



LISMORE COMMUNITY TRUST

Purpose: to maximize the potential social, economic and environmental wellbeing
of the whole community of the Isle of Lismore

Your Trust's Spring Newsletter, March 2017

IMMEDIATE THINGS

CELEBRATE!

Thank you to everyone (a large turnout!) who came and joined the happy event in the Hall on Saturday 18th March, recognising the indefatigable energies of everyone who helps life along on the island, volunteering time, energy and expertise, and dedication, often for decades! After some cheery music from the school, some impromptu speeches by a range of representatives opened the evening with happy memories as well as updates on current activities. Then we got down to the serious stuff – eating Hog Roast, courtesy of Jonathan Coggans and assistant Suzy Cox; followed by a raffle of local products and services; a toast, some cake by Kiki – and then dancing to Eriskay Lilt until the wee hours! Our thanks to Kiki, Ann and Anna, who organised the whole event – "Just like the old days!" has been a common observation. Our thanks also to Gill Law, who encouraged the Trust to apply for the grant – and, of course, to the Lottery!

PLAYPARK in the School?

Applications for funding have been lodged, after shared work between Gill Law and the Parent Council, to obtain quotes for a new set of equipment and kick about area. This has been a long awaited aspiration to provide more for our youngsters. We hope, too, that such a project will help to create a better 'first impression' of the school and its environs for passers-by!

SCHOOL HOUSE discussions

The Trust's interest in achieving a recurring lease (for a peppercorn rent) of this unused asset has progressed, with approval by the Council's Area Committee. It will now proceed to the full Council in April. Meanwhile, Gill Law will be continuing to assist in getting a specification for upgrading and decorating works prepared, so that prices/quotes could be gathered in; she is optimistic that financial assistance can be achieved for such a facility, which could add some further shared space for island groups, and a base for the Trust itself. Tidying up the area would also enhance this corner of the island. Once a full picture has been assembled, the directors will be reporting to the community on the options available.

FUNDING FOR CARBON REDUCTION – Achieved!

The Climate Challenge Fund has awarded the Lorn Island Partnership some £149,000 towards a range of measures designed to cut carbon emissions from the four islands. On Lismore, it was the Energy Group of the Trust that worked closely with the LIP consultant Jane Churchill, to prepare our bid. This includes a shed for a glass imploder, and a shed for a Swap Shop – along with other workshops and training activity; AND a project Co-ordinator, for a

year. So, well done to the Energy Group. There is an attachment to this Newsletter giving more details, and asking for your responses; please reply as soon as you can and certainly no later than 22nd April!

LORN ISLAND PARTNERSHIP (LIP) – News

At the LIP Gathering held at Rockfield on Saturday 25th February, Gill Law reported on the achievements of 8 months of hard work – and on the level of additional funds levered so far - over £200K – including the recent Climate Challenge Fund award; with a further sum of around £150K awaiting decisions by funders.

A final draft of a leaflet promoting day visits to all four of the Lorn Islands, was reviewed enthusiastically; and Gill will be exploring the extent to which Lismore and the other islands can be better promoted by better distribution of this and other material.

Xchange Scotland gave a presentation about Europe-wide exchange schemes, which could be applied for to bring young people to the area for periods of up to a year to help with various kinds of activity. This is being pursued further by Jonathan Robertson (part timer at Luing); and Jonathan has already been able to assist with IT-related work on Lismore – a topic which could do with some energy and input – perhaps via Xchange Scotland? – as the future of the website is to be secured.

LIP is now a Company limited by guarantee – a step required so that it could receive funds directly. Sebastian Tombs has been appointed its Chair, Alastair Fleming of Luing its Treasurer. All those involved in the LIP Steering Group (which includes Teenie Wilson from Lismore) expressed their gratitude to Jackie MacQueen of the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) for her sterling efforts in helping get the Company formed and registered in record time over the Christmas season. Funding for the coming year remains unknown as yet; but there is some optimism that the current pattern of funds, and Development Officer/Consultant support, can be maintained beyond the current commitment of June.

Supporting business development: Gill Law has let us know that HIE is offering to meet LIP representatives to discuss ways in which they could provide advice and or support for the creation / conversion into WORKSHOP SPACE – facilities to host businesses – on the four islands. If you think this could be of interest to you, please get in touch with Sebastian in the first instance. Gathering some measure of levels of interest will define what happens next.

DATES for the DIARY:

Saturday 13th MAY - in the Hall: Plant Sale and Swap; organised by the Energy Group;

JUNE (Date to be confirmed): a public discussion on ideas for developing an ARTS PROGRAMME for the coming year – which could be the subject of a grant application to CREATIVE SCOTLAND. This follows a successful sharing of ideas on 2nd February, with those invited by the Trust, the Hall and Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr (responsible for our two principal venues); that discussion agreed this should be an open process for all islanders; and that the Kirk and the School should be invited to participate more formally as joint hosts. So, look out for the date; and keep mulling on arts ideas until then!

MORE STRATEGIC THINGS

BACHUIL PROJECT

Further to the circulation of the Consultants' Report on the 11th February, and the accompanying Statement by the directors and the 'drop-in' afternoon on 21st, the Public meeting on the 23rd identified a number of themes and lessons learned. On balance, what feedback there has been from community members indicates that the way the directors conducted the enquiry and feasibility study is seen in a positive light – whether or not such members favoured the project itself, or not. As members will appreciate, this was a project that was fast-tracked by HIE, over a most difficult time of the year; the truncated timeframe introducing limitations on the levels of research, community engagement, and reflective thinking – all aspects which would best be avoided in future, if possible! Nonetheless, there is valuable material collated from the community's views on potential priorities for future facilities; and broad-brush costings for a range of these produced by the architects and quantity surveyors.

One suggestion that emerged from open discussions on the 21st, was the possibility of working with the Council, to have a greater say in the preparation of the Local Development Plan for the Island, due for adoption over the next few years. This would fit well with the development of the Island Plan, and would need to involve closely the Community Council and others on the island. (Since then, the architects have advised that the Planning Department responded to the Pre-application enquiry about development on the second site examined, south of the entrance driveway, by noting that development there for a Shop, Workshops etc, would be refused; only very modest, low-key housing seems an option in that location. So the premise upon which the Land Fund application was being explored, of a future 'land bank' for community facilities, proved ultimately not to be achievable.)

'Communications' also emerged as a theme – how well had the directors managed to convey what was happening, via Newsletters, Notices, documents in the shop folder and on the Trust section of the website; and, most relevant perhaps in this age of digital media, via Facebook? Again, on balance, the responses have seemed to be reasonably positive. Communicating via Facebook, in particular, now appears to be a regular part of many islanders' lives and so the Board will be adopting this route amongst others in future.

The question of a community ballot also raised the temperature! How the community reaches decisions, where a vote may be involved, is a matter which needs to be considered further. It is likely that this will form part of the discussion around the Island Plan process; a discussion best held when there are no pressing matters to be voted upon! The degree to which decisions should best be open to all those resident, or only voting members of the Trust certainly merits debate. Moreover, what about all those who have the future of the Island close to their hearts, but are not eligible to be voting members of the Trust...how can their voices and views be heard?

The directors are grateful to all the island's friends on and off the island, who contributed in various ways to taking forward the Bachuil study; and the forbearance of Niall and Anita in attending to the scrutiny of a potential community acquisition procedure, is also much appreciated.

Footnote: a number of observations have been received regarding the potential of a community acquisition of other derelict properties currently on the market, for purposes considered as part of the Bachuil study. It should be noted that a similar process would require to be undertaken (i.e. a full consultant-led study of business aspects, values and titles etc), and if an application were successful, a Land Fund grant of up to 95% of the asset value might be available. This would leave the community to find not only the 5%, but also funds to construct whatever buildings and facilities were desired; potentially, quite substantial sums. The consultants' advice was to take some time to reflect on the Bachuil project, and move ahead with the Island Plan, prior to entertaining any other acquisition ideas....

ISLAND PLAN - re-engaging

The directors agreed at the meeting on 9th March, that the Island Plan is now the primary focus for work; and have pledged to issue the current draft – warts and all – as soon as practicable. The directors recognise that this is likely to be the start of a lengthy and detailed process of shared discussions with all groups and individuals and related bodies on and off the island, but would hope that a version of the document would sufficiently commend itself to the Trust membership, for adoption at the AGM planned for November.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

AGM Draft Minutes, of 1st December meeting.

These are now available for scrutiny, in the Trust folder in the shop; on the Notice Board; and on the Trust section on the island website. Please cast an eye over these, if you were present, to ensure that the record properly reflects the proceedings.

Associate class replaced by FRIENDS of the TRUST

The Trust has been obliged to restrict the numbers of its Associate Class – or eliminate it altogether – as a result of Land Reform Act changes, related to the definition of a 'community body'. Last year's AGM agreed on the latter course, and to the setting up 'FRIENDS of the Trust' – in order not to lose such important links with those friends and supporters, who are not eligible to be ordinary (i.e. voting) members. All former Associates have been automatically transferred to Friends (unless they decide otherwise, of course). Communications will be by email unless specifically requested otherwise. Newsletters will be sent covering activities, events and meetings open to Members and Friends - but Friends do not have the right to vote, or be elected to the Board. If you know of any potential Friends, please advise Carol Wormleighton, our Membership Secretary!

Directors

The Trust is always on the lookout for anyone committed to the long term future of the island, and willing to dedicate some time to the work of our Trust. If intrigued or interested, have a word with a director!

Since early February, Teenie Wilson has been taking a well-earned break from Trust business, under Doctor's advice.

Roger Dixon-Spain tendered his resignation from the Trust Board at its meeting on 9th March, in order to devote more time to matters at Salen.

The directors look forward to working with all the community over the coming months.

As ever, if there are any issues you think the directors should be considering, please contact any of the directors in person; or email: communitytrust@isleoflismore.com

A Glass Imploder and Community Swap Shed for Lismore?

The Energy Group (of Lismore Community Trust) wants to hear your views, please.

Lismore is one of 4 islands (Lismore, Easdale, Luing and Kerrera) making up the Lorn Islands Partnership, as a group of islands with common issues. The LCT is our partner body managing this, and the partnership has funding for a Recycling project to improve recycling facilities on the four islands.

Lismore has funding for a Glass Imploder and two sheds, one to house a Glass Imploder, the other for a Community Swap Shed.

Kerrera, Luing and Easdale will each have a Glass Imploder too, and there will be other initiatives to help us to recycle things more effectively. The islands will share a project officer, and this post is being recruited now (hopefully you have seen the Job advert?)

Our Imploder and the Swap Shed will be owned and run by the people of Lismore, supported in the first year by the shared Project officer to help set it up.

Lismore Community Council and Argyll and Bute Council say the sheds will need planning permission, but generally agree that putting them at the top of the pier at Achnacroish should be possible.

The new Project officer will work with us to find out about the best machine for our needs, help us source and install the sheds, and train us to use the Imploder.

We want to find out whether you support these ideas for Lismore, would you be willing to help – and if you might be interested in using the end-product from the Glass Imploder.

First though, here is some basic information, followed by some questions:

What is a Glass Imploder?

It is a machine that converts glass bottles into crushed glass.

We would all need to put our glass bottles in or near the shed (instead of the current Bottle Bank). A group of trained volunteers will feed the bottles into the machine, and bag up the crushed glass that comes out the other end.

The end product is crushed glass. The glass is chemically inert. We hope to find an Imploder machine that will produce non-sharp pieces of glass, so that it can be used on the island for infill or drainage, road aggregate or paths, or mixed in concrete or earth to make floors and walls. We believe it can be sieved or screened to get even sizes. There may be other uses we don't know about yet.

There are two main environmental benefits:

- a) it significantly reduces the bulk of our waste glass, and
- b) if we can use the crushed product on the island, it would save the costs (including environmental) of transporting it to Oban and beyond.

It will depend on whether we can find and train a group of volunteers willing to spend a few hours occasionally to operate the machine and keep this going.

What is a Swap Shed?

We all have things we don't need or use that could serve someone else, too good to throw away.

The Shed would provide a place to bring things you don't need and take anything you want. It would need to be kept organised, with things in labelled boxes on shelves, and occasionally a good 'clear-out'. Several people have already offered to manage it, but it may need some more help.

If we decide to do both, they would be in separate sheds, possibly at the top of Achnacroish pier – an opportunity to improve the area too?

We think the sheds could – and should, be attractive and welcoming places for us to take our recycling, and be an inspiring to visitors to the island too – do you agree?

Please help by answering the questions in one of two ways.

Either fill in this paper copy and put in the box in the shop – or online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/ImploderandSwapShed>

Please return your completed survey to the sealed box in the shop by SATURDAY 22 APRIL.

A Glass Imploder for Lismore?

Would you be interested in using the end-product if we find a machine that produces a non-sharp crushed glass?

| | Please tick one |
|-----|-----------------|
| Yes | |
| No | |

If so, what kind of uses might you be interested in:

| | Please tick any | | |
|---|-----------------|----|----------|
| | Yes | No | Not Sure |
| Roads or paths | | | |
| Drainage | | | |
| Mixed in concrete for walls or floors, house-building | | | |
| Craft uses | | | |
| Aggregate for hand-standing | | | |
| Any other uses? | | | |
| Comments and questions about the crushed glass end-product: | | | |

We will be seeking volunteers to load the glass bottles into the machine, and bag-up the crushed glass from the other end. Training and safety gear will be provided.

Would you be willing to spend an hour or two of your time to help with this (we don't know yet how often the machine will need to be operated, so this is a general question at this early stage)?

| | Please Tick |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Yes | |
| No | |
| Maybe, I would want to know more | |

If yes or maybe – could you put names of you and your family who may be willing to help?

| |
|--|
| |
| |

A Swap Shed for Lismore?

Do you like the general idea of a swap shed?

| | Please tick |
|-----|-------------|
| Yes | |
| No | |

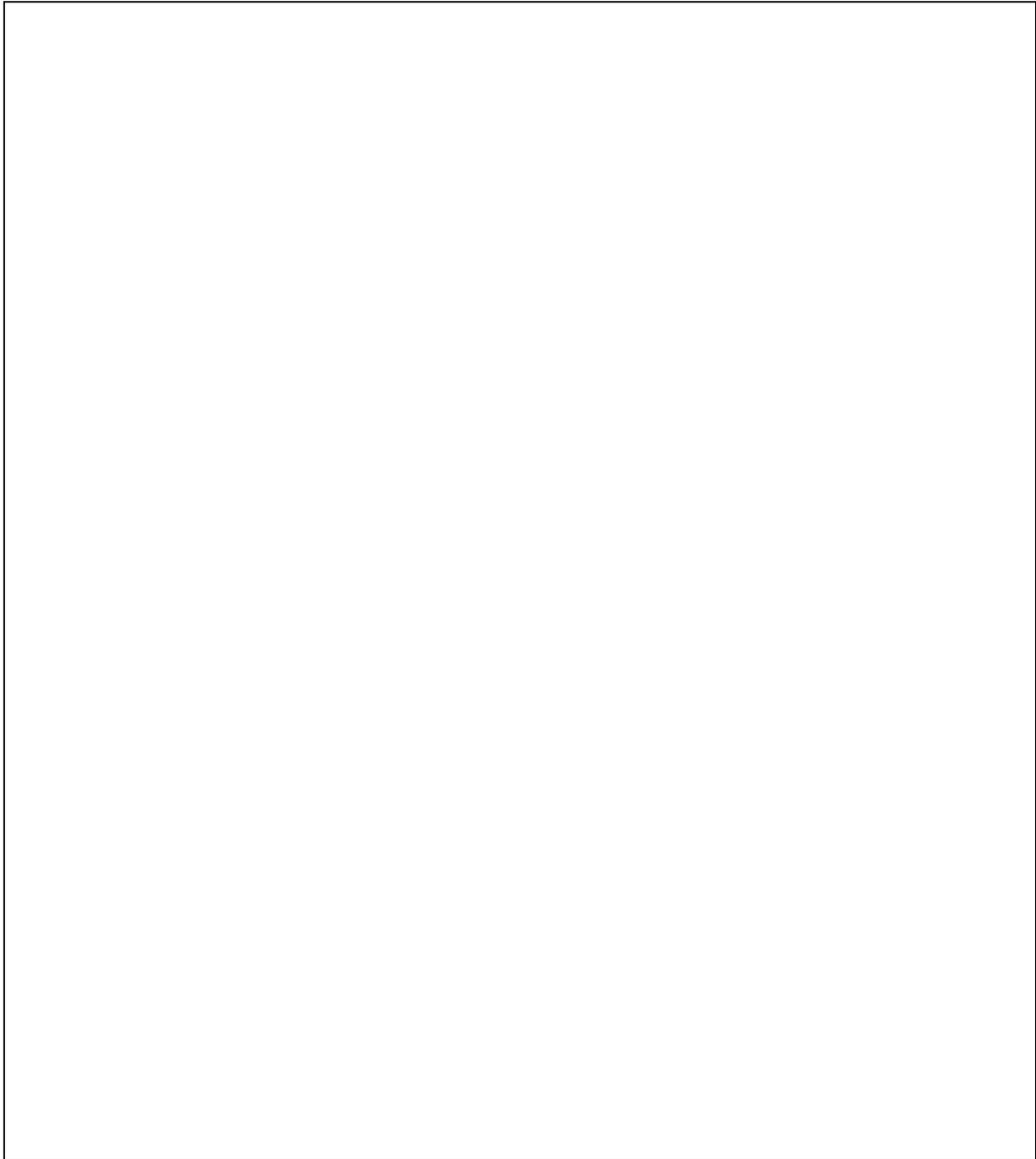
Would you use it ?

| | Please tick |
|----------|-------------|
| Yes | |
| No | |
| Not sure | |

What type of building would you imagine best for a Swap Shed?

| | |
|--|--|
| Shipping container (with window, cladding and painted) | |
| Timber shed | |
| Tin shed (painted) | |
| Any other idea? | |

In thinking about this project: What are your suggestions for considering it, and concerns?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their suggestions and concerns regarding the project.