

Minutes & Notes

Name	Benbecula Community Council		
Date	6th October	Time	17.30
Venue	UCVO		

PRESENT	Gail Robertson, Dave Adey, Hugh MacCormack, Tracey Walker, Iain Macleod, Sheena Stewart, Janet Atken, Darren Taylor,
APOLOGIES	Paul Steele

ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Storas Overall Review	Darren Taylor introduced the CC to ongoing actions regarding the following	Thanks from the Council on a very interesting and informative discussion.		
	<p>DEER - an helicopter count was made of deer with findings being significantly different to expected.</p> <p>HIND numbers had grown significantly leading to over grazing of normal feeding areas which in turn was leading to more incursions into croft and residents grounds.</p> <p>STAG numbers were found to be inline with expectations of numbers but incursions of young groups becoming an issue to the West.</p> <p>Deer do not try to feed where sheep are grazing so one action might be to encourage crofters to put more sheep out on grounds to hold deer in less intrusive areas.</p>	<p>Actions resulting are that a greater number of Hinds will be taken than normal to reduce the impacts. These animals will enter the food chain with some being made available to community groups.</p> <p>Stags whilst not such a large problem will also be taken in greater numbers.</p> <p>Putting sheep out might help but Crofters need to see benefits and support that might be available.</p>		

	<p>GEESE - currently the large number of geese in evidence are grazing crops and fouling grounds which is unacceptable. Storas are looking at alternative methods of control as shooting is failing to to numbers of guns available and the movements of birds. Obviously some geese are protected and therefore credible non shoot methods need to be employed.</p>	<p>Actions around shooting and coralling to be considered along with other ideas around deterrents scare tactics do work but unless co-ordinated just move them onto other peoples ground.</p>		
	<p>Housing Project - Smart Clachan described in detail regarding the aims and further projects that would enhance housing stock in the Islands</p>	<p>Storas are looking for suitable space to build again using the same/similar concepts.</p>		
	<p>Grogarry HUB - A concept for bringing both food producers/crofters together in a space to further enhance opportunitys for increased sales revenue and offerings to residents and visitors alike.</p>	<p>Project underway in terms of planning, a question was raised regarding impact on other existing business in the islands and the accesibility to residents, re transport etc. Actions are in consideration to mitigate these on an ongoing basis.</p>		
Question from CC	<p>MAIN DRAIN - through Benbecula needs attention can a plan be developed to assist with the maintenance and repairs to take place in a timely manner.</p>	<p>Darren on behalf of STORAS will make enquiries and talk to the council members and report back via them.</p>		

Question from CC	TW asked about a resident who requires help with refuse bin placements.	Whilst we would obviously like to look at such things this should be done after the process has been seen to need help either at CC or Cllr level. The process should always be to exhaust the normal process. This way forward was agreed by IM as it becomes difficult to ask questions of officers who may not have heard about an issue.		
Information	Cllr I Mc notified that a amount was still with the council from Covid moneys and that community groups should be able to access once council decide on apportionment	IM to inform members when more information is available.		
Information	DA advised the meeting that the notice looking for a secretary for the BCC had not yet gained any applications.	Should anyone know of a suitable person please advise them to contact us via the FB add.		
	MEETING CLOSED - next meeting first Thursday in November (3rd)			