



Update 14 – June 2009



Atlantic Islands Centre – Development Phase

Progress report – June 2009

The development phase aims to take the project from the idea through to plans ready for building to commence, and a robust business plan that shows the project will be sustainable into the future.

The aspects of the development phase are:

Developing the business plan

The project is being supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). As part of this support, we are being provided by HIE with professional consultancy to plan the market research and so to develop the business plan. The business plan itself will be a substantial document which will form the basis of our applications for grant funding for the building phase. The core of the business plan will be the financial projections for the café/restaurant, the exhibition area, events, and from other users of the multi-use centre

Market research

Once the market research has been planned, it will be carried out by volunteers who will interview residents, holiday home owners and visitors over the summer period. The first stage of this is being planned for the Atlantic Islands Festival week, when there will be a large number of visitors staying here.

Visits to other Argyll island projects

The business plan will also be informed by the experiences of other island projects, and at the same time other islands will be invited to contribute to the displays in the Atlantic Islands Centre. So far three other islands have been visited – Easdale, Kerrera and Lismore – and visits to Gigha, Jura, Islay and Mull are being negotiated. Other islands to be arranged later include Coll, Tiree and Colonsay.

Building plans and costings

The architect has begun to develop the plans ready for planning application. The ground engineer's report has been delayed by the absence of the Belnagua, which is needed to bring a large excavator to the site in order to clear the ground and excavate trial pits for the ground engineer to inspect. Tenders for the role of quantity surveyor were invited, and the firm of CRGP Ltd was appointed in April.

Registered Office: c/o Luing Stores, Cullipool, Isle of Luing, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4TX