



# Assynt Development Trust Limited

## ▪ **Community Recovery Fund 2(CRF2) update**

With regard to the 'Glencanisp Community gardening post', the question has been asked of ADT if they wish to take on the role of supporting a gardening/food development officer. Louisa Potter started this post in late 2021. AP mentions that the Assynt Foundation does not have the capacity to manage this post and Louisa is seeking further funding. NG is concerned about ADT taking the responsibility for this post. Before we do that we need to gain more clarity about how this would work and how much work it is.

Noted

The gardening post could be combined with awareness of the need for food within the community and the food larder. If you combine these things it could be more than only a walled garden

*Action: the ADT will have a look at the possibilities, the funding and collecting more information about the amount of work if the ADT will take on this responsibility. AP will inform Louise Potter.*

AP/WJ

## ▪ **Food larder update**

WJ received an email from Phil Tomlin which advised that in Dornoch a new food larder has been opened and they have received 3 years of funding for a food development officer. AP will check with Phil Tomlin for more information about this.

Noted

At this moment the food larder does not provide much in the way of fresh vegetables and fruit. A donation of £50 is received each month for the food larder, it was thought that this can be used to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. Another option is to look at a collaboration with the walled garden and check with the local shops what they do with food like vegetables and fruit if they are not selling it.

Mary MacLeod has been gathering information regarding the larder. She records everything that comes in and does a stock count. At this moment there is no data of how many people using the larder, as this is a small community and the intention is to remove possible stigma. BB mentions that knowing the benefits for the community could help to receive more fundings. It is not that we need the names, but the number of how many people using it would be sufficient.

## ▪ **Sutherland Fuel Poverty Report**

EM attended the meeting regarding the fuel poverty report. As a trust we can do little about this issue and it is something that needs to be addressed by organisations less local than ADT.

Noted

In 2021 there was significant funding for fuel via CRF1, but this has not been made available this year. ADT does not have money to funds for fuel at this moment. MH mentions that this will be an ongoing problem for the community and the prices of electricity and oil are rising which will affect many in the community.

WJ will check with the CCWT if they have wood from the Culag Woods available for people who need it.

WJ

## **d) HIE monthly reports and financial claims**

Report from Adam and Ewen to HIE for November and December 2021. A maximum of £30,000 can be claimed per year for the salaries and on-costs. We are on target to claim the maximum for the

Noted

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year.

## e) Investing in Communities Fund

This fund was launched in November/December 2021 although funding will not start till April 2023 for the period 2023 – 2026. Applications to the fund must be done by April 2022. ICF is asking for clear and concise proposals on projects and services to support disadvantaged, vulnerable and fragile communities.

*Action: WJ asks the board members to have a look at the PowerPoint presentation and think about what the community might be needing and come up with ideas for projects that might be needing funding from this fund.*

All

## f) The Mission

BB wanted to know a little bit more about the background of the Mission and how it is connected to the ADT. NG gives a brief explanation about the history and that ADT owns the building and that via ADT's trading subsidiary - Assynt Community (Trading) Ltd - ADT receives rental income from An Cala and other Mission tenants. The boiler was serviced last month. WJ gave an update:

1. ADT alarms replaced a panel in the alarm system and the alarm is functioning normally.
2. Greening Community Assets application for funding was turned down; an application was submitted for replacing all lights with LED's, but it was turned down because the ADT / The Mission generates income which can pay for the LED lights.

Noted

## g) NHI Grant funding

The grants program is open again and the maximum project grant is £1,000. Several ideas have been suggested such as a wildflower meadow, bench seating in the community, redecorating community toilets, tree planting, information booklets. There is no limit on the number of projects which you can apply for.

Noted

BA is asking about the project for more bins. At that time there was an issue with emptying them. EM will check the application that was done and have another look at it.

EM

## h) Recommended digital strategy

Jane Mackinnon prepared a report regarding the Digital Strategy Recommendations on ADT's website and social media. It must be GDPR compliant. There are some things missing like a cookie banner, privacy/cookie policy. The website was built by Jane Pretzel. BB will have a look at it and will meet up with Jane M to discuss the various steps should be taken.

BB/WJ

## 4. Development

### a) Assynt Glebe, Lochinver

- Bowlts surveyors were instructed by ADT through MacLeod & MacCallum to investigate the boundaries between ADT owned Glebe and AF land which could contain an area of land of unknown ownership.
- No further update since the last meeting in December 2021 – SG/ HC and CHT have agreed to adopt a more traditional building approach for the design.

Noted

### b) Cludgie Motorhome Waste Project

- Update AP: amendment of AL's lease and related removal of RBS security over the lease is ongoing.

Noted

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- To connect the Cludgie to the surface water sewer, written consent is necessary from Highland Harbours/ HC. As a charity AL receives 100% relief on the annual charges for water and sewage.
- The contactless payment system for the main waste unit is in progress. There are some technical issues to resolve.
- The carpark should be re-surfaced sometime in February 2022.
- MH will check with AL if they have chosen a design for the water cistern above the cludgie

MH

## c) Crown Estate Scotland/CES Partnership Fund

- An expression of interest was submitted along with a letter of support from Highland Harbours.

Noted

## d) Achmelvich Car Park and Toilet Project

- ADT are waiting for reimbursement of design grant contribution from Assynt Community Council; they have a meeting tonight. AP mentioned to Liam that the reimbursement had not been paid yet.
- WJ met Malcolm Fraser architect last week. The next round for the RTIF is announced around March/April.
- EV charging point costs evaluation proceeding.

Noted

## e) Stoer School

- Iain Livesley architect who was appointed by HC/ CHT/ ADT should have produced a draft report by the end of January. He will also include options for the former NHS drop-in centre building on main street in Lochinver (for Highland Council).
- WJ will check if the ADT put a press release in Assynt news on the Stoer school.

WJ

## f) North West Regenerate: Endangered Landscapes Programme

The deadline for the application is 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

An application was drawn up and it looks good. It still needs some fine tuning before it will be submitted. Lizzie Williams organized an open invitation zoom meeting which was attended by 24 participants representing 14 partner organisations. This project is all about improving the landscape and trying to reverse the degradation of the landscape and add more biodiversity.

Noted

## g) Assynt Foundation Glencanisp Road funding application

Claire Belshaw sent an email to ADT thanking the Trust for AP's work on submitting the SSE Application for Canisp Road upgrade work.

Noted

## h) Lochinver Primary School playground

Lochinver Primary School is looking for funds to upgrade the playground so children can benefit from more outdoor activity and they have asked ADT for help on how to raise funds for this.

It was decided that we should check what kind of help they want. Do they want help with the application? What would be the amount of effort the ADT should put into this? MH will ask the school what kind of help they need from the ADT. If that is clear ADT will decide what they can provide. WJ will contact Catriona Maclean to inform her about this and ask for more information.

WJ/MH

## i) Kylesku Hotel & Newton Lodge Local liaison group

For information. There were some concerns from the local community about the development plans for the Kylesku hotel. The hotel will not be expanding the accommodation side, but plans for the expanding of the restaurant and kitchen will proceed.

Noted

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<p><b>5. Culag Park Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Un-registered land on edge of park. It appears that the land belongs to Highland Council. HC have advised that for ADT to buy this land the best approach is to submit a Community Asset Transfer request.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that ADT should seek to acquire the land to tidy up the ownership of the whole park. WJ will start the process for this. In time ADT will need letters of support from the wider community.</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>WJ</p>
<p><b>6. Discover Assynt</b></p> <p><b>a) Update EM</b> At this moment the everything is going very well on social media. There are more visitors. EM will have more information about North By West at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>b) Venture North</b> There are various meetings with the tourism group. At present nobody from the west coast is on the board.</p> <p><b>c) Tourist Information centre at Assynt Leisure</b> The Leisure Centre board have concerns about the visitor centre room at the Leisure Centre. There are no staff to run the TIC room. At this moment it is a room with brochures and other stuff from the visitor centre. MH will discuss this at the next AL board meeting.</p>	<p>EM</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>MH</p>
<p><b>7. AOB</b> No any other business.</p>	
<p><b>8. Proposed date of next meeting:</b> Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 4.00pm</p>	<p>Agreed</p>