

## **Sleat Community Trust Environment Advisory Group**

Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7.30 pm via Jitsi

### 1. Attendance, apologies and absences

Ade Stokes (chair), Tim Godfrey, Roddy Murray, Roger Cottis, Catherine de Vries, Veronica Barrington, Alan Drever, Chris Pendelbury, Peter Roberts, Dorothy Jackson (minutes)

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved

### 3. Matters arising

The beach clean station from Scottish Wildlife Trust is ready. To be collected after lockdown, either from Ullapool or Achnasheen.

The leaflet on invasive non-native species is nearly ready, pending inclusion of some additional comments. Strath Print quoted £200 for printing 1000 copies. Sponsorship could be sought from the Council, Clan Donald and Lady Noble/FEI. It was decided to delay the distribution of the leaflet to later in the year, when the plants are more visible, and to link the launch of the leaflets to a talk or event, possibly in collaboration with Clan Donald. Catherine to contact Lisa Pook of Clan Donald gardens and the Council.

Mike Hyatt of Skye Cycle Network has contacted the school, to start a conversation on safer cycle routes to school. Catherine to follow up.

### 4. Community Growing Update

Leaflets and posters have been prepared to publicise the ideas of garden sharing and finding land for community food growing, and to invite interested people to get in contact with EAG. West Highland College has courses on growing vegetables and fruit in January and February. The next SCT newsletter will come out too late to highlight these courses, therefore it was decided to ask SCT to send out an email communication to all Trust members about the garden sharing/community growing initiative and the training courses. The posters can be attached to the email for people to print out themselves. They can also be put up at the shop and noticeboards while people are doing their daily walks, and posted on Facebook. Roddy to email Ade with information on the growing courses. Dorothy to send posters to EAG members for final comment. Ade to follow up with Eleanor re the email communication and Facebook.

Leaflets will be available in the shop when it has moved, and if appropriate under Covid restrictions.

Ade will hold the contact list of people interested. A few people have already expressed an interest.

Veronica highlighted the waiting list for the community polytunnel at Ardvassar, and felt the priority was to find land where a second polytunnel can be set up. Tormore Forest was suggested as a possibility, however it lies outwith the main settlement area, and the soil may be poor quality. SMO has a polytunnel frame and glasshouses, and could play a key role. Peter to follow up with Ryan (including on potential funding needs) and with Dòmhnall Angaidh re possibilities in the planned SMO housing development.

Roddy will make enquiries of crofters to see if any are sympathetic to making land available.

Following input from EAG members, the Skye and Lochalsh Housing Association proposals for land near the old pier will now include some raised beds and fruit trees.

### 5. Tormore Hydro

The SCT EAG report on minimising damage to riparian native woodland habitats along the pipeline route and turbine house site needs to be shared with the project manager to ensure that he and the contractors know about the environmental constraints. A site meeting is needed with EAG

representatives and the project manager and developer/contractors to show digger operators where they must take care, so as to minimise damage to the riparian woodland ecosystem. Work is scheduled to start in April, depending on all the funding being raised. It was however pointed out that both EAG & the developer's ecological consultants flagged up breeding season vulnerabilities. Ade to follow up with SCT.

#### 6. 2021 Events

EAG members are invited to add dates to the planner held by Ade, and to make suggestions for events. Events programme to be revisited at next meeting,

#### 7. Date of next meeting:

22nd February 2021, 7.30 pm.