

## Strathnairn Development Company (SDC) Board Meeting 16.11.2022

Present: Mike Danson (MD), Paul Robinson (PR), Kirsty Adam (KA), Raghnaid Sandilands (RS) (minutes), Megan Bee (MB)

Location: Cyberspace (by Zoom).

### 1. Welcome, introductions, apologies, proxies and quorum

**Apologies** Scott MacDonald, Neil Dawson, Janae Wait.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX applied to be a member. Approved.

We are quorate.

Approval of minutes 17 August & 7 September circulated and approved.

### 2. Chair's report

#### Hub

MD in meetings with CC, Hall and SCBF representatives.

Consensus from meeting is that the location is hub should be at Farr Hall or vicinity of hall - this general area.

All agreed that the SCD would take the hub project forward.

MD stressed we should the project should proceed sensitively and with consultation.

MD is to write a brief paper that would contain some ideas of some possibilities, to see if the community would be in favour of them. It was felt that from there it would be possible to tell if it needs to go out to a consultant to report further.

Gym, cafe, business club, pop up crafters selling space, some possible shop provision in the future if needed etc.

Efforts needed to gauge interest.

Working towards an outline plan, what might go in a hub and what goes in there, what would the outline costs be. We should explore the options of what would go in a hub.

#### Social Housing

To get stage 1 grand form SLF we could have to register with SR Houding.

Have asked for liability insurance from BF.

We would approach Land fund to get funds to do feasibility funds to see if it was suitable for housing. If it is suggested we could put 2/3 units there then we could go for stage 2 funding.

Next step is getting the liability insurance funded by the BF. There are a number of government funds to approach for the actual building of the housing. We as a Development Company could perhaps keep the burden and run the operation more successfully that

way. An initial conversation with development planning suggests that it might well be supported. There is no demand analysis for this area. Development planning suggest it may be an ideal location within the existing settlement.

### **Strathnairn Heritage Association**

Dunluchity church has had a valuation of £50,000. Community keen it not go into private hands. Heritage association had its AGM and are looking at how it might purchased. An application was made to the BF. The Scottish Land Fund are maybe the next possibility if this is unsuccessful. Church would possibility not meet their terms - the community of interest rather than the community as a whole would. An application may be more acceptable to the Scottish land fund board. MD suggested that SDC could be the body to purchase the church, hold the title, and leaser it to the Heritage association for say 99 years, with many conditions. As a contingency if the BF doesn't come up with the £50,000 then the a joint steering group the SDC and the HA could be established with a view to apply for funds. Technical Stage 1 is two work out the demand or support for it. SLF happy with community council area.

There is a resolution that the SDC will appoint MD, RS & SM to explore potential & report back.

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### **3. Treasurer's report.**

PR setting up some budgets.

Collaboration platform part of the budget for internal / external platform.

PR to finish setting up ASANA for the collaboration platform.

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### **4. Community meetings**

There was general consensus arising from meetings.

Good report from the youth event consultant. Feedback from parents that it might be worth having more.

RS to post an update on the community meetings to Facebook. PR to copy that and post on the website for those who don't do Facebook.

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### **5. Website.**

Agreed that we need a general look at the website.

We have not budgeted for a consultant to help.

At this stage is that it is a good idea to tidy up our own website.

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### **6. AOCB**

#### **Digital inclusion workshops**

Kirsty is awaiting news for funding that might allow The Liberty Project to help get people on line / digital inclusion. Previously popular with older members of the community.

If we can help Kirsty, having researched the Highland Council cost of living fund, she will let us know.

Award - MD to pursue further.

Volunteering - talk of setting up a community volunteering day at the hall.  
Speed dating style in maybe in March?

If we can consult community groups as to how to run it, who will help then help promote the event. Dissemination will be important.

RS to write a brief advert to trailer.

MD to then send out a line to the community group.

Perhaps make some direct approaches ie woodlands, Fearnag Growers.

MD to look out for the contact for the Care in Srathnairn to see if they want help to regenerate.

PR to speak to [REDACTED]. Could they be involved?

Proposing that be in March in Farr Hall to encourage volunteers from different generations.

MD proposing that if we have a big project with detailed work or could we have smaller groups that would make recommendations.

MD to write a paper on that for consideration by the full board.

## **7. Next meeting**

Hopefully will have heard about the CDO by the end of Nov.

Will decide a date when we know the result of the application. Pencil in sometime in the week of the 5th Dec. TBC