

## ALPS update for Management Group 26 August 2013

- **Claims & funding:**
  - **HLF** – claim 10 being submitted.
  - **LEADER** – finally, claim 6 has been accepted and approved. All inaccuracies have been corrected and funds will be in the ALPS bank account shortly.
  - **ERDF:** Claim 11 approved for both revenue and capital and should be in the ALPS bank account shortly.
  
- **Medieval Chapel:** JW has been in contact with Historic Scotland about match funding the project. They have sent out an application and have advised that it would be highly likely that they could match fund the whole project, but that it would be in 2014.
  
- **Path works (Kenmore-Applecross glen):** work is 95% complete. The section from the road to the gate is the last section to be undertaken. The path has improved immeasurably over the previous months.
  
- **South Coast Deer Fence:** complete. All claims submitted to CCAGS. Queries over finances have been addressed so now it is a case of the funders inspecting the fence and the grid to check that it is to a good standard and as described.
  
- **Deer Management Plan:** David Abraham continues to manage the deer that are still within the fence. There are some within the regeneration scheme at Toscaig and it is essential to remove these as soon as possible.
  
- **Hebridean barns:**
  - (**north barn**) complete. The first event is being held within the north barn on 23 August.
  
  - (**south barn**) complete. A basket making workshop has been held in this barn and it is providing storage for the reed.
  
- **Lime kiln:** complete. Signage is in place.
  
- **Gateway woodland project:** a meeting took place on 25 July between ALPS (Jess Whistance, Elodie Matthews), the Trust (Archie MacLellan) and the Applecross Community Company (Valerie Hodgkinson), to discuss wood fuel for the community. The meeting was very productive and it was agreed that further information was required in order to determine the quantity of wood to be set

aside. But it should be noted that it was again confirmed that there would be wood fuel for the community.

- A meeting has now been set for 26 August with ALPS, the Trust and Bill Watson. The meeting will be to pin down exact areas, and what will be undertaken within each area, as well as finer detail on work schedules, finances etc. Contracts for both the Gateway Woodland project and the Applecross pier are in process. Work for Gateway begins in the autumn. Work is due to begin on the pier in October
- **Dykes: (Keppoch)** Darren Jones has begun work on the Keppoch Track. **(Bealach Phase Two)** Geoff Walker has almost completed work on the Bealach. All progressing well and should be completed by end of October. Further works are planned for 2014. In total, 488m of drystone dykes will have been repaired.
- **Interpretation:**
  - **Booklets – (Wildlife & Heritage)** booklets are being sold at the Visitor Centre, Post Office, Camp site, Heritage Centre, Walled Garden and Croft Wools. So far, income stands at approximately £400.
  - **(Geology)** work has been on hold while other weather sensitive projects take precedence. However, edited text has been completed and is ready for putting into draft booklet format.
  - **(Archaeology)** final text has been sent over to Valerie for dropping into booklet format. Images have been taken of the various sites and Illustrations are being completed.
  - **Sand Interpretation** – complete
- **Hazel Woods & Roundhouse: (Hazel Woods)** Les Bates has produced a report on the time spent in the fenced area of Càrnach. This report details the age of the trees, the regrowth, wildflowers and growth of other trees. The report is attached with this update. A wildflower survey took place 26 July. Nine people attended. Despite this project being almost at completion, it is hoped that work will continue, led by the Walks & Traditional Crafts group (headed up by Lesley Kilbride and Gill Fairweather).
- **(Roundhouse):** Brian Wilson visited site beginning of July and felt that the roof structure was not yet strong enough to hold the weight of the reed. George Graham has been working extremely hard (for free!) on strengthening the hazel and the lashings. A volunteer evening was held 1 August and a further two volunteer days will take place 10 and 17 August. Peter Modler very kindly cut 150 hazel stems for the roundhouse; he and Duncan Fraser collected the hazel from Dingwall.

All will be completed in time for Brian's arrival on 20 August. He will be here for three weeks, when the roundhouse will be at completion.

- **Walled Garden Greenhouses:** work has begun on the greenhouses. Isabelle Kerjose, Mike Summers and Ian Cameron have been clearing the area and Derek MacLennan is due to start repairing the walls within the next few weeks.
  
- **Bardic School:** complete. The Bardic School has been a success. The event finished today (9 August) and so feedback will be collated over the coming weeks.
  
- **Land Conditioning & habitat improvements:** there are several projects underway under this scheme –
  - ditching & drainage (Toscaig)
  - species rich grassland (Ard Dhubh)
  - ditching & drainage (Fearnmore)
  - small scale woodland (Milltown) – funding application has now been approved
  - both the species rich grassland project at Toscaig and the hedging project at Toscaig have now been withdrawn.

MFH Helicopters (bracken control) is returning shortly. As soon as we have a date, we will be circulating posters and signage to ensure that everyone in the community is informed. Work taking place is at Keppoch (for the Trust), as well as individual crofts at Milltown. MFH will also be checking the work that was done in 2012 to check that there is less than 95% eradication of bracken.

- **Policies Woodland:** three contractors have submitted tenders for the tree surgery work within the policies. JW is preparing a tender assessment to be circulated to the board in order that a contract can be awarded.