

DUN BEAG @ STRUAN PROJECT – UPDATE APRIL 2020

We are all in living in an unprecedented situation, and at least at the moment it is not at all clear how long this is going to go on for. However this is to update everyone as to where we were at when this really started to take hold.

We were very pleased that just under 40 members of the community managed to attend the Open Afternoon/Evening on 20th February, and to find out what has been happening, and what the options are moving forward. We also sent ballot papers out by email after the meeting to all existing members of the Development Group who had not managed to attend. We then gave them until the end of the month to return their ballots. We also gained a number of new members around the date of the meeting, so there are now a total of 64 signed up members of the Development Group.

Out of a total of 40 ballot papers returned, the results of the ballot was as follows:-

Do nothing further – 6 (15%).

Do it All or Nothing – 14 (33%)

Phase 1 initially - 9 (23%)

Phases 1+ 2 – 7 (18%)

Phase 1 + 3 – 3 (8%).

This means that a total of 33 wanted to do something (85%, which is very similar to the original survey in 2017). Support for Toilets was 34 (87%) and for the Community Excavation 28 (72%).

The board of Trustees subsequently met on the 16th March, by which time it was clear that we were entering into uncharted waters. As far as the ballot was concerned, the Trustees felt that this was a reasonably representative response and that a further survey or ballot of the community was not appropriate or justifiable at this time.

We also agreed that the project would effectively be suspended, with immediate effect, and that no further work would be done on it until further notice – the whole Dun Beag @ Struan project is dependent upon there being a demonstrable and sustainable tourist industry on the island, and it will be months, if not years, before that is the case again. The only exception to this may be background work on the business plan, which can be reviewed and updated at an appropriate time in the future. We will tidy up all the loose ends, make sure all payments for Stage 1 activities have been made and ensure we meet the statutory requirements of being a registered charity (in our case, a SCIO). We will also continue – as and when appropriate – to carry out environmental activities such as beach cleans – there is a huge amount of debris on all the south west facing beaches, which can be collected into piles for removal to a skip at a later date – and to develop further plans for the Community Excavation of the prehistoric round house site, which was always anticipated would not happen before 2021 at the earliest, and will of course be subject to our obtaining all the necessary permissions to carry it out.

Hopefully at some point in the future we will be able to bring the Dun Beag @ Struan project back to life! In the meantime I wish everyone in the Struan community as happy an Easter as is possible under the circumstances! Don't forget if you wish to contact us at any time, just drop an email to struancommunityproject@gmail.com .

Peggy Semler

Chair – Struan Community Development Group