

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER UPDATE – 17th January 2013

Gleann Dubhlinn hydro scheme

Still awaiting grid confirmation.

Scarista wind turbine

A lengthy response has been given to CnES to all the objections received. A further 2 objections and 3 letters of support were notified to Ecodyn by CnES in a letter dated 11th Jan. There have been no objections to date from Trust residents.

The grid connection charge of £11,400 + VAT has been paid.

Rubha Romagaidh- Community Building

Rural Design will have completed drawings for the community consultation on 24th January, with submission of a planning application due on 1st February.

HIE have approved the claim for grant payment for the first phase of design. An initial screening application for the main scheme will be submitted for consideration by HIE's team in Inverness on 4th March. If this is approved in principle, a full application will follow and a funding decision could be made by the end of March. A business plan is required for the application and HIE will support this with 50% grant funding. A contractor for this will be procured through their supply partner network with the brief for the work being issued by 25th January.

I made a day trip to Skye on Wednesday 16th January for a session with the architects. The revisions at that point had made progress in addressing the issues highlighted from the community event, including: lowering the roof heights on both the community building and housing; enabling the main hall to be subdivided; and repositioning the marquee. The architects are suggesting creating a marquee deck outside the front of the building (which could also have other uses) and looking at having a bespoke marquee that would be more in keeping with the building than a standard white tent-type structure.

Rubha Romagaidh- Housing

TIG are preparing several budgeting options for the scheme to guide in future decision-making on the tenure option to go for. It looks likely that further government funding will be coming in the near future and the aim is to have a proposal largely prepared before the application period starts. TIG will also explore the possibilities for getting the scheme into the Comhairle's programme of works which will help to unlock funding.

Several potential purchasers of shared equity units have confirmed that their interest remains strong but their ultimate commitment will obviously depend upon the final price of any houses built under that mechanism.

Crofting

46 out of 54 rents for November have been paid. 4 rents remain outstanding from May 2013 and 2 each from May and November 2011.

Plot sales

Anderson MacArthur have provided draft legal documents to insert burdens on titles provided by the Trust which have been circulated.

Malcolm MacIver has been instructed to create a plan for providing water to the Luskentyre sites.

One of the Luskentyre plots is available again for allocation following the potential purchaser's decision to purchase an alternative house in Harris.

Land Reform Review Group

The Trust's paper was submitted to the LRRG on 11th January. The CLS paper has been circulated to directors.

Duncan MacPherson

17/01/13