

## ALPS update for Management Group 7 January 2013

- **Claims & funding:** HLF visited ALPS on 7 December for an update on projects, finance and Gateway Woodland. It was a very positive meeting. Discussed moving contingency & inflation for completed projects, and budget for those projects that will not take place (such as Lonbain), to Gateway Woodland. Following the meeting on 18 December, an additional £120,000 of contingency & inflation was approved by HLF.
- Also discussed was a request for use of contingency & inflation on all projects match funded by ERDF. Again, on 18 December, contingency & inflation was agreed for all projects except **Interpretation, Broch** and **Hebridean Barns** as these amounted to large sums of money and at this point in time, we have reached our maximum contingency & inflation. This does not have a large impact on the Hebridean Barns or the Broch as we are within budget. However, the Interpretation budget is allocated with existing project costs. This means that additional projects such as the Gaelic DV or the Applecross App, or the coffee table book are now on hold. We have been advised that we can apply for contingency & inflation on these projects later in the year.
- At the meeting on 7 December, utilizing underspend, contingency & inflation (£24,000) for additional pathways projects was provisionally agreed, which was approved on 18 December. This means that the Kenmore-Applecross glen pathworks can go ahead.
- JW has applied for an extension of time to 30 September 2013 for the LEADER funding. There are some queries with regards to the Bardic School and these need to be resolved before any extension can be given. It should be a formality and we are waiting on an evaluation report from the Bardic School 2012 which will help the case for extending the deadline.
- **Medieval Chapel:** JW has been in contact with Mia Scott at Highland Buildings Preservation Trust to find out progress on the chapel. Mia has confirmed that the estimated costs for the chapel are now exceeding £62,000 (considerably more than the initial projected costs of £17,000). ALPS contribution is just over £10,000 through HLF. There may be potential for additional funding through other funders but a meeting is needed to gain an understanding of the work that is to be done, as well as the intended finished product.
- **Path works (Torgarve):** work began on the Torgarve track prior to the Christmas break and will continue to end January. **(Archaeological Trail)** w/c 10 December, George Mundell began work on the maintenance repairs to the Archaeological Trail (forest track), which was completed before the Christmas break. There were also some final snagging elements that needed completing on the Archaeological Trail. JW has discussed these elements on site with Owen and Isabelle will be doing the work in January. **(Kenmore-Applecross glen)** A constructors' meeting for Kenmore-Applecross glen took place on 11 December. Three

contractors attended and one further contractor arranged a site visit the following weekend. We received five tender documents by the deadline of 19 December and we hope to reach a decision at the meeting on 7 January. **(Coille Ghillie-Toscaig)** Bob Brown produced a spec for two possible routes from Coille Ghillie-Toscaig. On route 1 he advised that the path had all but disappeared and that it was not feasible to continue. Route 2 spec has been completed and is a possible project for the future. **(Arrina path)** the bad weather caused some damage to a bridge on the Arrina path. Isabelle was tasked with maintenance and the bridge has now been fixed.

- **South Coast Deer Fence (deer grid):** a meeting took place with the Highland Council (HC), Archie, Duncan and JW on 17 December to discuss a way forward. The HC was happy with the layby and went through the spec for the grid in detail. Duncan agreed to provide a revised quote for works to be done. The HC agreed to provide a method statement. Work will begin 14 January. 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. **(deer fence)** A CCAGS claim for Milltown (interim) has been submitted prior to the Christmas break. JW has arranged to walk the fence with each of the crofting clerks to ensure they are happy with the finish.
- **Hebridean barns:** Alistair McCowan is drafting the Conservation Plan for the Hebridean Barns with input from Cathy Dagg. Guidance has also been sought from Andrew Wright and he has referred back to the requirement for a Conservation Plan. This document will inform the decision made on final completion work to the north barn, such as the floor, pits, interpretation and screens. Once the Conservation Plan is complete, a proposed work plan will be circulated to the management group for approval. **(south barn)** Planning consent has been granted by the Highland Council for the south barn. However, it has been sent to Historic Scotland for rubber stamping and we will be notified of the terms of consent by end of January. Once consent has been received in writing we can begin the process of putting a roof on the barn.
- **Lime kiln:** Martin Wildgoose has a little work still to do on the Lime Kiln and this is dependent on good weather. However, he is on target to complete shortly and within his agreed budget. It was agreed by the Management Group that there be no fencing or grid and that there be signage warning of the potential risk.
- **Gateway woodland project:** Archie is in discussion with Angus Biofuels to work on ways to reduce the costs of the project. HLF confirmed on 18 December that an additional £120,000 of contingency & inflation could be put towards the Gateway Woodland project which is excellent news. An application has been submitted by the Community Company for a grant to redevelop the pier opposite the Applecross Inn as part of the project and feedback on the success of this application is imminent.

- **Bealach dykes:** there was a contractors' meeting on 10 December. Alistair McCowan very kindly attended as he has considerable knowledge in this field. One contractor attended and just one contractor submitted a tender by the deadline of 18 December. If all is agreed at the Management Group meeting on 7 January, we can award the contract and work can begin mid January (weather permitting). A meeting is being organized to discuss further works when Geoff Walker returns from Australia in January.
  
- **Interpretation:**
  - **Booklets – (Wildlife)** the Wildlife booklet has gone to print and should be delivered by end of January. The Heritage booklet is being proofed for the final time and will go to print w/c 7 Jan. **(Geology)** Geologist, Donald Fisher and photographer, Seoris McGillivray visited the peninsula 23/24 November to record all the geological features. They will be sending all text and images over w/c 7 Jan for insertion within the booklet. **(Archaeology)** JW has been in touch with Cathy Dagg who is tasked with producing illustrations and text for the booklet. JW to chase w/c 7 Jan as Cathy was called away on a dig during December.
  - **Interpretation Panels –** all panels have now been sent to print prior to the Christmas break and will be delivered in January.
  - **Signage –** JW has revised the signage document to account for any changes that arose after walking the routes. Natural Signs has been awarded the contract of producing the signage. Go ahead will be given w/c 14 January.
  - **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)** Les Bates (hazel regeneration expert) held a volunteer coppicing day on 15 December within the fenced area of Càrnach Woodland. There was a really good attendance (12 people) and Judy provided lunch. Les will be hosting further volunteer days throughout the winter to coppice the hazel and to work on other monitoring elements. There will be material for craft workshops, such as spoon making etc. There is a complete management plan for the future of Càrnach which was produced by Sam Bridgewater and is a good basis on which to build. 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.
  
- **Broch:** the existing shed has blown down in the wind and the contents have been cleared. 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 spoken with Owen Kilbride who will confirm a time to work on the text for this document together.

- **Walled Garden Greenhouses:** we are awaiting approval from ERDF of match funding for this project and should hear w/c 7 January.
  
- **Bardic School:** Kate is in the process of producing an evaluation report for the Bardic School 2012 which is required in order to confirm our LEADER funding for the 2013 event. This is due w/c 14 Jan. In the meantime, planning and progress is going well and everything is in hand for organizing this event.
  
- **Training:** it has been agreed that there is a requirement for further chainsaw certificates for staff. Four people will (hopefully) gain their chainsaw certificate which will mean additional employment opportunities on the estate (and elsewhere). Date to be confirmed but could be as early as January.