

MEMBERSHIP OF FUTURE KINSALE CO-OP

Frequently asked questions

About Future Kinsale CLG

- *Is this the same as a co-operative?* Yes, we have formed a company limited by guarantee which has no shareholders, but 7 members who are Directors, which is run according to a constitution structured under the ICOS guidelines.
- *Is Future Kinsale a charity?* No, a charity is not owned and run by its members, and can only raise money for strictly charitable activities. Future Kinsale will include profit-driven subsidiaries.
- *If Future Kinsale sets up a project, how will the finances work?* We plan to incorporate wholly owned subsidiary companies for all substantial projects. These will in many cases aim to generate profits from their activities which will be returned to Future Kinsale to help fund other developments. The co-op may also set up subsidiary ventures in which it holds a minority stake (eg 10% / 20%) to allow outside investment to help fund and deliver the project. All proceeds to the coop are available for investment in community projects.

Board members

- The initial Board of Future Kinsale has been selected from across the community and includes:
 - Alan Clayton (Chair)
 - Adrian Wistreich (Director)
 - Daniel J Coleman (Secretary)
 - John O’Keeffe (Director)
 - Sarah Jane Larkin (Director)
 - Elizabeth Creed (Director)
 - Arlene Vithaldas (Director)
 - Liz Moynihan (Director)
- Three more Board places will be taken by representatives of Kinsale Chamber of Tourism, Kinsale Community School and the Kinsale Parish

What Future Kinsale sets out to do?

- *Future Kinsale’s mission* – to build a thriving, healthy, sustainable future for Kinsale.
- *Who decides what Future Kinsale does?* – The membership drives Future Kinsale’s direction through a Board of elected Directors who each serve for up to two 3-year terms and is each elected by members of Future Kinsale (one member one vote) according to the company’s constitution.
- *If I have a great idea for a business or investment, can I apply for support from Future Kinsale?* Yes. The Board will meet regularly to assess projects, and will issue guidelines for submitting ideas. For more details, email futurekinsale@gmail.com

About membership

- *What types of membership are there?* We have three categories:
 - Founder Member/Family member/small business – up to 5 individual names under one subscriber – all members to have residence within 10km of Kinsale centre
 - Individual Membership
 - Corporate membership for companies with 20 plus members
 - Student membership (Free of charge to those aged 14-18)

- Friends of Future Kinsale/Associate membership – open to those wishing to support the co-op but not resident in Kinsale
- *How do I become a member?* Complete the Standing Order Form, pay your annual subscription by cheque/bank transfer. Please contact futurekinsale@gmail.com for a membership form
- *Can I invest in specific projects?* Yes, Future Kinsale will set up a sustainable investment fund which will allow investors to take a return on investment. Details will follow.
- *How can I become a volunteer?* please contact futurekinsale@gmail.com outlining your areas of interest/expertise, or call Adrian on 0879696901 to discuss volunteering.
- *How can I become a Director?* Elections will be held as each place on the Board becomes vacant, and all Future Kinsale Members will be notified and allowed to submit nominations for election.
- *What happens to members' subscriptions?* All funds held by Future Kinsale will be used for the benefit of Kinsale, including: setting up businesses to manage community projects, conducting feasibility studies, developing relevant software, signage, publicity materials, and administering Future Kinsale itself. We will aim to reach a point where income from projects underwrites administration costs for Future Kinsale within 1-2 years, and to ensure that no more than 20% of all membership subscription income is used to run the organisation. Full financial accounts will be presented at the Future Kinsale AGM

What are your entitlements as a member?

- *Are there any immediate member benefits?* We aim to offer a range of discounts on local services and other financial benefits through specific projects (eg credits to your account for use with e-Scooters).
- *How do members have a say in what projects Future Kinsale develops?* Future Kinsale will hold regular membership meetings, and likewise, individual community groups within Future Kinsale will hold project-specific working group meetings. If you want to have an input, please engage with these meetings and sign up to follow <https://futurekinsale.home.blog/>

What will Future Kinsale be doing in the next year

- *E-Scooters* – a business which will provide rentable electric scooters for use by residents and visitors around the town. This may extend to other electric vehicles.
- *Kinsale Free WiFi* – a community funded WiFi service throughout the town, hosting a portal for community information
- *Business Hub* – a shared workspace for small local businesses and individuals working from home
- *Town Hall redevelopment* – a project to revitalise the Municipal Hall as a community facility
- New projects proposed by members – Future Kinsale will be ‘open for business’ to new proposals within 3 months. We will circulate submission guidelines

