

ALPS update for Management Group 06th February 2012

- **Funding:** The fifth funding claim submitted to HLF was accepted and has been paid into the ALPS account. The following additional funding claims and associated reports have been submitted: sixth ERDF capital; 5th ERDF revenue; 4th LEADER
- **Gateway Woodland:** There is still no agreed specification for Gateway Woodland. Advice has been sought from SAC Forestry division. The initial favoured advisor (SAC) contacted to assist with the drafting of such a specification was unable to commit due to family reasons, and a second advisor (Highland Birchwoods) although initially enthusiastic has been unable to commit. At present Archie MacLellan is drafting a first draft specification for broad consultation. It is still anticipated that a forestry advisor will assist with its final completion once a suitable candidate is secured. Funding from HLF for Gateway Woodland is secure until 2015.
- **Clachan Church:** A final programme of works has been agreed with the contractor: **Start of Feb.** Temporary 'floating' road constructed to allow vehicular access to church of slating and scaffolding materials. This will be removed and site returned to original condition upon completion of works; **W/S 13 Feb** Scaffold to be erected; **W/S 27 Feb** Slaters to start roof work taking approx 8 weeks/ Stonemason and Slater to work together; **W/S 12 March** Windows on site and to be fitted/ Painter (weather proofing of gable ends) is on standby for when weather improves; **W/S 14 May** Scaffold down; **end of May** Return of ground to original condition with seeding if required. There is some concern that the schedule is tight if bad weather delays roofing works and the church is to be ready for a wedding booked for the 2nd June. A condition of the granted bat license is that all roof works are completed by 1st May.
- **Bealach interpretation:** The design has been finalised and quotes are being sought to supply the inscribed stone.
- **Smiddy Wood regeneration:** Two roundalls in the lower grassy area have now been erected and young treelets planted to form copses (16 crab apple; 12 cherry' 16 hawthorn; 8 rowan; 6 sweet chestnut). Planting of the remaining trees on the slopes will be completed once the ground thaws (750 birch; 500 oak; 300 beech; 500 ash; 200 blackthorn; 250 bird cherry; 250 hazel; 750 Scots Pine; 500 larch).
- **Beechwood seat:** The design has been finalised and quotes sought for the provision of the inscribed stonework and to undertake the construction. Dan MacRae has expressed an interest and has been asked to supply a quote and timescale for undertaking the work.
- **Interpretation:** Valerie Hodgkinson has completed first draft maps which have been circulated for comments, and has prepared draft concepts for the aesthetics of all literature which will be circulated shortly.

- **Roundhouse project:** A two day construction workshop to erect the roof (led by Brian Wilson) has been rescheduled for the 24th and 25th February. Bad weather and illness required the last minute cancelling of two previous scheduled attempts.
- **Archaeological Trail/Kenmore:** Ardheslaig Trail. The contract opportunity has been advertised in the West Highland Free Press with three notes of interest expressed so far. The deadline for tenders is the 21st February.
- **Coillegille path:** Material to repair one short (ca. 100m) section of the Coillegille path in bad need of resurfacing has been purchased and will be heli-dropped to allow work to proceed later in February. The lift takes advantage of the helicopter required to distribute fencing materials at Culduie and Camusterrach.
- **South Coast Deer Fence:** Good progress is being made and the Toscaig section (2,475 m) has almost been completed.
- **Festival & Events:** A draft programme for 2012 has been drafted for circulation. There is scope for the inclusion of many more events.
- **Bealach dykes:** A contractor's meeting is still to be arranged to view works. Thus, no tenders have yet been received.
- **Carnoch Hazel Woods:** A draft management plan has been prepared and will shortly be circulated for comments; branded waymarks (oak) and inscribed site stone markers (4) have been ordered for the development of the new low footprint trail, and the trail route finalised. Draft text for an interpretive leaflet text has been prepared and circulated for comment.