

## **COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER UPDATE – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

### *Gleann Dubhlinn hydro scheme*

Planning permission has been revalidated. OFGEM have refused to give an opinion on whether pre-accreditation of the scheme for FITs is possible while we still have the outstanding grant for the grid connection. I have asked CES to help on this.

### *Scarista Wind turbine*

We are down to the last couple of legal documents in the due diligence process. Maggie Mackay thinks that we could have completed everything by 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Paul Wheelhouse replied to the letter regarding Trust dissatisfaction at the speed of handling of legal issues, promising immediate action on the deed of restriction. Harper Macleod said that under the agreement there would need to be a 10% clawback of rental until Jan 2015 as the project was not one of the identified development opportunities at the time of purchase. After discussing with SGRPID it was deemed to take too long to go through a process that would have the project recognised as a replacement for the hydro scheme, therefore the clawback was accepted. This will probably cost around £200 in lost rental. In contrast the Trust will lose £200 in lost profit for every week the project is delayed.

### *Rubha Romagaidh- Community Building*

***This item has been removed for confidentiality but will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.***

### *Rubha Romagaidh – Housing*

Angus Lamont (Chief Exec) and John MacIver (Director of Operations) of Hebridean Housing Partnership visited on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November and seemed very positive about trying to create a development on the site, suggesting it could be a suitable site for a project in 2015. They said that they would be speaking shortly with CnES on future priorities and would include this project in their discussions.

### *Plot sales*

Despite the letter from Paul Wheelhouse promising faster action Maggie has not had any response yet from Harper Macleod on the outstanding sale issues.

The Calvert's planning approval should be through before Christmas and they are ready to purchase when this happens.

SSE have provided a quote of nearly £29k + VAT for rerouting the power lines around the 3 plots at Luskenytre. This is very expensive and consideration is being given to what can be done in terms of alternative options and/or grant support.

### *Seilebost School*

I will start to work on the case for the Trust purchase of the school in the New Year, with a view to submitting an offer at the earliest opportunity.

### *CERB Consultation*

A draft response to this bill will be considered at the January board meeting.

Duncan MacPherson