



## **Management Group Meeting**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross House**

### **Present**

Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Alistair McCowan (Historical society), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Tom KilBride (TK)(co-opted member), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional Crafts Group), Jacqui Liuba (JL)(co-opted member), Mary Gibson (co-opted member).

### **Apologies for absence**

Owen KilBride (Archaeological Society), Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group), Lorna Lumsden (co-opted member),

### **Proposal of minutes of Group Meeting 25.08.2010**

The minutes were approved by all present and will be displayed on the ALPS notice board.

### **Update on progress**

SB provided an update on ALPS progress. Priorities listed at the time of the last MG meeting relating to the preparation of tenders for path building, website design, project evaluation and the community interpretive planning project 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 as it not necessary for the replacement of the windows, the first phase of the Clachan Church restoration. The first accounting claims to LEADER, HLF and ERDF have been delayed until early October. This is due to ALPS not starting until early August, and the funders not requiring the first claims to be made until November.



### **Heritage Curator application sift & interview panel**

The deadline for the applications was set on Wednesday 22th September. Six formal applications for the Curator post have been received to date. It was agreed that applications will be sifted by the Board members by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September using an objective score sheet assessing each applicant against the post specifications. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October in the Heritage Centre with the board comprising Alistair McCowan, one other director of the AHS, Archie MacLellan and Sam Bridgewater.

### **Clachan Church windows and LEADER funding for Clachan Church**

The Management Group agreed at the last meeting that the windows of the Clachan Church should be replaced in their original style as soon as possible. HLF have approved this decision. This decision to replace with the original style is based on a community consultation on the windows conducted during the development of the ALPS programme. In preparation for this, window designs are being finalized and a bat survey has been undertaken to ensure that all legal requirements related to protected species are fulfilled. Listed Building Consent will need to be applied for, with the window construction put to tender. Finances are already in place to undertake this work although funding is still required for other components of the Clachan Church restoration. An Enquiry Form has been submitted to LEADER regarding the potential for a further £50,000 grant. LEADER has provided an encouraging response, but has stated that any formal application would have to demonstrate an improvement in public access and a benefit of a 'community facility'. To evidence community support, a further questionnaire related to Clachan Church will be distributed at the time of the Open Meeting and circulated thereafter through other appropriate avenues. SB & EC to lead on this.



### **Re-establishment of Rural Skills Group**

The issue of training and contract opportunities given to local people was raised by SB and the possibility of creating a local group skilled in path building, fencing, dyking and forestry suggested to ensure that the local community benefits as much as possible from ALPS contract opportunities and that local job prospects are enhanced. It was agreed that any opportunities should be brought to the attention of the local residents, Applecross students away at University and young people attending to Plockton School. SB & EC to pursue this

### **Gateway woodland project**

The finances and background to the Gateway woodland project were provided by AM. The restructuring of this coniferous woodland is problematic due to its conspicuous location at the entrance to Applecross and the cost of removing the timber which is of low commercial value. One proposal is to extract the timber via a temporary floating barge near Sand. However, there are no finalised plans for the Gateway woodland project which currently remains one of the more fluid components of ALPS. JL raised concerns that restructuring would adversely impact on local aesthetics in the short to medium term. In addition, it was suggested by TF and AMac that before large amounts of timber are extracted from the Applecross area, that an assessment be made of local fuelwood needs and the mechanisms investigated by which this might best be supplied by local wood sources. The provision of fuelwood is perceived as being of importance to the local community and will gain ALPS significant local support. A quantification of fuelwood needs will in part help guide the development of a final proposal for the Gateway woodland project. However, it was recognised that this particular compartment might not be best suited to community fuelwood needs. SB & EC to conduct a local assessment of fuelwood needs.



### **Bealach Dykes (Phase 1)**

Initial work on the Bealach dykes will be undertaken during October. HLF usually require tangible counterpart funding of projects with actual movement of funds into and out of the ALPS account for such funding to be considered 'valid'. The Council are conducting the Bealach dyke work under the auspices of ALPS but are unable to transfer funds into the ALPS account even though this would subsequently be paid back to them. AM will investigate HLF views on this.

### **Project programme & management**

SB and EC asked for clarification of the exact management mechanism of ALPS. It was agreed that their actions would be governed by the decisions of the management group. However, it was also agreed that for ALPS to run effectively, good communication with and regular feedback from the community was required to ensure that all project partner organisations and local people feel able to influence decisions impacting on the local landscape and heritage. AM suggested that, for communication purposes, in addition to minutes of the MG meetings being made available on the ALPS board, that they should be circulated among all Trustees of the Trust. This was agreed. The potential of ALPS to forge closer partnerships between all project members was highlighted, with improved local communication with the Trust during the lifespan of the project seen as one very positive potential outcome. AMac suggested that one representative of the local community being represented on the Board of Trustees by the end of the project lifespan could be one marker of the success of ALPS.

### **Other matters arising**

The next Management Group Meeting is set on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October.