

## **COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER UPDATE – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

### *Gleann Dubhlinn hydro scheme*

WHRL met in early January with the representative of private investors interesting in investing in hydro schemes. This could potentially be a way of constructing the hydro scheme quickly in the absence of bank lending. It is hoped that a proposal will be received from them in time for discussion at the board meeting.

### *Scarista Wind turbine*

Funds were released by SIS on 31<sup>st</sup> December and the turbine deposit was paid on that day. Foundations are due to be poured in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and for the turbine to be installed in mid-March.

### *Rubha Romagaidh- Community Building*

The Big Lottery Fund will now make a decision in March rather than February. This will not have an impact on other funding.

### *Rubha Romagaidh – Housing*

There is a potential opportunity for HHP to acquire plots for building in the current financial year (to March 31st) using funds that may become available from the Scottish Government. They have expressed an interest in purchasing all 6 affordable plots with a view to building in the 2015-18 programme. It will become clearer in the next few weeks whether this will be possible or not.

Previous discussions had suggested that HHP might only be able to build 4 homes with current funding constraints. Therefore the Trust had been working on the basis of potentially building 2 itself, if it could raise the finance. The options are therefore now for the trust to offer to sell all 6 plots or to offer only 4. If the Trust offers to sell all 6 it should be possible to incorporate an agreement in the sale allowing the trust to buy back 2 plots if HHP is only able to build 4 houses.

A decision in principle is required at the board meeting so that matters can be progressed as soon as HHP get the green light on funding. Sale price would be determined by the District Valuer valuing the plots for affordable housing purposes.

Alan Dickson has advised that he has entered the Rural Housing Service competition to design an affordable island home and has managed to significantly reduce costs of a potential build.

### *Marine Access project*

Due to the severe weather in Nov/Dec the contractor putting up the shed is unlikely to be on site until late Jan/early Feb. LEADER have agreed that an extension can be granted until the end of March to complete the project.

### *Plot sales*

Funds are expected shortly from the sale of 12 Scarista.

### *Seilebost School*

A brief for survey work on the school will be distributed to surveyors shortly.

### *CERB Consultation*

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