

Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust

ISLAND DIRECTORS' MEETING, 14/07/16

Present: Sarah Boden, Greg Carr, Maggie Fyffe, Damian Helliwell, Jacqueline Kirk, Ian Leaver, Tasha McVarish

Chair: Tasha McVarish

Damian was welcomed to his first meeting as director

Thanks to Colin for all his work over the last few years.

Volunteer Programme: So far we have had 16 volunteers April/May, 6 in June, 6 are booked for July, 3 for August & a further 3 booked for September. A lot of tasks have already been completed ~ suggestions for further work include clearing of various paths plus clearing of bracken along the side of the road.

SNH conducted a survey of SSSIs in June & have notified us that whilst condition report on Cleadale SSSI is favourable, some concern has been raised about bracken encroaching on "dwarf heath shrub" feature contained within An Sgurr & Gleann Charadail SSSI. **TM** to establish exactly which area is involved & what measures can be undertaken.

Forestry Project: Gary Servant will now visit in August to complete work required by the Forestry Commission to finish the Long Term Forest Plan. The work will require 2 days survey plus 2 days to write up & complete the report at a cost of £1250+VAT. Ian Collier (of FC) will visit at the same time to ensure it is exactly what is required.

Making Local Woodlands Work: Chris Marsh who is based in Skye is aiming to visit in the near future to advise on added value to available timber/wood products. He will also liaise with Gary.

2 members of the Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers (ASHS) will be visiting in August to assess the fallen elm.

Fencing: It is noted that fence at Sandavore Wood in need of repair.

Green Shed: Repairs to shed door & provision of suitable outdoor lighting ongoing. **DH/GC**

Hall windows will be arriving next week & will need to be stored until the end of the summer.

Some discussion about how best to manage the shed with regard to the ongoing issue of goods being left for long periods ~ the shed is intended for short-term storage only.

Eigg Electric: MF to contact Afnor again re "High Voltage Systems Safe Working" course to find out when/if the course will become available again.

New inverter now installed.

Some discussion with Highland Council as to whether or not we qualified for Renewables Rates Relief.

Eventually a common sense approach was taken & EEL has been granted 100% relief. (rates bill was £6292)

Tracks: Ongoing

Trust Properties: Some lists of maintenance required for each property still to be provided.
Once the list has been compiled in full, we will ascertain if the work can be carried out locally or if we will need to employ outside contractors.

House Sites: Updated version of road map circulated.

Tamsin & Stu McCarthy have now found an appropriate site & have received the approval of the land manager.

Some work is needed on the current map of sites available for house plots as it is felt that some of the sites identified are no longer appropriate/feasible.

Housing for Rent: Rural Housing Fund has confirmed that funding of £10k is available towards feasibility study. Currently waiting for confirmation from HIE that they will provide additional funding required.

Rough quotes received from a number of different architects ranged between £12-£30k

Once the funding is confirmed we will require tenders from a minimum of 3 architects.

IL received around 20 replies to housing needs survey which confirms the need for the project.

Old Surgery: As the old surgery is still in use, it is unlikely that there will be a response from Gill McVicar until such time as the Health Centre is fully operational.

Eigg Trading: Meeting of directors held. Advert sent out for a maintenance person.

MF to order light bulbs once she is given details of the different bulbs required.

Additional picnic tables & benches (recycled plastic) for smoking area have been ordered & should arrive shortly.

Wigwams: Wigwams are now fully operational & working well. Bookings are steady & we are confident that they will increase in future once the wigwams are better known.

Materials have been delivered for fencing of the area. A shelter is planned for use as a cooking area.

GIS System: Aerial view software to be purchased.

Pier Wifi hotspot: Equipment installed & currently being tested ~ outside antennae to be installed shortly.

Mobile Mast: Following visit from Dales Surveying, info & diagram of what is being proposed to be discussed further by IERA

Museum: Ongoing

Signage at Pier: TM to progress

AOB:

Fish Farm: As suggested at IERA meeting, ~ an information day/panel discussion has been arranged for Thursday 4th August.

Taking part will be Professor Kenneth Black who is a researcher in marine science at Scottish Association for Marine Science & Dean Jones, SWT ranger who also has a background in marine science. Representing Marine Harvest will be Dr Gareth Butterfield, Technical Services Manager, Steve Bracken, Business Support Manager or Chris Read, Environment Manager.

SWT Visit: Susan Davies who has recently been appointed as director of conservation, will be visiting the island 27-29th July accompanied by Amanda Bryan. This will be a good opportunity to discuss how we see current & future input of SWT.

Coastal Communities Fund: An opportunity has arisen to apply for funding which could cover the cost of necessary improvements to An Laimhrig & the surrounding area. It is proposed that the tearoom is extended to provide a separate bar area & the shop to provide additional storage. The fuel tanks to be removed & small industrial units be provided along with a building to house toilet/showers/laundry along with the replacement of septic tank.

The deadline for 1st Stage applications in 17th August which does not give much time ~ **IL** to check if there's likely to be a further round. If not, it is agreed that IL will work with GC & DH to supply necessary information & plans.

DONM: Thursday 18th August