

## ALPS update for Management Group 3 June 2013

### ➤ **Claims & funding:**

- **HLF** –latest claim has been submitted and all queries answered. Funds due: £41,672.57 for the period Oct 2012-Feb 2013.
- **HIE**: final HIE amount paid into ALPS account: £1,680.
- **LEADER** – all approved Friday 31 May 2013. Claim 6 (first submitted November 2012) also resubmitted and approved.
- **ERDF**: CLAIM 10 (Dec-Feb 2013) approved for both revenue and capital

➤ **Medieval Chapel**: an advert has been prepared to begin tender process for starting work on the chapel. Historic Scotland had provisionally agreed to match fund the project but JW is yet to get confirmation.

➤ **Path works (Kenmore-Applecross glen)**: work continues on the main section of the Kenmore-the Applecross glen path. The Applecross Trust has agreed to cover the shortfall of the first section from the road to the gate at Kenmore (£781.20) and so work can now go ahead.

➤ **(Lost Path)**: Owen Kilbride has marked out the route with posts to ensure that the work is completed correctly. It was agreed that Isabelle should undertake this work as soon as she is free.

➤ **South Coast Deer Fence (deer grid)**: work is now complete. Duncan Fraser has finished the reseeding at the layby, and grass is now growing. Highland Council has visited site and approved the work that has been undertaken. **(fence)** work is now complete. Kevin Ronaldson returned 23/24 May to install fencing at Toscaig gorge. This additional work was paid 50% Toscaig Grazing Committee and 50% Trust. Kevin has also completed the last bit of fencing at the grid and has a list of all the snagging issues to rectify.

➤ **Deer Management Plan**: JW met with David Abraham to discuss plans for removing the deer. This plan is already underway. David has shot two stags and pushed out a group of deer at the gorge.

### ➤ **Hebridean barns:**

**(north barn)** final work on the consolidation of the northern hebridean barn is continuing. Cathy Dagg visited site and recorded the finds under the floor; although interesting, there was nothing of great significance. Work began again w/c 6 May and will be complete by 20 June when Jane Wilkinson arrives to produce the wattle panels.

- **(south barn)** the roof is on the south barn and just finishing works remain.
- **Lime kiln:** this project is now complete. Signage has been ordered and will arrive shortly.
- **Gateway woodland project:** all funding secured except that of SRDP which will hopefully be granted by July. Work is due to begin, all being well with funding, in July on Gateway. Meanwhile, Bill Watson is applying for planning permission on the pier which should take no more than 12 weeks. Once gained, work will begin October with a proposed completion of December 2013. A meeting is due to take place with Bill Watson on site to pin down exactly what will happen to each area. This will take place as soon as all funding agreed and a contract is signed.
- **Dykes: (Smiddy)** Geoff Walker and Darren Jones have almost completed the second phase of Smiddy Dykes, heading down into Applecross. **(Bealach Phase Two and Keppoch)** Geoff and Darren have now begun work on the Bealach and Keppoch dyking works. All progressing well.
- **Interpretation:**
  - **Booklets – (Wildlife & Heritage)** booklets are selling well at the Visitor Centre, Post Office and Heritage Centre. Lesley & Tom Kilbride will also be selling booklets, as will, we hope, the Walled Garden.
  - **(Geology)** edited text has been sent to Valerie for inputting in to booklet format. Progressing slowly.
  - **(Archaeology) final editing being completed by Owen Kilbride.** JW has commissioned illustrations and images for the booklet. Again progressing slowly.
  - **Sand Interpretation –** Dan Macrae has been commissioned to produce an interpretive seat on the Sand Path. Design and location set in 2011/12. Dan to begin work w/c 3 June 2013.
- **Hazel Woods & Roundhouse: (Hazel Woods)** JW is awaiting a report from Les Bates. Les has set a date for a summer workshop: 19 June Wild flower survey. Lesley will be visiting the school for a follow-up to the tree planting session. The children will also be making a camp in Càrnach woods as part of their forest schools project. **(Roundhouse)** The reed will be collected (from Inverness) on Tuesday 4 June by Duncan Fraser. Brian Wilson (master thatcher) has confirmed that he will begin work in August and that the job should take no more than three weeks.
- **Broch: (leaflet)** Owen Kilbride sent over the draft text 31 May. JW to put into leaflet format and add images ready for production.

- **Walled Garden Greenhouses:** Jackie and Peter met with Duncan McCowan on 17 May on site to discuss options for the greenhouses. Duncan suggested one full greenhouse, the other as a storage facility and interpretation venue. The storage facility would have fully repaired masonry with a tin roof (clear panels to let in natural light). This would provide all the elements needed for practical use but also restore the original buildings as much as possible with the current budget. Duncan provided a revised quote and Jackie and Peter are happy with the plans.

As such, we have now advertised for the work in WHFP with a contractor's meeting set for 10 June. Deadline for tenders is Friday 14 June.

- **Bardic School:** we have now had approval of the following:
  - 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

We have also secured funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and Coman na Gàidhlig which means that this project is 100% funded.

Derek MacLennan has taken over the role of Co-ordinator while Kate Cameron is off work. Derek has developed a new Bardic School website and taken two bookings. There is also a programme of events in place.

- **Land Conditioning & habitat improvements:** there are several projects underway under this scheme –
  - hedging and species rich grassland (Toscaig)
  - ditching & drainage (Toscaig)
  - species rich grassland (Ard Dhubh)
  - ditching & drainage (Fearnmore)
  - small scale woodland (Milltown)

Sandy Munro will be in Applecross w/c 10 June to do ploughing of the above areas.

MFH Helicopters (bracken control) will be sending over the maps of the areas that were sprayed in Aug 2012. Each township will then be invoiced for their part. MFH is booked in for 2<sup>nd</sup> week July to fly over and check regrowth of bracken. If there is less than 95% eradication of bracken, MFH will re-spray for free.

- **Policies Woodland:** JW has placed an advert in WHFP for tree surgery work on the policies. JW to draw up a plan for planting based on historic planting and requests/suggestions by the local community.