Minutes of the DACIC Directors Meeting by Zoom on Tuesday 12 January

Present: Joan Bishop (JB), Gordon Sutherland (GS), Neil Hampton (NH), Jayne Pagan (JP), Shona MacDougall (SM), Paddy Murray (PM)

Apologies: Jim McGillivray (JM), Lynne Mahoney (LM)

Dornoch South - Curlew

1. Notification was received on 14 January from Leona Joiner (LJ) THC, that DACIC has not been awarded RTIF at this time. However, we are on the wait list and if we achieve all the conditions by 31 March and one of the approved projects does not, then there is an opportunity to switch places.

*As discussed your project has been put on an approved waitlist, which means that if an project that is officially approved does not meet its conditions by the same date as any waitlisted project and you indeed do, there is an opportunity for your project to be switched around with official approved project. However as mentioned there are a few projects Scotland wide on this waitlist and there is no priority to this list, it will come down to which project has met their conditions first.*

Furthermore, that amount requested of £375,000 has been reduced to £246,450 or 65.72% ‘based on user numbers provided’. Leona Joiner THC has requested that Visit Scotland explain how this was calculated as it would seem there is some misunderstanding of the data. LJ and JB to have a meeting to discuss.

It was agreed that we should continue to progress the conditions: planning approval, footpath crossing and confirmation of land purchase.

1. Our EOI for Highland Coastal Communities has been accepted and we are to submit a full application by 31 January for £100k, but any award is dependent on RTIF. JB has advised HCC (but reply is awaited) and Catherine is continuing with the application.
2. We have been awarded £28, 052 from the Town Centre Fund if we can commit by March. This compares with our request for £57,937. LJ has advised Alan Webster (TCF leader)
3. We have £39,760 offered as ‘match funding’ from Dornoch Common Good. JB has contacted Phil Tomalin to check if this could be used with TCF so £67,812 for a temporary car park ‘Plan B’ and a reply is awaited.
4. To complete the purchase with ANM they want the bell mouth into gas works (unknown cost) shown in our planning application delivered. However, we have to assume that we will not have funding for ‘Plan A’ including the bell mouth. GS to speak to Grant Rogerson to see if ANM accept some form of guarantee that any plan to remove the two-way traffic from current shared access will include the bell mouth.
5. It was agreed to follow up with Shane Manning on his suggested ‘Plan B’ for a temporary small, car only park at the northern end. This would be a much lower cost, would be run by THC with the area of land leased from DACIC, and would be used to ‘demonstrate viability’ of THC developing & running the full vehicle park in future. JB has contacted SM but is awaiting a response.
6. Even if we are successful with RTIF, the user number reduction applied by RTIF and the reduced offer from TCF (and unknow outcome for HCC grant) means there is a fudding gap. Fairhurst to be approached about potential for reducing costs and/or constructing in phases.
7. JB to advise our funding officer Elyn Zhang at SLF of the situation and our approach.
8. GS to update our solicitor Corra Irwin.