



Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 3rd December 2012, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross House

Present: Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Derek MacLennan (Bealach group), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Jess Whistance, Elodie Matthews, Alison Macleod (AliMac)(Community Company)

Apologies of absence: Gordon Cameron (Heritage Manager), Mary Gibson (adviser), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust).

Gateway Woodlands

An application has been submitted by the Community Company for funding of 80% of the pier. Its cost was estimated at £320k, more than was originally proposed. AliMac will be attending a meeting in Edinburgh to defend the application. She asked for clarification on the reason why Angus Biofuels was chosen. She explained that the fact that it removed traffic from the road certainly was a positive point for the application. AML explained that the Trust had confidence that Angus Biofuels would deliver the project and this was the main reason they were awarded the contract. The cost did not influence the decision as the other tenders were actually less expensive.

The plan for the pier is to be implemented in January, on the assumption that funding is granted and that it would be utilised from spring onwards. The Long Term Forestry Plan is with the Forestry Commission and is in the final stages of approval. AML explained that the SRDP funding was now changing and would be decreasing compared to that originally projected. There is an option of delaying the replanting which may mean that the Gateway Woodland project is eligible for grant funding at a higher rate. However, this is risky as there is no certainty that the funding will be in existence at a later date.

If the grant for the vernacular pier is denied, a temporary concrete pier will be used and paid for by Angus Biofuels. OK asked about the design and specification for the pier. It would have a concrete core but the dressing stones are still there and will be reused, bringing the new pier to the same height as it was previously. AliMac explained that she had been asked why the Trust wouldn't put money towards the pier; she reported that the Trust contributed to felling and extracting and the funders wanted to know the amount of the contribution. AML reminded the group that there was a shortfall of £300k on the project, assuming the SRDP money would remain the same as before. The Trust has provisionally agreed to £200k, leaving a shortfall that could be resolved by asking HLF for increased budget and cutting projected costs.

MS highlighted the current use of the pier by the Mountain and Sea Guides and by yachting people. It has been written in to the application that the plan for the pier is for long term use but the

question of its connection to ALPS was raised, as well as its ownership. MS thinks the ownership remains that of the Crown and Applecross Trust but that a joint lease is drawn up.

MS asked about clarification of Alison's role and her employment status. She explained that she was employed by the Community Company to work on specific projects but was also involved in other community-related projects.

AMac asked about the possibility of using the contingency element of HLF. AML explained there would be a meeting with Fiona Southern at HLF the following week to discuss the project and the different options.

AMcC wondered if the specification for the pier could be altered to cut some of the most significant costs and therefore reduce the amount of funding required. However, it was felt that it would be difficult to reduce costs any further.

The minutes from last meeting were approved.

Update

See separate document.

JW proposed that there be a decision made on the H&S element of the Limekiln. She had sought advice from Martin Wildgoose on the best options for this site and he had advised that a grid over the bowl and the archway. He advised that this would keep the Limekiln safe but not detract from the building itself. However, he did advise that there is no obligation to provide any form of barrier. The problem resides in the fact that the public is now encouraged to go and see the site. OK expressed a clear preference for warning signs and no fence. MG agreed that no grid or barrier will be erected at this site. There will be signage only, warning of the risks. Signage will come out of interpretation budget.

JW brought up the matter of the small walls to be built in the Hebridean barns in order to receive the future wattle screens. She also mentioned the issue of the silage pits. OK felt that the pits, as an archaeological feature should stay in position. He also felt that the southern barn would more appropriate to install interpretation, as the northern barn might become too dark once the wattle screens are in place. AMcC explained that the wattles should be weaved in such a way that light should still be able to come through.

She felt that the decision for the completion stage of the hebridean barns should come from recommendations made through a Conservation Plan. JW advised that this plan will be drafted by AMcC with input from Cathy Dagg. This is based on guidance from Andrew Wright, Conservation Architect. JW confirmed that once the Conservation Plan is complete, she will circulate to the MG for approval and a 'to do' list of final works will be drafted and circulated to the MG for approval before work starts again. AML asked TK if the Walks and Crafts group would look for a lease for the Roundhouse, as it will become a resource for the community. OK suggested a management agreement should be drafted up.

JW informed the group about the funder's requirements regarding acknowledgement of the grant on all signage and a strong opposition to the branding of the signposts was expressed. The MG agreed that JW should contest the decision and find out what would happen if ALPS was to ignore the branding guidelines.

JW presented the group with various options for spending the remainder of the interpretation budget. An Applecross App or mobile website, a DVD made by the Bealach group and a coffee table

book were suggested. A section of the Walled Garden will be restored in a Victorian fashion, providing an interpretive feature. DM explained that the main cost of the DVD would come from buying equipment but it would give a good record of the history and the stories of Applecross. AML asked if the DVD could be funded through Gaelic organisations since it will be produced in Gaelic. It was felt by the group that a DVD might not be the best use of funds compared to the App or the mobile website. Both the App and website would provide more information and could be used by businesses for their promotion. JW agreed that she would circulate the presentation document detailing all options and a decision on which projects to develop would be made on email.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 7th January 2013