**2st Meeting of Sleat Development Forum**

**Thursday, 23rd January 2013,**

**Meeting Room Canna, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**.

1. **ATTENDANCE:**

Neil Stephen (Chair), Angus Robertson & Calum Stiven (all Sleat Community Trust), Stephen McKeown (Clan Donald Lands Trust), Rory Flynn (Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative), Ian Renwick, Drew Millar & Hamish Fraser (Skye and Lochalsh Councillors), Willie MacKinnon (Ward Manager - Eilean a’ Cheὸ), Lachie MacDonald (Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association), Domhnall Angaidh MacIllinnein (Sabhal Mor Ostaig), Kate Earnshaw (NHS), Rob Ware (Sleat Community Council).

**APOLOGIES:** Malcolm Younger and Lady Lucilla Noble (both Fearann Eilean Iarmain), Jane McDermott (SCT), Stuart MacPherson (HIE), Claire Munro (Sleat Community Council).

**2**. **ON GOING & FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS**

**3.a *Sleat Community Trust (SCT)***

**(i) Forest Enterprise –** A new wood fuel shed is currently in the construction phase within Tormore forest and is expected to be operational in the coming months. This will then provide a facility that secures the continuity and quality of SCTs wood chip (biomass) supply chain. The Forestry Commission senior management team are due to visit the area in April to view the Trust’s Community Forest Enterprise operation.

**(ii) Pipeline Projects –** Europeanfunding restrictions have pushed timescales for the prospective installation of an automated petroleum pump (Filling Station) and broadband network (covering populations to the West, East and North of Sleat) back to June of this year.

**(iii) Forest Acquisition –** SCT is also looking to purchase a section of forest around Kinloch through the National Forest Land Scheme. This process is still at a very early stage.

**(iv) Community Events –** SCT is planning several events to commemorate its Tenth Anniversary this year.

**3.b *Clan Donald Lands Trust (CDLT)***

**(i) Tourist Season –** Preparations are commencing for the new season which starts April 12th. CDLT will build on business gains made in the last year. Bookings from bus tour operators have shown a healthy increase already for the coming season.

**(ii) Outdoor Recreation –** Armadale Activities**,** a growing business based at CDLT, is now expanding into Clay Pigeon shooting.CDLT has also signed an agreement with the Mountain Bothy Association to develop a derelict cottage at Dalavil. It is hoped that this will open up the western side of the peninsula to visitors and the community. CDLT are also working with Highland Council to develop footpaths and signage en route to the site. **Action1:** SM to coordinate with SCT Environment Group on any future beach clean events in the Dalavil area.

**(iii) Sale of Land –** Property sales are progressing in several areas, including vacant croft land in Tarskavaig.

**(iv) Pipeline Projects –** Forestry, biomass, and signage projects are all in assessment/ planning phase.

**3.c *Fearrann Eilean Iarmain (FEI)***

*No update available. It was noted that FEI have expressed an interest in any housing & development projects taking place within the area.*

**3.d *Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI)***

**HUB Project –** The Big Lottery Fundhave scheduled a hearing to determine whether CDI have been successful in their application for £1m towards realising the £1.7m required to carry out the HUB project. CDI are also now looking into the possibilities to secure the additional funding required for the planned project to take place.

**Hydro Scheme –** A small hydro project is also planned for the area. Supply could potentially be tied into the HUB project although it could also be exported to the National Grid. Options are being worked through.

**Fund Raising Events –**CDI continue to raise income through a series of local events including a Funk & Soul night, Valentine Day Dance and possible Boat Day. A local Crofting Olympics event was previously successful but CDI currently do not have a suitable host location for a repeat staging of the event. There may be potential funding opportunities in conjunction with the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. **Information:** Seall involvement in event planning recommended.

**Action 2**: CDI to discuss the possibility of hosting an event with SCT and CDLT.

**3.e *Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO)***

**(i) Kilbeg Development (*excluding Sports & Recreation*) *–*** The first phases of development of the Kilbeg Campus are expected to commence from the 10th February pending final budgetary approval. Construction timelines are constrained by funding deadlines and initial phases are expected to be completed by the end of 2015/ early 2016.

**(ii) Housing** **–** A variety of accommodation options are hoped to be included alongside student accommodation within the Kilbeg development. The details of this are expected to be informed in part by the commissioning of a Housing Needs Survey.

**3.f *Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA)***

**(i) Major Housing Projects *–*** LM gave a brief update on the LSHA projects progressing in the wider area. LSHA involvement in the Kilbeg project is dependent on feedback from a housing needs survey.

**(ii) Government Funding Opportunities *–*** Additional funding has been announced for the Highland area through Government-backed *Grant and Discretionary* Funding. **Information:** Now is the time to identify housing development projects to access this funding window. **Status:** There are currently no plans that have been submitted for the Sleat area. Applications are to be directed to Highland Council.

**3.g**. ***Highland Council (HC)***

**(i) Housing *–*** WM presented anupdate on current HC housing within the Sleat area.

**(ii) Flooding Issue** ***–*** The issue of flooding on the main road at Ferindonald has been identified and is being investigated.

**(iii) Education *–*** Sleat Primary School/ Bun Sgoil Shleite is considered to be a “red-line” school and will therefore not be susceptible to Council cut-backs.

**(iv) Road Repairs *–*** The Tormore road repair issue has been resolved.

**3.h**. ***NHS***

**(i) Redesign of Services *–*** KE presented a recent review and planned redesign of services throughout the area. This process is to undergo several phases of public consultation before plans can be officially announced. Discussion followed regarding the issue of elderly care in Sleat. SCT offered any assistance it could with the consultation process in the Sleat area. **Information:** If this current window of opportunity is not grasped then future services may be in jeopardy.

**3.i**. ***Sleat Community Council (SCC) –*** SCC also raised the aforementioned issue of flooding as well as the related issue of future water supply for the Sleat area. Concern was expressed that the current supply is not adequate to meet future demand. A meeting has been arranged between SCC with Scottish Water to discuss these issues.

**4**. **HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY** (Declaration of Interest: NS & LM)

Two quotes circulated for a Housing Needs Survey to be carried out across the area. **Action3:** SCT to choose a winning bid and to formulate a plan for securing the necessary funding. Support for the survey noted from LSHA.

**5**. **SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY**

An “Awards for All” Big Lottery fund application for facilities to be located in proximity to the Fas Building at SMO is expected to be submitted around mid-summer. SMO are drawing on the experience and support of Sport Scotland & HC, amongst others, to secure such facilities. A process of community consultation will ensue which will include the Trust in determining the scope of facilities.

**6**. **TRANSPORT LINKS: FLY SKYE**

 SMO maintain close links with the campaign to reintroduce a commercial air link to Ashaig Aerodrome.