

Housing Update for DC Board Meeting on 7th January 2015

The project is timetabled to allow for a completed application to the Scottish Land Fund by the end of May 2015. This allows plenty of time for the project to go before the SLF board meeting in August 2015, allowing for any potential delays between then and now. Please see the project plan spreadsheet for the full timetable.

Housing Meeting, Monday 8th December

- Weather was a factor in a low turnout from the community at the drop-in event in December.
- Matthew MacAulay of ACHA and Ailsa Raeburn of HIE/SLF were unable to make it to Coll but Iona MacPhail of ACHA was present to speak to residents about their housing needs.
- Story boards were made up to show the project's progress so far and these will be used again to highlight the forthcoming survey.
- A telephone conference took place with Fra/George/Arlene together with Ailsa Raeburn and Matthew MacAulay to discuss possible partnership arrangements between DC and ACHA and how this would meet the needs of the community and the SLF.
- Key points of that meeting were:
 - SLF require DC to have a long-term interest in any land purchased with assistance from the fund (can't simply be handed to an RSL such as ACHA).
 - ACHA need a freehold on any land they develop on in order to meet their private financier and Scottish Government requirements for HAG grants.
 - Discussion took place around potential options such as funding for 6 plots with 2 being given to ACHA for social housing development and 2 being sold by DC for self build options or to raise funding to build further community housing.
 - "The SLF Committee were happy in principle with the proposal but agreed that I should check with Scottish Government. We don't anticipate any problem" – Ailsa Raeburn.
 - Terms of agreement between ACHA and DC are to be agreed regarding Options Appraisal, Feasibility Study and Community Consultation etc.

Land

- Since the last meeting we have had two more confirmed offers of land from local landowners, bringing the total to five. We have passed all the information, including maps, title deeds and burdens to ACHA who will be responsible for conducting the Options Appraisal.
- We are currently awaiting a draft copy of the Options Appraisal from ACHA.

A&B Council & housing needs Survey

- A draft version of the Housing Needs Survey was completed earlier this week and has been sent to Allan Brandie at A&B Council, Iona MacPhail at ACHA and Jodi Macleod at RHS for comment.
- Using feedback, the final draft will be completed by early next week at the latest.
- We need to encourage as great a response rate as possible and aim for at least 80% - your help to encourage responses would be greatly appreciated.
- The survey will be posted in middle of next week to all households on Coll.
- Stamped, addressed envelopes will be provided so that returns can be sent directly to A&B Council who will conduct the data input and analysis. Envelopes will each have a reference number so that we can keep track of who has responded and encourage those you haven't. For the purpose of confidentiality, only A&B will have access to the responses, including sensitive information on income levels etc.
- Iona Macphail of ACHA will be available to assist respondents complete form via telephone and Jodi Macleod will be present in An Cridhe on 21st/22nd January for the same reason.
- A shorter survey will be available online for non-residents who are considering, or would like to consider, moving back to Coll. This will be distributed via Survey Monkey with results collated internally.

RSL Partner

- A lack of interest from other RSLs, combined with a positive relationship with ACHA meant the Housing Group were satisfied to go ahead and work exclusively with ACHA.
- A&B has changed its policy and will now only support communities if they are in a partnership with a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) – this has been confirmed for the avoidance of doubt.