



GLENELG & ARNISDALE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Trusty

January 2008

The information sheet of the Glenelg & Arnisdale Development Trust

It has been a very wet and windy start to the year. The weather however did not prevent an excellent turnout in the Community Hall on the 23rd when the audit report on renewable energy potential in Ardintoul forest was presented. Simon Munro of Atmos Consulting, the author of the report, gave a very detailed account of his study. Present at the meeting also was Georgy Davis from the Highlands & Islands Community Energy Company. Between them they were able to answer the queries that were put by the audience. Michael Francis, Chair of the Trust, emphasised the importance of this project in having the potential to provide a sustainable funding stream for the community.

The most promising aspect, in the short term, of the renewables looked at appears to be a small hydro - electric scheme based on Allt na Dalach which discharges into Loch Duich to the north of the Ardintoul forest block. There is considerable work to be done in order to achieve this. A study of the burn flow will have to be undertaken for a year to assess the potential power output; consultation will have to take place with a wide range of bodies such as SEPA and SNH; if all the hurdles can be crossed funding will have to be sought. Throughout this process the Trust will be dependant on specialist advice and here we are fortunate to have Chillwind based in Glenbeag and the expert services of HICEC. We are also fortunate in having the full support of Forestry Commission Scotland through their Area Manager, Steve Smith.

Simon Munro informed the meeting that if the Trust can set up their own hydro - electric scheme then it will be the first grid connected, income generating, community owned hydro project in Scotland.

The plans for the refurbishing the jetty at Quarry have not yet materialised so costs cannot be finalised: the response for support for this project has been very encouraging. At their meeting on 9th January the Trust directors agreed to form a new company, Quarry Jetty Limited, in order to separate transactions relating to the jetty from the day to day business of the Trust. The new company will be a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust.



This is a photograph of the Glenbeag forestry squad taken in the 1950's. Although age is evident it has been scanned and can now be preserved indefinitely in digital format. On the Trust website there is an area where photos of interest can be archived. Of particular interest are images of the community at work, such as this one; the community

taking part in recreation such as gala days, tug of war events, outings, and images of the school, mountain rescue teams, fire service, etc, etc. On Saturday 9th February, from 2pm to 4pm I will be in the Hall with a scanner. Please come along and share your photos. They can be scanned and returned in minutes. Even small 2inch by 2inch black and white photos will enlarge and come out well. The people portrayed above are at the back from left to right, John MacLean, John Cree, Alistair MacDonald, Donnie MacPherson and Jimmy Houston. At the front are Tommy Moffat, Mary Flora Cameron and Jean Houston. The Trust website is currently under construction and this would be an opportune time to contribute to it. Thanks to Charlie MacDonald for this photograph.

See you on the 9th.

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