



Morvern Community Development Company

Statements from Nominated Directors for 2026 AGM elections

Sam Firth:

I've lived in Morvern since 2013, and Knoydart from 2006 -2013. I am a film director/producer and community arts practitioner and have my own production company, as well as being a crofter. I'm Secretary of Morvern Community Woodlands having previously been chair during the time we successfully purchased Achnaha through the Forestry Commission Community Asset Transfer scheme and treasurer and have led the Lochaline Community Forest project. I was chair of the Knoydart Trading company which is a subsidiary of the Knoydart Foundation and set up a community larder for butchering venison and a community shop which resulted in the creation of four permanent jobs as well as being on the Knoydart Foundation Policy development committee. I have experience in project management, development and leadership, community land management and acquisition, fundraising and workshop facilitation. I learned a great deal during the year I previously served on the board, including my time as vice-chair and acting chair.

During my time as a Director I worked closely with STEP HR, was involved in line-management matters, recruitment of the Operations Director, DTAS mediation, and supported the board in developing good workplace and HR practices. I also contributed to the early development of the community café, including drafting the original proposals and budget, and have practical, on-the-ground experience of its operations from having worked there.

I hope this combination of organisational knowledge, practical experience, of community development companies and familiarity with MCDC's recent history can be of some use. I am keen to support the board and staff in whatever way is most helpful, and to work collaboratively and positively with the existing directors and believe MCDC can contribute to creating a vibrant, creative, resilient, healthy and sustainable community that is democratic, self-sufficient, looks after its young, vulnerable and elderly, and protects the natural environment.

Keith Laidlow:

I would like to add my name for re-election for a 2nd term commencing in 2026 to continue my engagement with MCDC and associated companies as a Director at MCDC as per article 34.4 of our constitution

My aim is to see the completion of the affordable housing project and the other initiatives we are exploring within MCDC for the good of the community while providing a critical eye to the financials.

I hope you can support this application and vote for my re-election

Mark MacDonald:

Mark has spent the last 15 years working in the media industry, starting out at All3Media in London, where his team built the foundations of what became Little Dot Studios - the pioneering digital studio that helped TV companies grow audiences on YouTube & social media. At Little Dot, Mark led a 40-person team working with clients like ITV, Channel 4, Netflix, Amazon and Discovery.

After Little Dot Studios, Mark joined Banijay Entertainment - one of the world's largest TV production groups - as Global Head of Social Media, overseeing and implementing the global social media strategies for brands like Survivor, Big Brother & MasterChef. He left Banijay in 2025 to move to the Highlands with his family and co-found a digital media consultancy with his wife Caitlin: Ferry Media. Ferry works with producers, broadcasters & distributors globally to help grow their audiences on YouTube and other social media platforms.

Mark is passionate about media and screen industries, and excited about the digital transformation and growth of audiences in Scotland and beyond