

## ALPS update for Management Group

- Work on the presentation of the broch led by the Archaeological Society has ceased until after the conference of the 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Contractors are currently tendering for the work associated with its final presentation and path access.
- The Heritage Curator/Archivist position was advertised locally as well as in the Press and Journal and WHFP. Deadline for applications will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> September with interviews for the position to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.
- Contracts related to ALPS monitoring and evaluation (a prerequisite for HLF funding), the production of a website, the community interpretation plan, the coordination of the Bardic School and the paths scheduled for construction/repair around the bay area have recently been advertised locally and in the WHFP. Individual contractors have also been contacted directly and invited to tender. The deadline for all tenders is the 21<sup>st</sup> October. It is anticipated that with the exception of the path contract, work on all the above will begin prior to Xmas 2010. It is anticipated that the paths will be completed by summer 2011.
- During the closure of the Bealach this autumn, phase 1 of the ALPS Bealach dykes project (i.e. repair of some drystone revetment walls) will be undertaken
- Since the MG agreed at their last meeting that the windows of the Clachan Church should be replaced in their original style asap, the project architect has been contacted and the window design is being finalized with the assistance of Alistair McCowan. In addition, a bat survey has been undertaken and based on the findings of that survey, holes in the windows plugged to prevent hibernating bats from potentially delaying this work. Listed Building Consent will need to be applied for and once the design is complete, the window construction will put out to tender.
- An open meeting was held with the crofters of the southern coast with David Wright of the Department also attending. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the proposed south coast deer fence. It was agreed that CCAGS money might provide an appropriate funding avenue to match the HLF funds already in place. The minutes of this meeting have been approved by the clerks and David Wright and are now on the ALPS noticeboard. The line of the fence was walked on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September with ALPS personnel, the township clerks and a fencer and the route of the map is currently being mapped before being presented back to the crofters and the wider community for further discussion. The fence is being re-costed based on the findings of the survey to ensure that original costings are still valid. It is anticipated that each of the four relevant township committees will apply individually to the Department.
- Signs related to the Heritage Centre are currently being made bilingual using £1,430 money from Comunn na Gàidhlig.
- An ALPS Open Meeting providing an opportunity for local residents to discuss ALPS and ask questions about what is planned and how it will be implemented has been organized for the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.
- A LEADER enquiry form relating to obtaining further funds for the restoration of the Clachan Church has been submitted and has received an initial favourable response, although some changes to the enquiry form have been requested. This is a priority for action.
- ALPS staff have been in contact and met with most of the funders, including LEADER, ERDF, BnaG and CnG, in part to understand reporting requirements, and in the case of BnaG and CanG to procure further funds for the various gaelic components of ALPS.
- SB and EC have attended a Quickbooks accounting training day.

In short, all priorities listed at the time of the last MG meeting have been completed with the exception of the lime survey for Clachan Church and submitting first accounting claims to funders. After consultation with the conservation architect Andrew Wright it was decided that the lime survey was not a priority for action and is not necessary for the replacement of the windows. The first accounting claims to LEADER, HLF and ERDF have been delayed until early October. In part this is due to the project not really starting until early August, and the funders do not require the first claims to be made until November.