

Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust

ISLAND DIRECTORS' MEETING, 18/08/16

Present: Greg Carr, Maggie Fyffe, Damian Helliwell, Ian Leaver, Tasha McVarish

Chair: Damian Helliwell

Apologies: Sarah Boden, Jacqueline Kirk,

Volunteer Programme: Only 1 volunteer at the moment but will be back to 3 at the beginning of September.

Currently clearing path from road to bridge at the start of the Laig shortcut. Volunteers likely to focus on path clearance for the rest of the season.

TM has made contact with the ranger on Rum with a view to volunteers spending time on both islands.

Forestry Project: Making Local Woodlands Work: Chris Marsh who is based in Skye still to visit to advise on added value to available timber/wood products.

Coastal Communities Fund: It was felt that there wasn't enough time to fulfill requirements (ie detailed plans etc) to apply for pier redevelopment project. Instead, a stage 1 application has been submitted for funds to employ a full time ranger/forester, part-time assistant forester, (for a 2-year period with some match funding from SWT) wood drying shed, harvesting & milling equipment & training.

Gary Servant who arrived today & has spent the afternoon looking at various forestry compartments joined the meeting. Gary gave a short summary of the LTFP which covers how the woodland will be sustainably managed for the next 20 years. Gary & Ian will meet with Ian Collier of the Forestry Commission who will be visiting tomorrow with the hope that any possible changes to the plan will be acceptable Gary will finalise the plan & submit to public register where public bodies (SNH, Sepa, Forestry Commission) have a 28-day period to make comment. Once the plan has been accepted we will be able to apply to current Forestry Commission grants scheme.

Fencing: Ongoing

Green Shed: Still looking at ways of fixing door. **DH/GC**

Hall windows have arrived are now being stored in shed.

Suggest having a log book or white board so a record can be kept of what items are being stored & who they belong to.

Eigg Electric: Still no response from Afnor re "High Voltage Systems Safe Working" course. MF to contact again to find out if the course is likely to become available.

Various groups visiting in the next few weeks. Dundee University students will be visiting in September & also a group from Ottawa. Lecturers from Sheffield Uni who were involved in the installation of the flywheel have also been in contact regarding another project they are working on.

Tracks: Some concerns raised about the work being done on the track to the beach. It is hoped that the track will be left in an improved condition.

It is noted that a large quantity of hard core is being used on various tracks around the island. It is felt that in future, extraction should be managed & a charge made per tonne.

Trust Properties: Some lists of maintenance required for each property still to be provided.

DH to look at list so far & advise on what work is required.

Gas checks done on all properties & list of materials provided to bring up to standard.

Total estimate of cost £1680. Agreed to proceed.

House Sites:

Tamsin & Stu McCarthy are currently working on plans. **MF** to supply official letter for signature by land manager.

Current map of sites for house plots still to be updated &/or further sites to be identified.

Housing for Rent: Tender for plans for Rural Housing Fund development has been sent to 4 suggested architects:

Rural Designs

Sam Foster

David Somerville

Ewen Cameron

Still waiting for confirmation of match funding from HIE.

Old Surgery: As the old surgery is no longer in use, it is hoped that a response from Gill McVicar will be received shortly re possible transfer for community use.

Eigg Trading: 2nd maintenance person now appointed. Maintenance work still to do.

Replacement light bulbs provided.

New picnic tables & benches (recycled plastic) delivered & in situ.

Wigwams: Wigwams continue to be popular.

Fencing of the area in progress. A cooking shelter still to be arranged.

GIS System: Aerial view software still to be purchased.

Pier Wifi hotspot: Once fully operational, the hotspot will be a managed connection & will provide limited bandwidth. Visitors will be asked to complete a short visitor survey before connection is established.

Mobile Mast: More info requested from Dales Surveying but as yet no reply, info. IERA to provide Survey Monkey to canvas views of Cuagach/Cleadale residents.

Museum: Ongoing

Signage at Pier: Quote received from All Round signs for wooden finger signs as suggested. We're not quite sure how the suggested signs would work ~ quote to be looked at again but it is thought wooden signs would cost over £500.

Fish Farm: Information day/panel discussion held. Suggest an IERA meeting devoted solely to discussion about the fish farm before a vote is held. Everyone is reminded of one of IEHT objectives:

To take all appropriate measures to conserve the natural heritage (being the flora and fauna, the geological, physiographical and archaeological features, and the natural beauty and amenity) of the Isle of Eigg for the benefit of the community of the island and the public at large and to promote open public access thereto insofar as this is not detrimental to such conservation;

SWT Visit: Susan Davies (director of conservation), Alan Anderson (head of reserves)& Amanda Bryan visited & met with directors & SWT warden. The visit was seen as being very useful. A number of issues were discussed ie IEHT/SWT relationship, extending role of warden, funding opportunities (important as SWT budgets are being reduced) & improving SWT profile on the island.

Big Lottery, Community Assets Fund:

Pier Redevelopment Plan: As we were not able to provide level of detail required for application to Coastal Communities Fund, we have submitted an expression of interest to Community Assets Fund.

This includes extension to An Laimhrig, various business units, a new shower/toilet block & new septic tank. A representative from the Big Lottery will visit on 17th October to discuss the project to ensure it fits the necessary criteria before a formal application is made.

AOB: A group of members of Scottish Land & Estates will be visiting on Wednesday 14th September. MF currently organising the afternoon's programme. Lunch at the hall provided by Eigg Bread, discussion with directors about what has been achieved followed by visits to electricity system etc

DONM: IEHT Board meeting Tuesday 13th September