

ALPS update for Management Group 3 December 2012

- **Claims & funding:** The latest LEADER and HLF claims have been submitted. A Notification of Change has been submitted to ERDF; if approved, this will mean: extension of the project to end September 2012; movement of underspend from completed pathways project and that of Lonbain to undertake additional pathworks; and lastly to move the underspend from the Lime Kiln to the Walled Garden. JW is also in the process of applying for an extension of project time with LEADER; if agreed this will enable a further summer season of events to take place.

- **Path works:** the pathworks contract on the Torgarve track has been awarded to George Mundell and works will begin w/c 10 December. George will also be working on repairing the forest track on the Archaeological Trail. Bob Brown has completed a survey of possible additional pathworks at Kenmore-The Glen and Coille Ghillie-Toscaig. Advertising for the Kenmore-The Glen pathworks was published on Friday 30 November with a constructors' meeting taking place on 11 December.

- **South Coast Deer Fence** The layby is now complete (there will be further work in the Spring but it is at the stage it needs to be in order to begin work on the grid) and work on the grid will begin w/c 3 December with the aim of finishing prior to Christmas. Kevin Ronaldson has been contacted to build the final length of fence from the grid to the water as soon as the grid is complete. CCAGS claims for Camustrerrach and Toscaig have been submitted and a further claim (interim) for Milltown will be prepared shortly. JW will walk the fence with each of the crossing clerks to ensure they are happy with the finish and that there is no further work to be done.

- **Hebridean barns:** work has continued on the north barn, with James fixing the plinths for the wattle screens, and clearing the ground in preparation of the final phase. JW has been in touch with Jane Wilkinson about producing the wattle screens and asked for a meeting to discuss timescales and community involvement. The south barn is awaiting planning consent for the addition of a roof which will be confirmed w/c 3 December.

- **Lime kiln:** Martin Wildgoose began work on the final phase of the consolidation work on 29 November. JW met with him to go through work still to be done. Martin has advised that, for health & safety, there should be a grid across the kiln bowl and bars across the archway; he feels this is essential. Elodie has arranged for an access officer to assess the necessary H&S requirements which will inform the decision on what is needed.

- **Gateway woodland project:** Angus Biofuels was awarded the contract for Gateway Woodland. Archie is in discussion with them to work on ways to reduce the costs, as well as requesting additional funds from HLF to bridge the shortfall. An initial application has been submitted by the Community Company for a grant to redevelop the pier opposite the Applecross Inn as part of the project.

- **Bealach dykes:** a significant amount of money is still available for dyking work, although only half-funded. The Trustees have agreed to cover the shortfall of a new programme of works. To this end Geoff Walker has prepared a list of works related to the Bealach, Smiddy and Home Farm. This work has been agreed by the Trust and the Management Group and was advertised for tender 30 November with a contractors' meeting set for 10 December. A meeting is being organized to discuss further works.

- **Interpretation:**
 - **Booklets – (Wildlife & Heritage)** final proof of both the Wildlife and Heritage booklets has been completed and all amends made. These will be going to print w/c 10 December.
 - **(Geology)** Geologist, Donald Fisher and photographer, Seoris McGillivray visited the peninsula 23/24 November to record all the geological features. They are currently producing the draft text and images/illustrations. **(Archaeology)** JW has been in touch with Cathy Dagg who is tasked with producing illustrations and text for the booklet for mid December.
 - **Interpretation Panels –** all panels have now been proofed and all amends made. The panels will be sent to print w/c 10 December and will be delivered in the New Year.
 - **Signage –** JW visited the sites of all potential signage, first with Isabelle and then with Mike and Elodie, to ensure that everything was correct. Natural Signs has been awarded the contract of producing the signage which will be given the go ahead once all revised documents have been checked thoroughly .
 - **Bealach Interpretation –** Dan Macrae has agreed to continue his work on the Bealach, taking up the stone slabs and repositioning them in the correct place. He will begin work late February due to the unpredictable nature of the weather so high up.

- **Hazel Woods & Roundhouse: (Hazel Woods)** JW has spoken with Les Bates (hazel regeneration expert) who is hosting a volunteer coppicing day on 15 December within the fenced area of Càrnach Woodland. Les will be hosting a further four volunteer days throughout the winter to coppice the hazel. There will be material for craft workshops, such as spoon making, decorations for Christmas etc. The coppicing of the woodland will inform a management plan for the future of Càrnach. In addition, JW has spoken to Suzanne Gillies at the school to find out if they might be interested in doing some classes planting their hazel trees in the newly

coppiced enclosure. **(Roundhouse)** Lesley is working hard on this project. Reed has been ordered and paid for; this will be ready for thatching the roof in the Spring.

- **Regeneration by Adventure:** JW had a meeting with Sally and Amelia at the Venture Trust to discuss plans for the Regeneration by Adventure project. There is currently only 46.32% funding (HLF); the finances need to be agreed before anything else can go ahead. The Venture Trust advised that they would be able to fund some of the match but not all. What they would look to do if the project plan meets with their requirements, would be to give the project to their fundraising team to generate the remainder of the money. Sally and Amelia to put forward an outline plan of how they would see the project, together with some outcomes and targets.

- **Walled Garden Greenhouses:** A proposal has been put to ERDF that money be moved from the Lime Kiln budget to bolster the Walled Garden Greenhouse project. The reason for this is that the Lime Kiln is projected to be significantly underspent; the additional funds would increase the amount of development that could be achieved at the Walled Garden.

- **Bardic School:** the Bardic School 2013 is set for 5-10 August, once again at the Venture Trust. Kate Cameron is currently doing a great job putting plans in place for the event (booking speakers etc). Kate is in the process of producing an evaluation report for the Bardic School 2012 which will help with planning future years in a sustainable manner.