



DEVELOPMENT COLL LTD

Community Newsletter

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2008 has started with a bang with visits from architects, engineers, energy consultants and land valuers. The New Year has also seen a change in personnel in the Development Coll Office. Following the resignation of Fiona Carswell as Local Development Officer, Frances Macintyre stepped down as Admin assistant and the company then appointed Fra and Emma Grant to share the job of LDO.

News Update on Projects

Community centre

Design Process

Many of you attended Karen Anderson's presentation or the drop in surgery during the week of 21st January. If you have still not seen the designs, they can be viewed on: www.collcommunitycentre.co.uk or you can come and see the plans at the Development Coll office. As well as these opportunities for adults to have their say, the younger members of our community were also consulted with a presentation to the primary school children and to Coll students residing at the Glencruitten hostel in Oban. In order for the architect to progress onto the next stage of design, the feedback at this stage has now ended. Karen Anderson will be returning to Coll on 1st March to present the next building design. Assuming that there are no major requests for changes, we will base our business plan upon this building. This will not necessarily be the final product, as much of our constructed building will depend on final costs, the funding that we can secure and a finalisation of our community's priorities. For example, to keep within budget, it may be that we

decide to opt for a sprung wooden floor rather than an additional meeting room space. We should remember that we may attain some of the elements of our (fairly extensive) plan through separately funded stand-alone projects. This has been done successfully by other communities and has included separate projects for outdoor sports pitch or a children's play area. It is important that our final design has the scope to incorporate these other projects as and when we can finance them.

The next community consultation meeting is likely to be 2nd March, but watch out for posters nearer the time.

As part of the feasibility study which feeds into the business plan for this project we have had a valuation done of the land and an engineer has made initial exploratory holes. We await the results of these investigations.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who took the time to design a tartan. We have some wonderful entries and are hoping to publish them in this year's Coll Magazine.

Thank you to Linda Blamire who has offered to lighten the winter months with Quiz nights on behalf of the Coll Community Centre.

Thanks to Heather, Tom, Brian, Ali S and Julie who gathered together on a dark and windy night (don't actually know if it was windy, but it probably was) in order to start sifting through directories of Trusts and Charitable bodies to whom we may be able to apply for funding.

Alison Fraser organised the above evening and is in charge of the overall fundraising campaign. If you wish to become involved or have any specific ideas, please contact Alison: 346 or alison@projecttrust.org.uk

Gifts:

Many thanks to Donald MacFarlane for his generous donation of 4 bottles of fine whisky...watch out for raffles over the summer!

Robert Bleach (friend of Brian and Moira's) who works for an off-shore oil company nominated Development Coll in a prize draw run by his company. We are very pleased to announce that we are the winners of £5000! Many thanks to Robert for making the nomination.

Naming competition:

The deadline for this competition has been set for 19th April. Please send any entries to the Development Coll office or directly to Seonaid who is running the competition seonaidmb@yahoo.co.uk

The winner of this prize is entitled to TWO return tickets on any of Highland Airways scheduled services between Oban, Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.

Calendar of events

Fra is putting together a set of dates for 2008...please let her know if your group are holding any events.

Recycling:

The Coll Recycling group has been highly commended in the recent GRAB newsletter. You can see a copy at the Island Café, or online: www.grab.org.uk. The silage bale wrap scheme is in place for its inaugural shipment, but in order to maximise the bulk leaving the island, this has been put on hold until the end of the current feeding season in May.

Village Enhancement Scheme

We have been making some progress on four elements of this scheme: a path up the school brae, restoration of the old water pump; building of a viewpoint/plaque to the isles (located at the church); and the building of a slipway. We are still very much in the initial stages of these projects in terms of drawing up plans and contacting land owners. The Education Forum has agreed to speak with the tutor of the upcoming Dry Stone Walling Course about involvement in these projects. For example, the stone wall around the water pump is in a state of disrepair, as is the wall going up right hand side of the school brae and would benefit from some community time.

War Memorial restoration project: plans are evolving; work will start in the spring with the better weather

Notice boards: Julian has agreed to be a key holder for the large notice board in front of the Post Office. This means groups and individuals can use this board instead of the shop window, but it may be that we have to reduce the size of notices to A5 during busy times. The other boards are to be used for the new poster containing general information about Coll

Cal Mac

There is a new proposal on the Cal Mac website regarding the Mallaig-Lochboisdale proposal. To view it yourself go to: calmac.co.uk and follow the "company information" link on the left hand side.

In summary, either a new boat gets built or Loti goes to the Mallaig-Lochboisdale sailing and we get the Clansman with the Isle of Arran as the replacement vessel. Summer timetable would see Tuesday and Thursday swapping round and we would have 2 calls on a Friday; Winter timetable would have a Sunday sailing throughout the winter, a double call on Sundays, and

the sailings are all about two hours later than the current timetable.

Renewable Energy

Paul Phare of HICEC and Sam Hesling of ATMOS visited the island during the week of 21st Jan. This marks the official start of the feasibility study into the renewable energy project. Paul also attended the meeting of the working group and had a separate meeting with Karen Anderson to ensure renewable energy considerations are in place from the start. Below is Sam Heslings' initial report:

During the visit to Coll it was possible to both speak to members of the Committee and carry out field survey work on the island to assess the potential for community wind energy development. The assessment of the island is following what is termed a 'dynamic design process' whereby outcomes from discussion, site surveying, consultations and technical analysis feed into the design process to ultimately allow the optimum project design, or designs, to be realised. Outlined below are the findings so far, and some of the work which had been kicked off:

- Access for wind turbine components, which can constitute loads larger than normal HGV's, has been assessed on the existing roads network. While the roads could potentially be utilised from the ferry slipway to Arnabost, where the road splits to go north east and south west, with only minor improvements access beyond this point will prove to be difficult due to tight bends, restricted width in places and vertical alignment problems where low loads may ground. Work is ongoing to ascertain the level of roads upgrading a project could support.
- The north western coast of the island has been assessed for landing craft access and while options exist these are subject to ongoing feasibility work.
- Ongoing consultation with Scottish and Southern Energy will dictate where a project could "plug in" to the grid, and how much capacity could be made available.
- Ornithological interests are very important on the island and any project design will be sympathetic to this. Early contact was made with the previous and current RSPB wardens to help give the project an early steer on bird

issues, and also to keep the RSPB informed from the start.

- Early contact has been made with Argyll and Bute planning department and the appropriate policies on which any project will be assessed have been confirmed. Detailed consultation will be ongoing as potential sites are identified and assessed. Similarly Scottish Natural Heritage will be informed of the work being undertaken and any comments received will feed into the design process.
- Wind data from the Tiree mast is available to the project and will allow a more accurate forecast of wind resource across the island to be established through the use of specialist software. This will allow a higher degree of certainty to be ascribed to any predicted energy capture. This data is a valuable resource and is gratefully received from the Tiree Project
- Consultation with telecommunication link operators will be undertaken shortly but any interference is predicted to be minimal or non existent.
- An analysis of potential effects on military and civilian airspace interests is underway to establish if they pose any constraints, and to inform the design process.

Training available on the role of Directors in a Community Company

Lorne MacLeod, the chair of HICEC has been asked by Rhona Sutherland of AIE to deliver training on the island regarding the role of Directors, setting up a constitutionalised group and gaining charitable status. A two hour session will be held, possibly on Wed 13th February. If you are interested in attending the session, please speak with Fra or Emma

Housing

We have been in further discussion with Gregor Cameron over potential sites. On advice from our funding partners, whenever possible we need to work in close association with West Highland Housing Association to share the costs of any professionals that both projects may employ. This could be sharing the costs of Quantity Surveyors or engineers if the timing is right.

SCVO Village Hall Summit, Feb 23rd, Aviemore

You may have seen this event publicised in the Press and Journal. Hugh Donaldson, convenor of Initiative at the Edge will be in attendance and will report back to us.

Fishing

Iain Gillies (as the Scottish Island's Federation representative) has been in touch about fishing issues. There is a conference about the fishing industry to be held in Brussels. Fra has passed on a series of questions to those involved in the fishing industry on Coll, and is collecting responses to be returned to Iain Gillies

Applications pending

We are waiting to hear back from a variety of funding bodies with regard to other groups and projects including the Senior Social Club and the Playpark. We will keep you informed of any developments

Homecoming Scotland:

Would you like funding to organise an arts, music or other cultural event in 2009? Homecoming Scotland is a programme which will seek to attract expatriots and those with an interest in Scotland to visit the country during 2009. The year has been selected as it is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. Funding is available for groups who seek to organise events for the year 2009. Information about the funding source - and a link to obtaining guidance material and application forms - can be sourced at www.homecomingscotland.com/funding

AND FINALLY

Join Us!

Development Coll currently has 85 members. Would you like to become a

member...are you a member already and would like to become more involved? We are always in need of helping hands...it may suit you to take charge of an element of a project, it may suit to give a couple of hours work as a one off. However you would like to be involved, please contact Fra or Emma.

We want you as a member of Development Coll Ltd

You are all members of the Coll community and your voices are important to the future of the island. As members of the development company your voice will be heard.

A high membership means that we have more effective lobbying power. The more members we have the bigger voice we have and the more likely we are to bring about change.

Why should I become a member?

All members have a greater voice in determining the future of Coll in that their membership demonstrates an ownership and a share in a vision of Coll's future, which is:

"to develop the economic, social and cultural sustainability of our community by harnessing the quality of our resources, people and island environment."

You have the right to attend company AGMs and the influence of voting on company proposals at those meetings including appointments of directors.