

GLENUIG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Notes on public meeting regarding housing in Glenuig Hall on Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Present (16): Eoghan Carmichael, Martyn Green, Glenda Green, Roma Scott, Pamela Conacher, Mary MacMaster, Murdo MacAskill, Carol MacKail, Anne MacIntyre, Sheena Carmichael, Billy MacKail, Billy Hawkes, Dominic Kane, Fiona MacIsaac, Jamie Begg, Hamish Begg

Also present: John Forbes (Community-Led Housing Officer, Community Housing Scotland)

Apologies (5): Alasdair (Pod) Carmichael; Keith O'Connor, Gordon Barr, Jon Kelly, Margaret Binnie.

This meeting was called after the GCA were approached by the Community Housing Scotland (CHS) and the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) about the options for new housing in Glenuig. *There is demand through Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) for at least one housing unit in the village and the options for more. There is however some time pressure to see things progress significantly over the next 6 to 12 months if we want to access certain specific grant funding available. HSCHT have intimated that previous investigations surrounding the 'Crusher Site' have highlighted significant infrastructure costs so alternative sites would be preferred. Options for Low Cost Ownership can include shared equity, self-build, 'Live / Work' units etc so there is plenty of potential if we believe there would be a long-term benefit to our community.*

Eoghan on behalf of the GCA welcomed those attending and introduced John Forbes.

John laid out the basis of the meeting, which as stated above is for the various housing trust bodies to find out how much demand there is for new affordable housing in Glenuig and the surrounding area, and what the feelings of the existing community are about trying to meet that demand. There are various options available, any project would be expected to be driven by a local community organisation however CHS would be able to support them through the process and carry out the bulk of administrative work associated with grant applications, feasibility studies, land negotiation, public consultation, project development and management.

Questions were raised about the planned development by the PH38 Development Company on the Crusher Site. Noted that the PH38 had indicated they were being wound up, although no directors were present to confirm this. Community Housing Scotland and others felt that the infrastructure costs of the Crusher Site would be prohibitive, but that they would be willing to look again if the PH38 would be willing to pass on their findings and proposals.

There was discussion on who would live in any new houses built and who within the community would take the lead in pursuing the options. The general consensus appeared to be that folk who wanted to live in the area and/or any new houses should be encouraged to become actively involved, and that any growth or development in the village should be organic in nature, driven from the roots by people who wish to contribute to and benefit directly from the initiative. The option of advertising beyond the community the possibility of a community housing initiative being progressed if there were sufficient support and active involvement was discussed and the GCA may take this forward.

The meeting thanked John Forbes for his information and input, and John left the meeting, which then adjourned to the hall lounge for some complementary wine and snacks and further informal discussion on housing and other matters of community interest.

Literature on some of the housing options and John Forbes' contact detail were left in the hall for anyone interested, and contact details and website as below:

John Forbes, Community-Led Housing Officer, Community Housing Scotland

Mobile: 07940 751 245

email: john.forbes@communityhousingscotland.co.uk

www.hscht.co.uk/chs

The next meeting of the committee of Glenuig Community Association is scheduled for Wednesday 6th March at 7pm in Glenuig Hall. All members and interested parties are welcome to attend.