

ALPS update for Management Group 11 March 2013

➤ **Claims & funding:**

- **HLF** – a claim is currently being submitted for HLF for the period Oct 2012-Feb 2013
- **HIE** – final claim for HIE has been submitted. Projects and funding are complete.
- **LEADER** – a meeting took place 5 March 2013 with Liz Whiteford (project officer). ALPS has been given the green light to submit applications for:
 - an extension of the project to 30 September
 - a change of project for the Bardic School
 - use of contingency & inflation for the Bardic School

It was confirmed that ALPS could submit an application for:

- use of underspend on Bealach na Ba interpretation
- Archiving Training
- Equipment & Utilities

ALPS has also agreed a way forward to cancel out any overclaim that may have occurred within the revenue projects. This is an excellent result. JW will submit all paperwork by w/c 11 March.

- **Medieval Chapel:** JW met with Mia Scott at Highland Buildings Preservation Trust (HBPT) on 20 February to find out progress on the chapel. HBPT has reached an impasse as they cannot move forward until they have full funding in place. Currently, HLF (ALPS) is the only funder. The aim of the project is to restore the chapel to a consolidated ruin. HBPT has a project plan with outline costs, which JW has put to HLF in order to release funds. Once underway, the project should take no more than four months, however, no start date has been confirmed as yet.
- **Path works (Kenmore-Applecross glen):** work began on the Kenmore-the Applecross glen path w/c 5 Feb and is progressing well. There is approximately three months of work to do, dependent on weather. JW to enquire with Kenmore crofting community about grant funding for part of the Kenmore route.
- **South Coast Deer Fence (deer grid):** surfacing for the layby and around the grid took place on 15 February. (**fence**) The final stage of fencing is taking place w/c 11 March and the verging work is also due to take place w/c 11 March. Archie requested an extension for CCAGS grant applications to 31 March, which was approved.
- **Hebridean barns:** A proposal for completion of the northern hebridean barn is attached for discussion at the meeting on 11 March. We are awaiting comments from Cathy Dagg on the Conservation Plan. JW will circulate for approval as soon as we are in receipt of Cathy's input. JW, Alistair McCowan,

Duncan McCowan and Lesley Kilbride met with weaver, Jane Wilkinson on 15 February. Jane feels confident that she can produce a structure that will let in light through small windows in the willow. Jane has also confirmed that she will mix some hazel into the screens as this is something that authentically would have been utilised. Jane will begin work on the screens 20 June and will complete 28 June. The work will cost approximately £2,200 and an accurate quote is being drafted. There will be two days of workshops so that local people can get involved in a small part of the restoration of the hebridean barns. There is a small amount of work to do in order to complete the build of the northern barn. JW has asked Duncan McCowan to provide a costing and a proposal is attached for approval at the meeting on 11 March. **(south barn)** Planning consent has been granted by the Highland Council and Duncan McCowan has been instructed to begin work on constructing a roof which will begin asap.

- **Lime kiln:** Martin Wildgoose has eight days remaining on the project but has promised that the first sight of sunshine will bring him over this way. JW to chase.

- **Gateway woodland project:** update attached from Archie MacLellan.

- **Bealach dykes:** contractor, Geoff Walker was on site undertaking a small amount of work in February and was again in Applecross w/c 4 March. However, both Darren and Geoff will begin in earnest early April. In the meantime, JW to advertise further works for tender.

- **Interpretation:**
 - **Booklets – (Wildlife & Heritage)** both booklets have been delivered to the ALPS office. JW has spoken with Gordon (Heritage Centre) and Ali Brown (Post Office) and both have agreed to sell the booklets throughout the year. JW to also speak with Tracey (Information Centre) to confirm that the booklets can be sold there also. Proposal for sale price attached for discussion at the meeting on 11 March.
 - **(Geology)** text and images due w/c 11 March from Donald and Seoris. Part of the text and images has already arrived. JW is in the process of editing the document and a meeting to run through any changes is set for mid March.
 - **(Archaeology)** Original text drafted by Cathy Dagg in 2011. Sent to Owen for approval; also sent to Gordon to cross check accuracy. Owen provided comment on the text 7 March and will run through the last part before going away at the end of March. JW will be incorporating comments and a final version will then be circulated to Owen and Cathy for approval. JW still chasing Cathy Dagg for the illustration of the broch.
 - **Interpretation Panels** – panels have been delivered and are in the process of being placed in the ground. Valerie has done a fantastic job and they look really understated but informative.

- **Signage** – signage is on order. Twelve week lead time. We are awaiting final proofs before giving the go ahead.
 - **Bealach Interpretation** – Dan Macrae is due to begin work w/c 11 March. He will complete on this project by end of March 2013.
- **Hazel Woods & Roundhouse: (Hazel Woods)** Les Bates (hazel regeneration expert) held a third volunteer coppicing day on 15 Feb within the fenced area of Càrnach Woodland. Again there was a great attendance (15 people) and Judy provided lunch which was eaten sitting on the edge of the pits in the hebridean barn – a routine that seems to be very enjoyable. Les is hosting further volunteer days throughout the spring to coppice the hazel and to work on other monitoring elements. The next event is 9 March. The school children had a tree planting morning on 27 February with the help of parents. It was a really enjoyable time and the fenced area looks like it has a new life. **(Roundhouse)** The reed is drying and the thatcher has been contacted to set a date for completing the roof. Lesley is in the process of collecting the hazel for the structure of the roof and there will be a volunteer day in due course.
- **Broch:** James Goldthorpe is in the process of constructing a new shed for the site (wooden) and this will also form the backdrop for the broch interpretation. **(broch leaflet)** JW has sent draft text (written by Cathy) to Owen for comment. He is working on this at present and will return comments by end of March.
- **Walled Garden Greenhouses:** approval has been granted for match funding (ERDF). Initial discussions have begun and a meeting took place between Peter, Jackie, JW and Alistair McCowan on site to look at practicalities. Alistair has produced a specification, Duncan McCowan is tasked with providing costings.
- **Bardic School:** following a meeting with LEADER on 5 March, provisional confirmation has been granted for the Bardic School budget. The official forms need to be submitted before formal approval is granted. However, the following has been given the green light (provisionally):
- extension of project to 30 September
 - change of project plan to 3x one week course over three years (2011-2013)
 - use of contingency & inflation to bring budget to £8,125 for 2013

In the meantime, while it was unclear whether funding for the Bardic School would go ahead, alternative funding options were explored. Kate Cameron applied for funding with Bord na Gaidhlig and JW applied for funding with Coman na Gaidhlig. Feedback for both funding streams is due imminently.

- **Land Conditioning & habitat improvements:** ALPS is looking at projects proposed by the individual townships, such as hedging, tree planting, wildlife corridors and ditching; to date, Ali MacLeod, DJ Youngston and Duncan Fraser have proposed projects. Ali's and DJ's have been submitted while JW has a meeting set with Duncan w/c 11 March to go through the application forms. Scottish Woodlands is in the process of submitting a survey and application to SRDP for funding of the Milltown woodland project.

- **Policies Woodland:** Bruce Taylor at Scottish Woodlands is booked (end of March) to survey potential requirement for tree surgery. Once this survey has been undertaken, it will be evident how much budget is remaining to plant trees, however, there should be enough funds for both tree surgery and all 500 trees.