

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER UPDATE – 20th September 2013

Gleann Dubhlinn hydro scheme

Neil has submitted the renewal of planning documents to CnES, with some documents to be printed at A1 scale in order to complete the submission. The cost of the application will be covered by the existing Big Lottery Fund grant.

Wind turbines

Due diligence by SIS is near completion on the Scarista turbine. OFGEM has informed Harbon that in future their turbines must generate more than 50kw if they are to be registered under the ROO-FIT mechanism. The project therefore needs an outlet that will use several kilowatts constantly. The MacKays have been approached and are agreeable to a connection which would supply the house and laundrette. They would pay for the electricity supplied by WHRL.

Due to a high number of wind installations it looks likely that the FIT rate will be reduced by 20% from April. This will not affect the Scarista project but could affect the viability of the project proposed for Horgabost. A pre-accreditation of this project in December would give a year for it to be constructed and still receive the higher rate, which may be achievable.

Rubha Romagaidh- Community Building

HIE have offered a grant of £154k towards the project. The Coastal Communities Fund Stage 2 application for £150k was submitted on 16th September. It is hoped to submit the Big Lottery Fund Stage 2 application by 30th September. The stage 1 application to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for £200k was passed and a stage 2 application will be submitted by CnES by 16th October. A final application to CnES itself for £50k will be submitted by the end of October.

David Mackenzie submitted the highest offer of £250 for the short-term use of the project site for grazing.

Plot sales

One application has been received and one more may be coming in shortly. The Housing Allocations Committee will therefore meet in due course.

Crofting

Reminder letters have been sent out to late payers and those who forgot to amend standing orders following the rent rise.

Registers of Scotland held an informative meeting on croft registration in Tarbert on 17th September. It was clear from the presentation that collective registration of crofts would give considerable savings in mapping and advertising fees.

Seilebost School

A lease has been signed for one year with CnES commencing 23rd September. Phone and broadband should be installed prior to the board meeting on the 24th.

Duncan MacPherson