

EILEAN EISDEAL NEWSLETTER : No. 16 : JUNE 2001

To all Easdale Islanders, members and friends

And now for the good news ... It's been a long haul, but the application for funding from the Lotteries Board (or the Community Fund, as they are now known) is in! Planning permission has been granted, legal technicalities sorted, and the application went in on the 22nd of May - with a full 24 hours to spare!



Architect David Jarvie's design for the refurbished hall.

The key to this application is in the new name of the potential funders - the Community Fund - and in the title of the programme under which the application has been submitted - 'Community Involvement'. It is a community project - not simply a hall project. In 1997 the community of Easdale responded unequivocally that they wanted the Drill Hall to be renovated for use as a community hall. Since then we have all demonstrated the need for a hall through a wide variety of entertainment and fund-raising events, supported by the community. The Trust couldn't have done this without everyone's hard work, and many thanks to all those who have helped in so many ways.

This is our second application to the Lotteries Board and, although it is quite normal to require three applications before 'getting a result', we have a very strong case and will know within five months if we have been successful on this occasion. In the meantime it is likely that the funders will open a dialogue with us. It looks like we're nearly there, although there may be some negotiating and fine-tuning to be done.

Community involvement is a key area, and as it is a community facility we would like to hear from you. What sort of interior finishes/decor would you like to see? Do you have ideas about the landscaping of the ground outside the hall, down to the harbour? This is an area which most of us pass every time we use the ferry, so it's important to get it right. If you can give this some thought, we will arrange an open meeting with the architect to which you can come in person, or send your ideas via any of the Trust directors.

Another piece of good news is that the application includes funding for a salary for a hall manager's job. This will be a part-time, year-round job, based on the island.

Although our energies have been concentrated on the hall application, we have not forgotten the need to pursue other projects - the harbour renovation and sewage and refuse facilities. These are all

linked to the securing of the harbour lease, and this is being progressed as quickly as lawyers and legalities will allow.

Thanks again to everyone. Although the application is now in, your help and your opinions are still needed, so watch out for details of consultation meetings.

Sandra Melville : Chair

Dates for your diary:

Regatta - Saturday 28th July.

World Stone Skimming Championships - Sunday 23rd September.