

## Pre- Christmas ALPS update for Management Group 16th December 2011

### General

EC will be on leave between the 19<sup>th</sup> December and the 7<sup>th</sup> January

SB will also be on leave between the 19<sup>th</sup> December and the 4<sup>th</sup> January, with the exception of a few days during the week of the 19<sup>th</sup> to deal with tenders related to dyking and interpretation work and the drafting of path specifications. The Xmas period should be quiet but emails/post will be checked by SB throughout, and anything urgent dealt with.

- **Funding:** A fifth report and funding claim was submitted to HLF during the first week of November. The claim is for £54,000. A Notification of Change has been submitted to LEADER for the £52,000 grant from LEADER related to Clachan. The original application included cost estimates, and there was a need for these to be updated to reflect actual tender values. The NOC was passed to the LEADER Local Area Group Committee. They have since approved the requested changes. Discussions continue with ERDF regarding clarification of past claims (four successfully completed to date) and the flexibility of funding portioning between projects. This should be clear in early January before fifth claims are submitted.
- **Gateway Woodland:** Bruce Taylor visited Applecross on the 6<sup>th</sup> December and plans for this project were discussed in detail with the ALPS management group, and subsequently presented to the broader community in the evening. Collated minutes relating to all discussions and a plan of action are available and have been forwarded separately.
- **Applecross paths:** Initial work has been completed on the Coillegille path (primarily drainage works and some pitching). The four new Bay paths have stood up well to the recent bad weather. Where drainage adjustments have needed to be made, the contractor returned and completed the necessary work this week. A specification for the repairs required on the Ardheslaig path and also the Archaeological Trail will be drafted during the week of the 19<sup>th</sup> December, and it should be possible to put this work out to tender early January.
- **Clachan Church:** Ground works have largely been completed, the heating units installed and much of the work related to the toilet and store room completed. The bat license was finally approved on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, and works can now start on the roof at our first convenience.
- **Interpretation:** Tenders have been invited for the design of some initial interpretation elements of ALPS – namely, the walks leaflet, the production of specialist trail booklets (e.g. archaeology) and interpretation (leaflets) related to Milton Loch and Carnoch woodland. Tenders are expected on the 21<sup>st</sup> December. Expenditure is required on some elements of the above by February 2011 due to funding constraints imposed by SNH. Final feedback has been received from the management group on the Bealach interpretive seating area and

where possible amendments are being made, although the actual fundamental design cannot be altered at this stage. A revised version will be circulated before work continues.

- **Dyking:** Tenders have been invited for work on Smiddy and Bealach dykes (phase two). So far seven contractors have expressed an interest to date, with tenders received from three. The deadline for tenders is the 21<sup>st</sup> December
- **Training:** The Fieldfare Trust visited Applecross on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December. An access audit has been conducted on all paths (new and old) in the glen and bay area. Training was provided on the Equalities Act 2010 and the provision of intellectual and physical access to all. This is a priority for all funders. 12 people attended a two-hour training session on the equalities act, with six attending a session on the provision of guided walks to people with disabilities.
- **South Coast Deer Fence:** A minor works contract has been finalized and Kevin Ronaldson (contractor) has been visiting Applecross and liaising with the crofting clerks with a view to work starting at Toscaig in the New Year.

**The next ALPS Management Group meeting is scheduled for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm, Estate office.**

Thank you!