



GLENELG & ARNISDALE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

# The Trusty

August 2011

The information sheet of the Glenelg & Arnisdale Development Trust

## Apology to Our Members and the Community

Disappointingly, we lost our funding sources at the end of March 2009 and have been without a Local Development Officer since August 2009. The Directors are very conscious that since that time there has not been regular communication with you. Normally, the Development Officer would have produced the Trusty on a regular basis and would have carried out the majority of the admin work. For much of that time it has fallen to the Chairman to carry out this work. Regrettably, production of "The Trusty" fell by the wayside as other priorities presented themselves. Nevertheless, it is now our intention to produce a Quarterly Trusty.

We are pleased that we have now secured funding from Leader (European Funding) and Highland and Islands Enterprise to appoint a Part-Time Development Officer and welcome Emma MacLean, from Arnisdale, to the post. The initial placement lasts until November 2011 and we are hopeful that further funding will be in place until 2013. We are also seeking funding to enable us to cover our Operating Costs.

As part of the funding agreement Highland and Islands Enterprise will be sending a Community Survey to residents. The Trust is not party to the Survey, but will be advised of the results. We urge you to respond to the Survey as it will help us in formulating our revised Development Plan.

We think there are two pressing issues facing the Community at this time.

1. The future of Glenelg Surgery combined with the Out of Hours service **AND**
2. Renewable Energy, with the Trust's Wind and Hydro projects, BUT more particularly with Tidal Energy developments in the Kylerhea Narrows.

## The future of Glenelg Surgery combined with the Out of Hours service.

Dr. Hurding's two year secondment, starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011, has resulted in making this a high profile situation. We understand that the post has to be "held open" until the end of his secondment, should he wish to return to the Practice.\_\_\_\_

A joint approach by the Trust and the Community Council has made strenuous efforts to get Mid Highland Community Health Partnership to meet with the Community, which until now has been unsuccessful. However, they have recently agreed to meet with the Trust's directors

and Community Councillors. We expect to report the outcome to the Community by the end of August 2011.

We do not intend that there be any change to the existing service or cover.

### **Tidal Energy Developments in the Kylerhea Narrows.**

This is an emotive and controversial subject and one on which the Trust has been accused by some in the Community as being "a Secret Society". This is patently not correct. Sharing information within the community is important, however, there are times when this is not possible because of its sensitive nature.

In 2008 we commissioned Dr. Alan Owen, CEng, Centre for Research and the Environment, Robert Gordon University to prepare a proposal on a Tidal Energy Project for Kylerhea.

Since that time we have been working to bring this to fruition. Incidentally, this is nothing new. The Community Council has been considering a scheme for Kylerhea for several years.

The Trust's directors have been discreetly progressing this since 2008, being concerned that large Utility companies would become involved and exclude Community involvement.

There are now two "developers" involved (Marine Current Turbines and Pulse Tidal) who will be testing and developing their generating equipment in or about the Kylerhea Narrows.

We have held several discussions with both companies with the intention of creating a relationship that would benefit all Communities adjacent to their projects.

The **Crown Estate**, is responsible for Leasing the seabed. They have resolutely refused to engage with us, arguing that they normally only grant leases to Developers and not to Communities.

In August 2010 the Trust met with Marine Scotland in Glasgow to put forward our proposals for Community benefit from and involvement with Marine Energy. We recently met, in

Inverness, with Michael Foxley, Leader of Highland Council and Highland and Islands Enterprise Renewable Energy Director and gained their support for our proposals. They are

preparing documents for the First Minister which will support these proposals. We are shortly to meet with the Scottish First Minister who has agreed to consider our proposals.

We are starting to form a consortium of West Coast Community groups to provide a strong voice that will enable us to deliver "clout" for sustainable Community benefit from Marine

Energy Development on the West Coast of Scotland. The **Crown Estate** remains a major obstacle to this and without strong representation we will not achieve our objectives.

### **Directors**

Do these topics interest you? Do you want to help our Community achieve future sustainability and not rely on Highland Council and others to provide the finance for services etc.?

Then become a **Trust Director**. To find out more, contact Michael Francis on 01599 522776 or speak to one of our Directors.

Michael Francis. Chairman/Director

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