

ALPS update for Management Group 10th March 2010

- The second ALPS newsletter was printed and distributed on the 4th March. So far feedback has been positive.
- Revised plans for Clachan church have been received from David Somerville related to the inclusion of a toilet and store; Alistair McCowan, Elodie Chopin, Jacqui Liuba and Sam Bridgewater visited Lochcarron church to view the air source heat pump installed there. There were some concerns viewed about the appropriateness of installing such a heating system in Clachan (to be discussed at the meeting)
- Emma Shirley from Planning (Dingwall) visited Applecross on the 8th March to inspect the proposed path lines related to the submitted ALPS planning application. Her immediate response was positive and barring any unforeseen objections believes that permission should be granted by the 1st April. They have, however, asked for clarification of 'microrouting' of the paths to avoid sites of archaeological interest such as 'St Maelrubha's cell'. Cathy Dagg has agreed to respond to them on our behalf and undertake any marking out of sites where appropriate. She will be visiting Applecross on the 12th March.
- A CDM (Construction [Design & Management] Regulations) coordinator has been appointed for the path work (Chris York) and a CDM plan is being devised. This is a statutory requirement.
- A Minor Works Contract has been drafted for the path contractor.
- Good progress has been made with the Bardic School. A flyer and programme are currently being drafted. Confirmed speakers so far include Kenny MacDonald, Aonghas MacNeacail, Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul, Kenny Thompson, Rody Gorman, Màiri Sìne Caimbeul and Maoilios Caimbeul.
- Work has continued on drafting the CCAGS applications related to the South Coast Deer Fence liaising with the crafting clerks, with Archie Maclellan taking the lead on this. It is hoped that these applications will be submitted by the end of March once they have been approved and signed by the clerks.
- The Council have begun work on 'Bealach dykes' phase 1, with Geoff Walker undertaking much of the work. They hope to have this completed by mid April 2011.
- *Interpretation* will start work on the interpretation plan on the 4th and 5th April with informal 'drop-in sessions' for community consultation organized. The plan should be completed by the end of June 2011.
- Spring ALPS contract opportunities related to evaluation surveys and path building have been advertised in the ALPS newsletter and on local noticeboards. There seems to be significant interest in the survey work (at least four notes of interest to date) with only one expression of interest so far in the path building work.
- SB has been in discussions with Venture Trust about driving forward and funding the 'Regeneration by Adventure' projects. As there has been a significant timelag between when the plans were first

drafted, we are looking at the original proposals in detail to see if they are still relevant, and if so, if there is any need to amend aspects of them.

- Bruce Taylor has provided a draft species/planting schedule for Smiddy Wood and work has begun on removal of gorse behind Smiddy Cottages.
- Two claims have now been submitted to HLF, one to LEADER, one to SNH and one to HIE. Those to HLF, SNH and HIE have all been approved. The LEADER claim is in the process of being considered. ERDF have still not provided a final offer letter, and AM, SB and EC have been working to finalise this.
- A proposal has been drafted for the Forestry Commission's 'International Year of Forests' programme for support for the Hazel woods and festivals programme. The IYF grants are small (less than £5K) and support community initiatives. It is hoped to submit this claim in the next financial year (April 2011)
- After meeting with HLF in Edinburgh in early Feb., SB was asked to supply updated cashflows, risk register and 'ALPS management & responsibilities' documents as the ones supplied in the original application were thought to be out of date. This has been done. They have since asked for a revised Training Plan.
- A community walk has been organised for the 12th March 9meet at the campsite carpark at 1030) to visit all the sites that would come under the archaeological trail. A path builder (George Mundell) and archaeologist (Cathy Dagg) will accompany the walk. The aim of the day is to provisionally mark out and waypoint a route that could link all sites under one trail.
- An open meeting to discuss fuelwood has been arranged for the 29th March (community hall, 7pm). This follows on from the fuelwood survey.