**3rd Broadband Group Meeting**

**Of Sleat Community Trust**

**Tuesday 9th July 2013**

**7pm Meeting Room, Trust Offices**

1. **ATTENDENCE:**

Russell Armstrong (Ord); Moira Johnston (Drumfearn); Dr Leo Murray (Heaste); Peter McDermott (Aird); Sandra Byrne (Community Broadband Scotland); Calum Stiven (SCT); Angus Robertson (SCT)

**APPOLOGIES**

**2 Introductions**

CS introduced to the group as the new graduate employee of the Trust, to be working on Broadband provision during his 1 year contracted term. All parties introduced to one another.

**3 Community Broadband Survey Report**

Survey Report circulated and presentation by CS on the key findings of the Report.

Discussion on the current provision for Broadband within the areas outlined. Feedback from the group corroborating with Survey findings. Interest noted on several points brought up within the report.

MD asked question of what will be done with the Hebnet Installation on Tarskavaig. Question also raised as to whether Tarskavaig Hebnet customers will receive compensation payments for their installation costs if CBS funding is achieved by the SCT. SB indicated that this will not be the case.

Action: SCT to forward an electronic copy of the Survey Report to Sandra Byrne.

**4 Community Broadband Scotland Overview**

SB outlined the government two-tier phased programme of rolling out super-fast broadband throughout Scotland, with the assurance that all areas receiving less than 2Mb/s will be applicable for funding from CBS.

LM asked whether Heaste will continue to be applicable for CBS funding, based upon the assumption that BT super-fast fibre-optic cable service will be put into Broadford; and this will increase broadband speeds throughout the surrounding area supplied by ADSL cable broadband infrastructure. No definitive answer was given, although it was reiterated that Heaste would still be served by ADSL in this eventuality, and that Broadband speeds drop off significantly after the first mile or so of ADSL cable.

[CS to give an estimate of super-fast Broadband speeds, with diminishing effect applied across 6 miles of ADSL cable, as relative to Heaste(?)]

LM asked for a timescale from CBS for funding to be brought through. SB outlined the commitments and limitations of CBS: CBS is to plug the gaps in infrastructure development from the BT rollout of fibre optic cable throughout Scotland (aimed at providing 85% of the total population). CBS is waiting to have final confirmation on exactly where this will be, but in the meantime aims to work funding “from the outside in” those areas who are least likely to gain a faster connection. This interim period will probably last two years, and CBS invites areas looking to gain funding to apply through a three-phased application process, the second of which is the submission of a Survey Report.

Based on the immediate demand for Wireless broadband provision in Heaste, LM asked for a more specific timescale for the funding application.

Action: SCT to fulfil the last phase of application to CBS by submitting a business plan for providing a wireless network broadband provision to the areas targeted in the design study and survey report.

It is hoped that upon application of this document, that a timescale for a funding decision will be decided upon.

LM indicated he will go back to Heaste community group, having stated the likelihood that they will break away from SCT plans to supply broadband to that area.

MJ also to go back to Drumfearn community group with the notion of setting up their own wireless broadband network (with connection through Heaste to the “tegola II” network administered by HUBS and provided via Ben Mhialairgh and SMO host site).

Action: SCT to keep interested parties from both Heaste and Drumfearn up-to-date on the progression of the funding process with CBS.

MJ enquired about the cost of fibre optic cable. Discussion on the cost of laying down community-owned fibre optic cable. Rough costs of cable given for cable, but that the costs of installation would greatly inflate this figure.