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HORSHADER COMMUNITY DEVLEOPMENT:

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter, we hope it gives you a taste of what the trust have been doing and some upcoming projects. Do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any ideas or queries.





Community Fund Grant funding is open to any groups in the locality, providing local residents benefit from the scheme and that it fits with the Trust's charitable aims and objectives. For more information please contact the office (701 225) or email horshader@btinternet.com and application forms can be requested from the office and available on the website.

Below follows reports of how grant funding has helped a number of local groups over the past year:

Carloway First Responders

The responder's team continues to benefit from the money received from Horshader to purchase training equipment. The two STAT man training dummies are used regularly by the team and others, including other first responder groups, to practice CPR and other lifesaving techniques.

The casualty simulation kit is also used to provide visually realistic casualties. Over the past few months as well as our own training we have worked with HM Coastguard and Shawbost Fire Crew in joint exercises.

Whilst improving our skills, the equipment in turn ensures we are able to provide a better service to the community.



Carloway first responders
Exercise with Shawbost
Fire Service

CONTACT US!

**Horshader Community
Development:**

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Drop in: 9am - 5pm

Mon-Fri



An Eathar Rowing Club launched it's Shawbost built 22 foot rowing skiff Yackydoola in July this year. After receiving funding from Horshader we were able to run a very successful 4 day launch event taking Yackdoola and two other skiffs on tour in Stornoway, Loch Erisort and Loch Roag. We welcomed more than 20 visiting rowers from mainland Scotland, held joint rowing sailing events in collaboration with Falmadair and held ceilidhs and other social events.

Since then we have had a club trip to Shildaig Regatta where we competed in every event and impressed everyone with our fine new boat. Since August there have been many regular rowing sessions on Loch a' Bhaile, in Loch Carloway and even lunch time rows in Stornoway harbour. Thanks to Horshader the project is off to a flying start and ready to welcome anyone in the community that would like to have a shot at rowing. Drop us an email on aneathar@gmail.com you are going to love it



Yackydoola on Loch a' Bhaile with an able crew



Sheena's Home Care As a carer providing private homecare support in our community, one of my clients was confined to her wheelchair after returning from hospital. This was due to her own furniture being unsuitable due to the nature of her disability, being in a wheelchair from the time she got up until she got to bed at night left her very uncomfortable. It was also distressing for her daughter to see her mother in so much pain. After exhausting other agencies who could not provide any help in sourcing a suitable chair, I decided to approach Horshader to see if they could possibly help in anyway. When I approached Angela in relation to this she was very helpful, she advised me on the procedures to take in applying for the grant. Horshader were then more than happy to purchase a riser recliner chair to help improve my clients quality of life and this had made such a difference to them both and in the future will hopefully help others.



The Bethesda SCIO Trustees were absolutely delighted to receive a grant of £15,000 from the Horshader Community Development Trust towards the development of the upper floor of the Care Home. With the generosity of your community and other donors we were able to move forward and complete this development. The upper floor will provide an additional nine nursing home beds and are due to open on 30 November 2015.



Dalmore Cemetery: Sand Clearance, Road Repair and Rabbit Control

Dalmore Cemetery Committee was grateful for the financial assistance given by the Horshader Community Fund in the last year. The cemetery's location on the sandy machair area of Dalmore presents us with two long-running and challenging problems – sand drift and rabbit incursion. Until recently, we often had to hire a tractor to clear sand from the road to the New Cemetery before funerals, but with some assistance from Horshader and also sterling work by Breedon's, a good clearance was made this year that we hope will see the problem resolved for some time to come. Horshader also gave assistance for a stretch of the New Cemetery Road to be re-tarred by Breedon's. The easily burrowed sandy soil and the neatly cut grass are an irresistible attraction to our rabbit tormentors. With Horshader's assistance, we were able to erect a stretch of new and more robust rabbit netting along the north side of the cemetery. Since then, we have been amazed by the number of attempted incursions, and we are now reasonably confident that the cemetery fence is secure. There are, however, rabbits 'locked' inside the cemetery, and we have to take action to get rid of these. Any suggestions would be welcome! Our committee would find it difficult to finance these projects, so the Horshader assistance has been very welcome.

Coastal Walk – This is a project which the Horshader Community requested be renovated and upgraded. We discussed the project with Calum Macarthur, Carloway First Responders who had been involved with a past emergency situation, and he suggested that each coastal walk marker be numbered and mapped. We discussed this project with Cllr MacLennan and he has confirmed that the Community Council will be leading on this project.

Organisation Structure Reminder

Board members

David Wright (Chair)
Kenneth Macaulay
Angus Macarthur
Di Hesketh
Mary Maclean
Eileen Macdonald

Board nominations are now being accepted for decision at the AGM

Project Evaluation

Group (PEG)

Didi MacArthur
Iain Murray
Iain MacArthur
Iain MacKay
Catriona MacLeod
Kathleen Murray
Flora MacLeod



Enable Stornoway & District Branch are grateful for the grant they received from the Horshader Community Fund , this grant helped to provide a respite break for our members with learning needs and other disabilities in April 2015 This year we were able to take a 45 seater local coach from Lewis with our members on a 4 day respite break to Fort William, from there they took a day trip to the Scottish sea life sanctuary near Oban, on the 3rd day a trip on a Gondola that took them up to Aonach Mor near Ben Nevis, with a clear blue sky and warm sunshine the scenery from the mountain restaurant was breath-taking. On the 4th day we headed for Inverness and after a short break for lunch the coach drove to Ullapool for the evening ferry back to Stornoway.

Our members from across Lewis and Harris would like to thank those involved with Horshader Community Fund for kindly assisting Enable Stornoway to provide a truly memorable break which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially those with disabilities. Membership of Enable Stornoway & District is open to everyone with learning needs and other disabilities throughout Lewis and Harris

Community Consultation We are currently conducting a community consultation to inform the direction and focus of the trust over the next three years. HCD is proud of its commitment to delivering project and providing services for the community. The last consultation in 2012 has informed the work of the trust over the past three year, now looking to the future we value your feedback and input to direct the trust, so we can continue to delivering project and services that meet the needs and demands of the community.

Membership We are updating our membership database and welcome any new member of our community who wants to join or those of you who want to become an Associate member (£10 year). Ordinary membership is free and open to all those living in the area age 16 or over to ensure we are serving all of our community.



Notice to Members on Annual General Meeting and Board Elections 2015

Horshader Community Development will be holding their Annual General Meeting on the 15th of December 2015 at 7.30pm in Raebhat House, Shawbost.

All members are invited to attend the AGM. There will be four current Directors standing down this year, new director nominations should be returned to the office by Monday 7th December. This year we are also looking for a youth representative to work with the board to ensure we best serve all age groups in the community.

We are also looking for new members to join the Project Evaluation Group, this group evaluates applications for grant funding and plays a vital role in the work of the trust, nomination application forms are also due on Monday 7th December.

Turbine update Latest news from Risort Power Generation Ltd

The Turbine continues to perform well, however, following the recent storm which knocked out supplies to the Western Isles, we had a few days shutdown. Turbines are not allowed to run while Battery Point is generating, we also had a component failure which was quickly dealt with by Enercon (turbine manufacturer).

The government continues to slash the subsidies for renewables but this is being fought jointly by Community Energy Scotland, England and Wales who are looking for exemptions from the cuts for community projects. We have also been notified that our rates exemption may be withdrawn from April 2016. We are members of CPOH (Community Power Outer Hebrides) under the umbrella of Community Energy Scotland. This is the local representatives for all Western Isles community energy groups.





Working with local council representative

We have been working with the late Cllr Coinneach Murray and Cllr Ali MacLennan on the following issues, and are pleased to provide the following update from Cllr Ali MacLennan. Please let us know if there are any additional issues you would like us to lobby the local members on your behalf.

Gearra Mor - visibility at this junction has been raised as a matter of concern and we have brought this to our Councillors attention. Cllr MacLennan has confirmed that he aims to look into this over the coming months.

Grinnibhat - visibility at this junction is also restricted. This was recently partly improved by cutting away some shrubs at the main road beside the Teachers Houses. Cllr MacLennan has discussed with officers in the Technical Services Department, the possibility of them improving the junction itself but they have ruled this out at this stage because of costs involved. Other considerations are having rumble strips on the road on the approach to the speed limit. The Comhairle have agreed to erect a high visible speed limit sign at the existing welcome to Shawbost sign, this should be in place over the coming months.

Mobile phone network Dalmore – Cllr MacLennan has discussed this issue with the relevant official responsible for mobile and broadband coverage who he has assured him that this is being looked at on an island wide basis and to expect major improvements within the next two years. One thing the Comhairle have encouraged the operators to look at is ensuring those areas who will not have a proper broadband signal for some time to come to have a decent mobile phone signal (3G) so that as many people as possible in the Western Isles will have proper means of communication, whether it be by phone or computer.

Pavements – Cllr MacLennan has asked the Comhairle whether any funding is available for pavements but with the current financial constraints this is very unlikely. He would still however, like to hear where people would like to have pavements as he would like to draw up a community wish list for when the financial position improves.

Picnic areas – Cllr MacLennan has confirmed that Community Council has secured some Challenge funding through Comhairle nan Eilean Siar which will go some way



towards improving the picnic area in Dalbeag, Shawbost and Bragar. Part of the suggested improvements include a dedicated concreted area for the picnic benches. He hopes additional funding will be secured and has given a target completion date of March 2016.

CLlr MacIennan has provided the following update on pot holes:

There are a few unadopted roads (not the responsibility of the Comhairle to maintain them) within the ward and pot holes can be a problem. As it is not the Comhairle's responsibility to fix them it is down to the grazing's committee or whoever owns them. I am exploring the possibility of the Community Council entering into an agreement with the Comhairle to use the same material they use so that groups can carry out their own repairs with a product that is fit for purpose as it would prove difficult for themselves to source otherwise.

Switching on the Christmas lights and Santa's Grotto

Horshader will be holding a community switching on of Christmas lights at Raebhat House, on Saturday **5th December at 6pm**. Where we will have carol singing, a Christmas tree, mince pies, and maybe even a visit from Santa. The event will be open to everyone not solely communities of the Horshader Community Development area, we will look forward to seeing you there.



Remember our Christmas Market Event Saturday 5th December, 11am-3pm, Ionad na Seann Sgoil, free entry and a variety of stalls including The Good Food Boutique, Hebridean Soap Co., SSPCA and a number of local craft stalls.



Growing Project update

The Growing Project after a very productive year the soil in the tunnels is lying fallow for a spell over the winter and being nourished with natural fertilisers to improve the soil condition for the coming growing season. Over the winter we are improving the facilities at the polycrubs, by adding shelving to the solardome to increase propagation we will also be installing a new rain water harvesting tank and solar pump system. These new improvements will enable us to increase production and reduce our reliance on mains water.



Get involved in the Polytunnel project would you like to be more involved with the project, but don't know how? Get in contact with Finlay or David to find out how you can take part finlay@horshader.com davidm@horshader.com

During the month of October we featured a weekly blog piece from Ann Marie Macdonald as she used a Kitchen Canny Kitchen, provided by the project, to help reduce household food waste. Check out our Facebook page to see her progress <https://www.facebook.com/HorshaderGrowing>. We also had a fantastic cookery demonstration with Marcin Juszcak, Head Chef at an Lanntair, who introduced Eastern Europe to the Westside with some delicious, wholesome, traditional Polish dishes. In November Maggie MacKenzie and Alasdair MacLeod returned to bring some early festive cheer with some mouth-watering Christmas recipe ideas, with mulled wine and fruit punch flowing spirits were high.



Connect and Support Project The handyman and minibus project continues to be a positive contribution to the community. Over a very busy summer a number of people have benefitted from the work of this project. Any small maintenance and repair jobs can be undertaken for members of the scheme at a rate of £10per hour, or £5per hour if you are of pensionable age or suffer from long term illness. Membership is open to the Horshader area and North Shawbost. The minibus is used to take two local Dementia and Alzheimer’s suffers to the Solas Day Care centre in Stornoway, Pictured is Clann an Latha an De, who hired the minibus to take them on their monthly guided walk with Chris Ryan, Paths for Health Co-ordinator, NHS Western Isles.

To enquire about either the handyman service or the minibus contact the office.



The Horshader Minibus can be hired for any occasion:
Full day hire for £50+VAT & Fuel*
Half-Day hire for £25+VAT & Fuel*

*Prices quoted are member's rates, other rates are available for non-members



To enquire about hiring the minibus please contact the office
Tel | 701 225 email | admin@horshader.com