for allowing the market to take place on its attractive Green. Aided by DACIC's professional marketing on the Visit Dornoch platforms, the community markets attract a lot of visitors from the surrounding area, as well as tourists. The markets allow the visitors' spend to be used for the benefit of the community, through charities and by bringing important additional income to small local enterprises.

“Like other community run organisations, we are volunteers/free-lancers working a few hours a week. So it's hard to keep up with the latest opportunities, examples of good practice or innovative ideas, support and potential funding. By providing a network for similarly focused organisations, SCOTO will fill that gap.”

Joan Bishop, Chair, DACIC



Location: Dornoch, Sutherland

Type: Eat, Buy

When Set Up: DACIC was established in 2007

How Funded: The market is self-funding. The publicity is largely funded through dues paid to DACIC by local businesses.

Beneficiaries: Local third sector organisations and small businesses; secondary economic benefits to shops and cafes; wider shopping choice for residents.

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