



TARBERT AND SKIPNESS COMMUNITY TRUST **Spring Newsletter 2016**

Directors: Alex Horn-Treasurer, Jane Cowen-Secretary, Anne Horn, Jim Curnyn, Bob Chicken, Ali McBride, Robert McPhail, Neil MacCallum, Alan MacDonald, Neil McKnight, Sheila Campbell. Co-opted Director Gwyn Abernethy



TARBERT AND SKIPNESS COMMUNITY RENEWABLES

Sron Doire Turbines have been installed and are now operating. Operationally all is going well and the contractors are off the site.

We will soon start receiving a monthly pack of performance data and more accurate quarterly reports. These will give the Trust information on how production matches up to our business plan.

Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust own a 6.5% share in Sron Doire windfarm and over the next 20 years this will give us an annual income. In the early years a large part of this income will be required to pay back the loan that secured our share. However, over the 20 year agreement, it is estimated that Tarbert and Skipness will receive around £700,000. TSCT has also signed an agreement with RES Freasdail for £22k annually of community benefit that will accrue to the Trust once Freasdail is commissioned and producing electricity.

TSCT wants every £1 that comes into the communities to be matched and worth £4 to secure lasting benefit. A Community Plan exists for the area and it is updated every year in November. Watch out for an advert for the Planning and Development day in the press and notice boards. All members with e mail will be personally notified about the event.

ALLT DEARG & SRÒNDOIRE COMMUNITY WIND FARMS

WINDY BUS TOUR

Head up the hills to enjoy a great view of Argyll & touch a turbine !

**TARBERT bus terminus at 10 am then to TARBERT FERRY SLIP AT
10.10 am – (meets the 9.45 am sailing from Portavadie) - on
SATURDAY:**

7th May and 3rd September 2016

**ROUND TRIP TAKES ABOUT 2 HOURS, WITH A STOP AT THE
TOP AND BACK FOR THE 12.15 pm ferry.**

**THE TRIP IS FREE TO ALL, BUT NUMBERS ARE LIMITED.
TICKETS SHOULD BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE FROM**

Ian Y Macintyre's Tarbert

**This Bus operated by West Coast Motors Ltd on behalf of Allt
Dearg Wind Farmers.**

WWW.LOCHFYNWINDFARMS.CO.UK

WHITE SHORE BEACH CLEAN 5TH MARCH

Saturday 5th March was like our first day of spring. In bright sunshine and light winds 40 volunteers of all ages took part in the Tarbert White Shore Path clean organised by TSCT. Armed with litter pickers and black bags the volunteers walked or took a boat to the remoter spots.

In just 2 hours they had collected 122 bags of rubbish including part of a lawn mower, several traffic cones, piles of cotton buds, a Calor gas bottle and endless plastic bottles. One volunteer said he didn't want to see another plastic bottle for a long time. The rubbish bin on the White Shore has been removed as it attracted rubbish and was never emptied. There are plenty of lovely spots for a picnic now and everybody can take their rubbish home or to the nearest bin.

At the end of the clean everybody had a chance to relax with a hot drink, biscuits and a chat in the sunshine. TSCT hopes to make the beach clean an annual event. " If we keep on top of it then it won't get so dirty".

The Trust want to thank all those who volunteered their time, Tarbert Harbour Authority, Co-op, Cadora, Ian Y McIntyre and the GRAB Trust for support.



A survey of the White Shore Path in December 2015 found that a large number of people wanted the shore to be cleaned and the rickety bridge to be addressed. The Trust is working alongside landowners and the Council to make the path more accessible. Following the beach clean it appeared a lot more people were going down to the shore – it is a pity that we didn't check numbers before the clean up.

HERITAGE PROJECT

TSCT has been working in partnership with Tarbert harbour Authority to develop a heritage project focussed on the fishing industry. Unfortunately, we have just heard that an application to the Heritage Lottery has not been successful; a pity since the Argyll Economic Survey states that 38% of visitors to our area visit a heritage site or centre. The Lottery said it was a good application but didn't fit with their criteria as well as others in this round of funding. Hopefully we can return to this project and, with some adjustments be successful in a future round of grants.

CLAONAIG BUNKHOUSE

In February 2016 the idea of a 12 bed bunkhouse was introduced to residents of Claonaig and Skipness. Although there have been mutterings over the past year this was the first time they had the chance to look at the idea and discuss it with consultants, Rural Dimensions. Rural Dimensions, funded by the Big lottery have been tasked with assessing the viability of the project with regard to 5 potential sites near the ferry terminal in Claonaig.

Even though Storm Henry was raging, about 30 residents came to Skipness Village Hall to visit the exhibition and discuss the idea. A feedback questionnaire was available with some responses submitted on the day, others since by e mail or delivered to the registered office of the Trust in Tarbert.

The returns have

16 people in favour of the project in principle

2 not sure

4 no

The benefits were seen as encouraging tourists, particularly walkers and cyclists, and specialist interest groups such as birdwatchers, orienteers, school groups for outdoor learning, retreats etc. An improvement to this part of Argyll, with good clean public toilets and a vending machine was deemed positive for visitors and locals alike. Freezer meal catering by local providers could also be a benefit. Positive feedback comments were, "do something more ambitious", "good on you go for it" and "a very exciting project for Skipness".

The points against, were the lack of certainty about viability (already a key consideration for the Trust) and the "negative scenic impact" of a new build compared to the use of an existing one. As the project is only at the Feasibility Stage there is much to be examined fully within the remit of a detailed business plan, should the Trust choose to continue with the project.

If you are interested in developing any of these ideas members are welcome to attend Trust meetings which take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in TALC or contact Jane Cowen at scampbell0301@btinternet.com

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