

Commercial Manager Update – 14th September 2017

Updates Talla na Mara

Gallery Events confirmed:

- September 22nd – October 19th Susan Visser
- October 19th – November 30th Restored photographs from the estate for the opening
- December: Open Gallery plus pop up shop
- January: Decorating plus possible exhibition and drop in advice sessions on energy saving measures and reducing energy bills with TIG
- 1st March to 1st November 2018 booked plus June 2019

Christmas Events & fundraising confirmed:

- Open Gallery throughout December and pop-up shop
- Raffle to win a Harris Distillery 1916 worth £400
- Saturday 2nd December (midday to 5pm): Family Fun Day
- Friday 15th December (7pm – 1am): Cracking Christmas Party, dinner and dance.
- Saturday 16th December (midday to 5pm) DIY Christmas Craft fair
- Friday 22nd December (4pm) children's Christmas film and meal deal
(8pm) Adults Christmas film with meal before

Community Events

- Ho Ro Gheallaidh to be confirmed
- Pensioners lunches proposed for the 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December

Proposed winter opening hours: from November - Christmas

- Closed Sunday and Monday
- Tuesday open for lunch and afternoon tea, takeaway until 8pm
- Wednesday, Thursday open between midday and 4.30pm
- Friday, Saturday Midday until 8pm
- **Closed throughout January**

Snagging before retention period complete

- Soundproofing between studios; Scheduled week commencing 8th January
- Architects inspection requested for mid-January for final snagging to be completed while the restaurant is shut in January. End of retention period is 17th February 2018

Concerns raised at Pairc Niseaboist residents meeting

- Noisy cattle grid, Malcolm Maclver to visit and advise. Anti-slip paint to be applied when there is a dry day
- Smell from septic tank; vent may be required
- Pest contract now in place.
- CnES have confirmed they will charge to grit the road before it is adopted awaiting quote.

Help requested for:

- Volunteers to erect the marquee for the wedding on the 6th October and volunteers for the day
- Ideas of where we could get a donated Christmas tree

Other Updates

The Cliff

- Grazings have confirmed with the tenant that the proposed extension will not allow sufficient access to the fank.
- The road can only be repaired on a dry day and there may be problems with the surface bonding if the weather turns colder.

DTA Scotland event

- I attended the DTA Scotland conference at the start of September and gave a presentation about the Trust. I also attended an interesting workshop about "life after FIT"

Community Survey

- I would like to propose that we repeat the Community Survey from 2012 to assess if the developments so far have had a positive effect and assess needs going forward. I have reviewed the last questionnaire and I believe it would be good to repeat these questions and add some relevant to 2017.

New development Plan

The suggestions for new developments to go in the next five year plan will be displayed for comment at the AGM. The main themes based on the Trust's key aims are:

Housing

- Building homes to rent and helping people who find it difficult to finance a self build.

Employment

- Additional flexible business spaces to rent.
- Business spaces designed for businesses with a proven record or viable business plan.

Renewables

- Maximising revenue from existing renewables by using excess electricity and hot water

Natural environment

- Wading bird observation point / hide

Cultural Environment

- Developing heritage tourism, archeological and historical site interpretation boards and trails.
- Starting a community archive
- Opportunities for communal working (e.g. Polytunnels)

Sustainability of the Trust

- Developing a commercial business at Seilebost
- Developing new income streams (potential for a business based on seaweed and salt or additional campervan facilities)

Infrastructure

- Spinal route
- Broadband