

USCA Update

Ulva School Community Association

February 2012 - Issue: 6

www.uscamull.org.uk

This Issue

Welcome to the February issue of the **USCA** Newsletter, which includes reports on our AGM (including details of the new Committee), an update on the Achleck housing project and some details of the important stakeholders' meeting at the end of the month.

If there is anything you'd like to see in the newsletter do let us know by email on secretary@uscamull.org.uk or ringing 01688500158.

Why We Request Timesheets From Volunteers

USCA has sent out a request for timesheets to those who helped with the Fete and/or the Community Gatherings if they were volunteers. Some people were concerned by this. USCA received grant funding to help with the costs of the projects. When applying for this funding USCA gave a figure for the time that volunteers would spend on the projects. Now that the time for claiming the funding has arrived we have realised that we need to be able to show how much volunteering has been done on the projects. The easiest way to do this has been to ask volunteers to submit a 'timesheet' for the time they gave as a volunteer. We have also needed invoices from suppliers and from people who volunteered their time but needed reimbursement for things they had bought for a project. So, in an attempt to save paper and not inundate people, the single form has tried to cover everything that was needed. We are sorry if this has created any confusion.

USCA Annual General Meeting

Our first AGM was held on Wednesday 8th February 7:30pm at Ulva School. There were over 30 members in attendance and as well as approving some changes to our constitution they also approved the three motions that were put to the meeting.

These motions included approval for the joint purchasing of a polytunnel with the school, agreement for USCA applying for Charitable Status if it would be beneficial and also permitting the Committee to make initial preparations for building on an alternate site to Achleck if it should be needed.

The AGM also appointed a new management committee who are:

Carolyn Charrington, Beccy Roth, Iain Thomson, Lucy Mackenzie, Gremlin Napier, Chris Leitch, Heather Waller, Stuart McKie, Emma McKie, Eilidh Munro, Jeannie MacColl, Mike Hogan, Rebecca Munro, David Woodhouse, Don Lambert.

Update on Achleck Housing Project

Derek Logie (Rural Housing Service) is working on the budget for the Achleck project, so we should be able to go to Torloisk Estate with proposals within a couple of weeks.

It is hoped that a decision can be made quickly, and in the meantime draft plans are being drawn up for the 2 houses.

Triodos Bank have indicated that they are willing to consider lending to USCA. WHHA (West Highland Housing Association) have received Contract paperwork from Scottish Government now for the Innovation Bid funding.

USCA - Community Gatherings at Ulva School in March

To book call 01688 500257 or email: lipnacloiche@btinternet.com

Willow Working & Dreamcatchers

Sun 18th 10:30 - 12:30 & 1:30 - 3:30pm

with Alex James - £5

Both adults and children welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sustainability & Renewables - Your Questions Answered

Fri 23 March 7pm

with Bob Stewart

No entrance charge - but donations gratefully received.

Pottery - Two-day course

Sat 31 March & Sat 14 April 11am - 3pm

With potter Donna Hutchinson - £20

USCA gratefully acknowledges the support of Argyll & Bute Council.



Ferry Consultation

Draft **Scottish Ferries Plan Consultation** - this consultation may well be the last chance that people have to comment on this plan.

The plan can be accessed at:

www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/j205024-00.htm

and the comments survey is at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/QZ25CFT

USCA Meeting On Ferry Consultation - 8th March 7:30pm

USCA will be holding an open meeting about the Ferry plan on Thursday 8th March at 7:30pm at Ulva School.

Everybody is most welcome to attend to find out what is proposed and how they can make their contribution to the consultation.

Update on Local Development Officer Post

USCA are able to announce that we have held interviews for the post of Local Development Officer (LDO) and are delighted to say that we have offered the post as a joint job-share role to Alasdair Satchell and Cally Fleming. Alasdair and Cally are looking forward to their joint role, working with the community and developing the community plan and various projects.

Donation

USCA are very happy to acknowledge the generous donation of £295 received from Lucy Mackenzie, from monies raised from visitors to her beautiful gardens at Lip na Cloiche.

Officers and Contact Details

At the first meeting of the new Committee the following were chosen as the officers of USCA: Convenor - Carlyne Charrington 01688 400 425, Vice-Convenor - Iain Thomson 01688 500 295, Treasurer - Beccy Roth 01688 500 259 and Secretary - Mike Hogan 01688 500 158.

USCA Gatherings in February

Anyone who passed by Ulva School on Saturday 18th could be forgiven for thinking major restructuring work was in progress inside: in fact the loud banging was coming from 20 kids and various parents kneeling on the floor and enthusiastically hammering away at their bird-boxes, under the expert supervision of Jan Dunlop. We were very proud of our efforts and hope the birds will be equally impressed! Many thanks to Jan for all her work and encouragement.

Thanks also to Mull Film Club who showed 'Groundhog Days' at the school on Fri 24th: entertainment for all the family - and it certainly kept all ages from 3 to 70+ entertained.

USCA Committee Minutes 28/02/2012

Apologies: Beccy Roth, Iain Thomson & Gremlin Napier.

Attending: Carlyne Charrington, Lucy Mackenzie, Chris Leitch, Heather Waller, Stuart McKie, Emma McKie, Eilidh Munro, Jeannie MacColl, Mike Hogan, Rebecca Munro, David Woodhouse, Don Lambert

2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Proposed CC, Seconded MH, Approved.

3. **Appointment of Officers:** Convenor - Carlyne Charrington, Vice-Convenor - Iain Thomson, Treasurer - Beccy Roth, Secretary - Mike Hogan. RM willing to help out with the Treasurer role if needed.

4. **Matters Arising:**

Community Gatherings: - Update on events in February & plans for March. Bird Box making very well attended. Film night somewhat less so. But worth considering for a couple of times a year. In March the gatherings will be: Willow Working & Dreamcatchers on March 18th, Bob Stewart leading a question and answer session on Renewables & Sustainability on March 23rd. Finally there will be the first of a 2-day Pottery course on March 31st with the second day being on April 14th. The committee agreed to having a nominal charge for courses but keeping talks free. It

was noted that people were very generous in donations when not charged. Thanks were recorded to LM and BR for their organising of the Gatherings. There was a discussion on the purchasing of the polytunnel jointly with the school. DL agreed to undertake some price research and to meet soon with HW, CL & CC on purchase and siting.

Innovation Fund Bid: - Update on recent meeting during the Rural Housing Conference. All still remain positive and a number of matters have been clarified, but all are aware of how soon work needs to start. There is a need to clarify some details on costings but, hopefully, some plans will be available within a couple of weeks. **CC to action.**

It is hoped that a decision will be in place before the Jim Mather meeting. CC also had meeting with representative of Triodos bank who are keen to loan to communities such as ours. They are unable to attend the JM meeting but were very keen on visiting and having a meeting with USCA. **CC to action.**

Jim Mather meeting : - Meeting action list to be circulated - **CC to action.**

Catering for JM Meeting was discussed and a decision made to hold a meeting for anyone interested in GP room at Ulva School on Monday 5th March at 2pm.

Filming - idea and need for more filming discussed. **MH & CC to action.**

Requests for photos of suitable views and archive items made. **All to action.**

Filming in the school discussed and need for parental permissions stressed. **CC & HW to action.**

Suggestion made of having age-descending school views from oldest ex-pupil to newest starter.

Discussion of display options. DL offered to help with display boards/frames. **DL & CC to action.**

Local Development Officer: Appointments offered to Alasdair Satchel & Calley Fleming both on 2.5 days as a job share.

Office location - Still no definite site. Various options discussed and all asked to think as a local location needed if at all possible. **All to action.**

Scotland's Islands Funding: Update on this given and importance of timesheets/invoices stressed and all members asked to explain this to anyone they know who has yet to return them. **All to action.**

Newsletter: - Contents for February discussed and committee agreed to have their contact details, either phone or email, given in the newsletter. **MH to action.**

5. Finance:

Update on finances. Held over to next meeting

6. Community issues: None except above.

7. Housing Issues: None except above.

8. Publicity Issues: The merging of both websites was discussed and the committee shown the current draft of the site; agreed this should be implemented. **MH to action.**

Discussed if there should be a page highlighting local accommodation, local activities and local crafts/foods. A variety of approaches were explored and committee agreed to think about how this might be implemented. **All to action.**

9. School Issues: The Commission on Delivering Rural Education will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, 6th March at 6.30pm in Lochgilphead. Suggestion that all should write letter highlighting that this prevents island-based residents from giving their views. **All to action.**

USCA doing its own submission to the Commission was approved. **CC to action.**

The issue of transport for children living just within the 2 mile limit and the suitability of the roads for children walking to school was discussed.

10. Any other business: Ferry Consultation. A drop-in meeting will be held to explain and encourage participation in this vital issue. **MH to action.**

11. Date of next meeting: 16th March at 7:30pm and thereafter on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7:30pm.