

LDCI PROJECT UPDATE

LAIRG MAGAZINE INSERT

Hello everyone

It has been some time since we updated you on the LDCI Care & Wellbeing project and so we thought we would provide you with some information to keep you up to date.

In early 2019, LDCI were approached by Albyn Housing Society with a view to a joint approach on the provision of affordable housing on the site owned by the Community. Progress was made in that this allowed a detailed planning application to be submitted for four Albyn style houses and four other houses for the elderly based on a 2-bedroom bungalow approach. Planning was received in July 2020.

Unfortunately, during this period, COVID hit. Albyn stopped work on all future investments for a while over the initial lockdown and once the restrictions eased a number of factors affected progress which included Albyn reviewing the overall costs of the project and significant personnel changes within Albyn. This all combined to slow down progress on the project.

However, work has now restarted on the following:

- 1) Work to submit the building warrant application for the site
- 2) Work to tender the project so that the full costs are understood - this will allow Albyn and LDCI to review the overall funding package for the project
- 3) The drafting for a formal Memorandum of agreement between LDCI and Albyn Housing Society to govern those arrangements of the parties for the project and agree issues such as land ownership/sale, project management, funding and long-term ownership and management of the housing units, including how these are allocated.

Please see overleaf...



COACH HOUSE TO GO FOR SALE ON THE OPEN MARKET

LDCI always anticipated being part of the overall funding solution for the project and indeed have successfully been through the expression of interest phase with the Scottish Government Rural Housing Fund.

However, LDCI will have to find substantial monies towards aspects of this project, so to raise funds the board of Directors of LDCI have agreed to sell the Coach House property. This has been agreed with the Scottish Land Fund and the Big Lottery who originally funded the buying of the old Sutherland Arms site, with the revenue generated by the sale being solely used to part fund the overall Care and wellbeing project. This property will be on the open market in the next few weeks.

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