



Update 15 – August 2009



Atlantic Islands Centre – Development Phase

Progress report – August 2009

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

Market research

The questionnaire for market research was drafted for the Trust by the HIE business consultant, and used extensively in July and August since the Atlantic Islands Festival week. With about 100 completed, returns so far show a need for more respondents in the younger age groups – indeed those under 50, and particularly under 30! However, anyone wishing to complete a form who has not already done so is invited to contact a Trust director who will interview them.

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. In the past 6 weeks, more visits have taken place, to Islay, Jura, Mull and Gigha which have proved very useful in learning from their projects.

Building site progress

Site clearance to enable the ground engineer's report is partially complete, and now awaits the ground engineer's next visit.

Project funding and meetings

Various options for funding the Centre are being considered and discussed with potential funders, and we have also discussed plans for the Centre with the History Group Committee.

Shop and Post Office

The directors are concerned about the future of these, but this is a complicated issue and no funders yet contacted have been prepared to provide sufficient funding for buying the land and shop building. An indicative price of over £120,000 has been suggested and 65% of valuation is the maximum grant, leaving a balance well beyond our present resources. This does not include buying the business, let alone finding someone willing to run the business.

We remain willing to talk to all parties to try to assist in finding a solution.