

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER UPDATE – 16th August 2013

Gleann Dubhlinn hydro scheme

Ross-shire Engineering have revised their quote and it has risen to £684,000, a rise of approx. 16% on the original. The planning permission for the scheme has expired and will need to be applied for again. CnES have advised that this should be straightforward as there were no problems with the original proposal and there have been no changes.

Wind turbines

SIS are currently carrying out due diligence on the loan for the Scarista turbine, which seems to be progressing well. The Horgabost wind turbine received planning approval on 26th July.

Rubha Romagaidh- Community Building

The Big Lottery Fund and Coastal Communities Fund both have both invited Stage 2 applications. The CCF stage 2 submission needs to be made by 16th September. HIE has decided that state aids will not apply to funding it gives towards the business units and a final decision on its support is due shortly. CnES have put forward the project as 1 of 3 possibles from the Western Isles for funding from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Fund. A decision on whether to invite a full application will be made during August.

Tudor Trust has declined to fund and the Robertson Trust have advised to submit an application once the major funders have made their awards.

Plot sales

The purchasers of the Scarista plot have accepted the terms of the offer of sale and are about to submit for planning. Planning applications are also expected to be submitted shortly for 1 of the Horgabost plots and 1 of the Luskentyre plots.

There have been some recent enquiries from visitors regarding plot purchase but no firm applications yet. Potential changes to the Housing Allocations Policy will be discussed at the board meeting.

Crofting

47 of 54 rents have been paid.

Crofting Commission mapping for Luskentyre is close to being finalised and revisions to the first draft of the Horgabost and Seilebost common grazing have been sent to the Commission.

Seilebost School

CnES staff are intending to have lease terms drafted for the school in advance of the board meeting for consideration there. The rental will be £1000/year but will be reassessed at market levels after 1 year if the Trust has not bought the building by then. Cait has carried out initial work on a brief for a feasibility study on future use.