

Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust

ISLAND DIRECTORS' MEETING, 17/11/16

Present: Sarah Boden, Greg Carr, Maggie Fyffe, Jacqueline Kirk, Ian Leaver, Stuart McCarthy, Tasha McVarish

Chair: Tasha McVarish

Apologies: Damian Helliwell

Volunteer Programme: End of season report produced & circulated.

SNH funding for volunteer manager runs out in March. As the volunteer programme currently struggles to fulfill SNH criteria (eg recruiting from areas of multiple deprivation) an application has been submitted to the Robertson Trust ~ results should be known by January.

It is suggested that in future the minimum length of stay for volunteers should be extended.

Forestry Project: Chris Marsh who is our adviser from Making Local Woodlands Work visited for 2 days last month & is currently writing a report about his findings.

Application to Coastal Communities Fund for funding towards a full time ranger/forester, part-time assistant forester, wood drying shed, equipment & training was unsuccessful.

IL is currently working on an expression of interest/application to Climate Challenge Fund. This includes drying shed & equipment but also involves creating a post to provide education, energy efficiency advice & recording of behavior change. Total application approx. £120k (CCF max £150k)

LTFP has now been finalised & submitted to Ian Collier for final approval prior to being placed on the public register where public bodies (SNH, Sepa, Forestry Commission) have a 28-day period to make comment.

At the end of this period, we will be able to start on SRDP/SFGS applications for funding towards clearing paths/rhododendron clearance & management.

Both Gary Servant & Chris Marsh will be able to assist with the applications through the WTAW and MLWW projects respectively. Suggest inviting Gary to board meeting in Fort William.

Housing For Rent: Mairi MacKinnon, Neil Robertson & Sue Hollands joined the meeting with regard to the proposed new houses & the potential effects a new track might make to Sandavore Bothy. Since Sam Foster's appointment as architect & the community consultation which took place last week, the preferred route to the site is past the BT exchange. Due to the cost involved, it is unlikely that a circular road would be considered. Although there are some thoughts on how to improve the water supply, further investigation will be necessary as part of the project.

To date Sam has done site visits, arranged trial pits & has conducted a community consultation which was well attended. Sam has also been invited to attend board meeting to report his findings.

HIE have offered to cover the shortfall in the cost of feasibility study ~ currently waiting for paperwork to confirm.

Fencing: Some repairs required to boundary fence with Church Park. Sheep are also getting around the cattle grid at the pier. GC to assess.

Green Shed: Repairs ongoing

As the shed is currently full it is suggested that an e-mail be sent out informing everyone that unclaimed items will be disposed of after a period of time.

Eigg Electric: Afnor has indicated that "High Voltage Systems Safe Working" course will be available shortly. Application forms for the 2 most recent members of the maintenance team have been completed. Gilkes have recently conducted a full service of Laig Hydro

Tracks: Because of the concerns raised about the track to the beach, everyone is reminded that in future any work/alterations should be first discussed with those affected ie either IEHT or crofters.

Letter to be circulated to residents that IEHT should be notified of any proposal to remove hard core & a charge per ton will be made.

Trust Properties: Maintenance schedules for each property ongoing.

IL to order gas fittings required to bring up to standard & Colin MacBeth of Richard Irvin will do the necessary work & certification on his next visit.

House Sites:

Tamsin & Stu McCarthy have submitted plans which are also on display on An Laimhrig noticeboard. Further house plots are currently on hold until further investigation is done.

Old Surgery: As yet no response from Gill McVicar re potential transfer for community use.

Eigg Trading: Although some basic maintenance required, it was agreed that any further improvements should be put on hold until we know the outcome of lottery funding as this will involve refurbishment throughout.

Trading directors to hold a meeting shortly.

Pier Redevelopment Plan: Meeting held with 2 representatives from Big Lottery & we have since been invited to the next stage. This involves a feasibility study, strategic plan & having a professional team in place taking the project to RIBA stage 2.

IL currently looking at spec for tender to appoint design team.

It is suggested that we apply for a grant of up to £750 from Community Learning Exchange to enable a visit to community hub/housing project/forestry. Skye has been suggested as hiring a RIB could allow a day visit to various projects in & around Sleat.

Wigwams: Fencing in progress. Cooking shelter to be built before next season.

GIS System: Aerial view software to be purchased shortly.

Pier Wifi hotspot: Ongoing

Museum: The shed adjacent to the museum which the History Society would like to develop as part of the museum is thought to be on land belonging to Tigh a Sithean. Map has been provided.

SWT: It is hoped that Dean Jones will return as ranger for next season.

As his report highlighted, ground nesting sea & coastal birds have had a poor breeding season mainly due to rat predation. It is suggested that funding is sought to conduct a rat eradication programme on Castle Island. To be discussed at board meeting.

AOB: Community Land Scotland will be holding a conference at Sabhal Mor Ostaig at the end of May 2017. It is suggested that a group of new CLS members come to Eigg for an afternoon visit at the end of the conference on 31st May

Merchandise: We now have new stock of Eigg tea towels & also Wapenmaps which are small 3D stainless steel maps. Both will be on sale at the xmas craft fair

DONM: IEHT Board meeting 5pm Friday 2nd December. Lochaber House, Fort William