

Community Consultation

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter

June 2018



A few words from the Chair



Hello and welcome to a special edition of the newsletter devoted to the community meeting in the Old School on 9 June 2018. We thought you'd like to see the ideas that were generated and get a notion of what happens next. We can't promise to do an edition of the newsletter every month but certainly when there's something important to talk about, we want to make sure you know what's going on.

The community meeting was a real success with 32 people attending and a great time was had by all. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the people who took the time to bake cakes for the afternoon tea and to those who provided prizes for the raffle. 91 ideas were generated and only a handful of those were duplicated. I know that we'll be able to make a huge impact on the local community if we even get 10% of those ideas implemented. However, remember that it's not just for the Directors to do the implementing – we'd love to get as many people as possible from the community involved as well.

And remember, all you budding photographers, we're still keen to showcase your talents with a photograph of somewhere in our beautiful part of Lewis – no prizes for guessing where this image is! Just e-mail your pictures to admin@horshader.com with 'Newsletter pic' in the subject line. If your image is selected, you'll be front-page news and you'll get a voucher for £10 to spend on whatever takes your fancy.

Flora Macleod

Match report – the first half

With bright sunlight pouring in through the windows of the Old School, North Shawbost, Flora Macleod, the Chair of the Trust, kicked off proceedings, welcoming everyone for what she was sure was going to be an exciting afternoon.

She wasn't wrong! Alan Murray was next up. Alan is the new Development Officer, Shawbost born and bred, and he was keen to introduce himself to the community and talk about his aspirations for the future. He recounted some of his experiences teaching English in Japan over the last five years. And he held up a painting done by local lad, Basher, of his house in the village – a picture that hung on his apartment wall in Japan and saw (or should we say, felt) more than a few earthquakes in its time. Alan talked about how he hoped that the Trust, with the community's help, could continue working to make the Horshader area a place where local people might wish to stay and where people from beyond might wish to settle.



Next up was the community consultation, facilitated by Alisdair Wiseman, Secretary to the Board of Directors. The first task was to get each of the 5 tables to work out a name for their team. For some, this turned out to be a little challenging.



However, after a bit of head-scratching and pinch of furrowed-brow, five names were duly hatched: the Ill Health Board; DJ's darlings (DJ plus 6 women); the 5 Nos; Slag Luarach (which for the non-Gaelic speaking means something like (keeping a low profile'); and finally, the Gearra Mor Morons.



The first question on the table was, “What would you like to see the Trust doing over the next few years?” No need to worry about whether it was feasible or expensive or anything else for that matter – everyone was encouraged to share any and every idea on the basis that there’s no such thing as a bad idea. (Sometimes, a bad idea is just a good idea slightly ahead of its time.) The ideas flowed thick and fast, each one getting recorded on its own post-it note. Once the ideas had been generated, two further questions were posed. “Do you need this idea or do you just want it?” If we need something, we must have it; and if we want something, we’d like to have it but wouldn’t suffer if we didn’t get it. And, “Do you want it sooner or later?” The teams were then asked to organise their ideas into 4 boxes on a flipchart on the wall: things we need sooner; things we need later; things we want sooner; and things we want later.



Finally, everyone was asked to pick the two ideas they would most like to see implemented. The most popular ideas were: creating play park for young people – something small to begin with that might be extended later; building a care home; preserving the local environment; improving mobile reception in black spot areas; helping the museum project to succeed; and introducing more community walks. A full list of the ideas generated is at the end of the newsletter.

Half time



No gathering of people is ever truly complete without cake – everyone knows that cake makes the world go round! So, when the half-time whistle blew, it was cakes and scones and meringues all round, washed down with healthy quantities of tea, coffee and soft drinks. Everything went smoothly as the Directors stopped directing and began serving at table. However, the calm efficiency on display belied the scene a few minutes before the community meeting was due to start... Cries of, “Where’s the double cream?” and, “Who’s moved the strawberry jam?” echoed around the kitchen as everyone put the finishing touches to the confectioners’ display. Our spy in the kitchen confirmed that strawberry coulis squiggles were still going on to the meringues as the Chair called the meeting to order! Anyway, afternoon tea went along really well – lots of craic, laughter and probably too many calories. And as seems to always be the case with any island get-together, there was sufficient food to feed a multitude. So, as well as enjoying the spread on the day, most people went away with doggy bags full of goodies. Thanks again to everyone that took the time to do some baking.

Match report – the second half

The second half started with more head scratching – a local knowledge quiz compiled by the maestro himself, Ali MacLennan. Questions ranged from, How many turbines are on the Horshader logo? to, How many people live in the Shawbost area? Ann Marie MacDonald did a super job as Quiz Master. One or two contestants got a little bit too competitive but no one came to blows! Boxes of Quality Street were handed out to the winning team: DJ’s Darlings. We then had an informal discussion about how we might take things forward, some additional ideas and what everyone expected from the Board.

The afternoon’s proceedings were rounded off with a raffle. Continuing the family tradition, Thea Mae MacDonald did a stunning job of drawing the tickets. Prizes included wine and wine glasses, a bottle of Harris Gin, chocolates and a framed print of the stac at Dalbeg. And to top things off, everyone present was invited to take home a potted chrysanthemum that had been raised over the winter in the polycrubs at Grinnivat Road.

Feedback on the event

Here’s a just a few of the comments about the afternoon...

“Really nice chilled afternoon with the Horshader Community Development...lots of yummy cakes, great prizes, fabulous ideas and great banter 😊 onwards and upwards!!”

“So nice to see everyone working together for the future of the Trust. I hope we can get even more people along to the next community meeting.”

“Great to have a community meeting that’s as much social as business – this is a really good formula.”

“I can’t wait to see what happens next – so many good ideas and so much enthusiasm for making them happen.”

So, what happens next?

Alisdair Wiseman’s day job is working in the field of innovation. Something you hear him saying a lot is that generating ideas is rarely the challenge – given even half a chance, everyone is really creative. It’s what you do with the ideas that really counts.

So, along with the output from previous community consultations, the Board will draft a Trust Development Plan, essentially a strategy for taking the community forward. They will look at all the ideas, consider the resources we have at our disposal and think about community benefit, local impact and relative priorities. They will endeavour to develop a plan that is ambitious yet realistic, one that aims high but not too high, one that delivers some smaller projects quickly but isn’t afraid to tackle bigger, longer term projects as well. And we must remember that the overall aim of the Trust is to continue developing the Horsham community to that it is sustainable into the future and an attractive, desirable place to live in and visit – this will be on the minds of the Directors as they forge the development plan.

Expect to hear more about this in the coming months. And on Monday 10 September 2018, the Directors will host what they hope will become a regular, quarterly open meeting where members of the community will be invited along to have informal conversations about anything that’s on your mind, including the future of the Trust and the development plan. More details nearer the time.

In conclusion...

So, that’s all for this special edition of the newsletter. The Directors hope that those that couldn’t make the community consultation have a clearer idea of what happened and the ideas that were generated; and to those that were able to attend, thank you for making it such a successful afternoon. As one of the comments said, “Onward and upwards!” (Or as one or two of the Directors prefer, “To infinity and beyond!”)

Thanks for reading and see you next time!



PS Thanks to all those involved in making things happen and clearing up afterwards. Four men in the kitchen washing and drying dishes at one point – that’s got to be a first!

IDEAS ORGANISED BY CATEGORY	
Young people	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Music and sports bursaries for young people <input type="radio"/> Encourage local youngsters to help with the old school <input type="radio"/> Youth club for school age kids <input type="radio"/> Bouncy castle for hire <input type="radio"/> Summer school (1-2 weeks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Help younger people with business start-ups or training <input type="radio"/> More activities for children: after school & weekends <input type="radio"/> Youth club activities in summer <input type="radio"/> Sports activities <input type="radio"/> Play park
Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Dog training <input type="radio"/> Community garage <input type="radio"/> Car share scheme (bonus) <input type="radio"/> Bereavement councillor <input type="radio"/> Petrol station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Traditional crafts <input type="radio"/> Rabbit control <input type="radio"/> Laundrette <input type="radio"/> Store of party equipment for hire <input type="radio"/> Serviced plots
Local amenities - general	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Dock à Ruadh (walkway between Gerra Mor & Ceann à Staidh) <input type="radio"/> Glamping areas <input type="radio"/> Map of Horshader with names <input type="radio"/> Path to Norse Mill <input type="radio"/> Turning space at Norse Mill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Reinstate the old road on the crofts that meet the loch <input type="radio"/> More designated walking paths in the area <input type="radio"/> Keep the tombola access clear of stones for walks etc.
Environment	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Restrict building work (nothing in green field sites) <input type="radio"/> Manage the area for nature conservation <input type="radio"/> Preserve local wildlife, plants and land <input type="radio"/> Village clean-up <input type="radio"/> Main road grass cut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Main road drains cleared <input type="radio"/> More flowers, tubs & hanging baskets in the area <input type="radio"/> Beach clean-ups (why does it always smell so bad?)
Local amenities - infrastructure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Mobile phone reception for black spots in the area <input type="radio"/> Bigger swimming pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Allotments <input type="radio"/> Gym building (fitness studio)
Local amenities - beach	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Toilets and changing facilities <input type="radio"/> Slip or pontoon for water sports <input type="radio"/> Bins at beach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Picnic tables at beach <input type="radio"/> Make all 3 beaches more accessible - boardwalks
Older people	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Equipment for elderly people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Care home
Coastal walk	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Update the coastal walks in the area <input type="radio"/> Coastal walk guides <input type="radio"/> Coastal shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Coastal walk signs <input type="radio"/> Guided walks
Trust	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Cooperation between local voluntary organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Improve communication between people & the Trust
Grants	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Roof repairs for elderly residents – hardship fund <input type="radio"/> Fund for long-term illness (make a wish) <input type="radio"/> Grants for solar panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Grants for fence repairs <input type="radio"/> Donate money to help people attract funding <input type="radio"/> Pay for more driving lessons or test
Heritage & culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Museum project <input type="radio"/> Map of Horshader area with names <input type="radio"/> Reconnect the historical society with the museum group <input type="radio"/> Preserve local knowledge of crofting <input type="radio"/> Tell people at school about local knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Have someone who can open the archives (e.g. for visitors) <input type="radio"/> Raise awareness of the historical society (new members) <input type="radio"/> Appoint an archivist for the historical society
Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Community walks <input type="radio"/> Annual local ceilidh <input type="radio"/> Regular village events <input type="radio"/> Summer fete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Movie nights <input type="radio"/> Monthly events with the bus (e.g. bowling & Scaladale camp) <input type="radio"/> Farmers' markets