

DUN BEAG @ STRUAN PROJECT

The initial objective of Struan Community Development Group is to raise the funds to create a landmark building to serve as a multipurpose Visitor & Community Centre on the outskirts of our village on the Isle of Skye. This facility will be designed to not only support the needs of the community but also to further improved access to and better promotion of the rich archaeological heritage of our area. This includes six brochs, several burial cairn sites and at least one souterrain.

After having surveyed the local community in spring 2017, visited other similar projects in the Highlands & Islands and investigated the facilities currently available in the area, the Group has just reviewed these requirements and agreed that the project will aim to deliver the following facilities:-

- Toilet facilities (available 24/7)
- A large community space or hall (min. 150m²)
- Café/Bar/Restaurant facilities with at least 60 covers and including indoor play area for children
- Retail space to provide goods for both visitor and community needs (including potentially a Post Office)
- Museum/Interpretive space
- Reception/Office space
- Staff Accommodation
- Space for 2 lane bowling alley
- Gym
- Treatment room(s)
- Adequate parking space for cars, minibuses, campervans, a limited number of full size coaches and at least 2 car charging points.

The group has therefore identified the following objectives:-

- To commission and develop a building that is in keeping with its environment and can be appreciated by all members of the public, making optimal use of its situation e.g. by maximising the views while withstanding the elements.
- Provide a facility that seeks to address the lack of current facilities in the area, including those for social cohesion.
- Provide products and services of a type and within a pricing structure that is inclusive of all members of the community, including elderly, low income, young people, disabled people and children.
- Provide, wherever possible, opportunities for employment, work experience and skills development for local people, building on the strengths and skills that already exist within the community through the establishment of a sustainable social enterprise.

- Identify and promote, where possible, all services and activities that members of the community may wish to access regularly, for example medical, hairdressing, advice, educational, counselling, youth services, exercise classes, etc., and ensure the design of the facility maximises the ability to support such services.
- Provide key services to support visitors to the broch, e.g. parking, toilet facilities and interpretive information about the archaeological and other historical heritage of the area, as well as enabling the community to gain some benefit from the significant level of tourism which currently exists.
- To include integral staff accommodation.

Alongside this the group will continue to enable, engage with or initiate appropriate environmental projects such as beach cleaning and tree planting, working alongside the existing community groups and wider initiatives across Skye and Lochalsh.