

10/02/26

For immediate release

Internal modification works to commence at Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis is pleased to announce funding has been secured from the 'The Scottish Government Islands Programme' awarded by the Scottish Government Islands Team, the Scottish Government Gaelic and Scots Division, the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, to carry out internal improvements at the centre. The works will improve accessibility throughout the building. The gift shop will relocate to the current main exhibition space, increasing the sales area and providing a storage facility for stock. A new welcome desk will be introduced, and a screened section will be fitted in the café to allow more flexibility with bookings.

Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of the Comhairle's Sustainable Development Committee:

*"Comunn Eachdraidh Nis plays a vital role in the community, and we are delighted to see that their commitment to improving the building and the services they provide has been recognised. We look forward to seeing the positive impact the project will bring."*

We are pleased to welcome back to CEN, the award-winning architect, Ruairidh Moir (BARD) from Tolsta who is leading the Design Team which also includes IMQS.

*"BARD is excited to be continuing our work with Comunn Eachdraidh Nis following the original transformational project completed several years ago. Since then, it's been wonderful to observe CEN go from strength to strength in their repurposed home, delivering excellent services for the local community. This new project will harness these ambitions and adapt and improve the building even further and we look forward to seeing the benefits enjoyed by everyone who visits and works here."*

The main contractor for the project is O'Mac Construction Ltd. Work is expected to be completed around the end of May 2026.

Kathleen Stewart, Area Team Leader – HIE Innse Gall said:

*"We're really pleased to support Comunn Eachdraidh Nis as they make changes to the internal layout to meet high demand from both visitors and local people. CEN plays a vital role in the cultural and social life of north Lewis, providing important services that support Gaelic, celebrate local heritage, and help sustain population and jobs in the community."*

*"The project will increase capacity, improve accessibility, and strengthen CEN's role as a community hub for people of all ages. These improvements will help reduce social*

*isolation, increase income opportunities, and ensure facilities meet the needs of the community long into the future.”*

The café will relocate to the museum during construction works and will be offering a revised menu. Seating will be limited and during this time we will be operating a walk-in system. We are unable to accepting bookings, other than our regular clubs and bereavement gatherings.

From 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, the café will be open from Wed-Fri, 11 am – 3pm with last orders for hot food at 2.30pm. The shop will be open each day from 10am – 4pm.

Public access to CEN will be through the rear door. There is a pavement leading to the door from the car park. We apologies for any disruption and thank you for your patience during this time.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our funders and the Community Engagement Team at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for supporting CEN with this project.

**Ends.**

For further information contact Anne Macleod [office@cenonline.org](mailto:office@cenonline.org)



**Scottish Government**  
**Riaghaltas na h-Alba**



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