

## **Morvern Community Development Company**

Note of Public Meeting held 9 October 2014 re Community Hydro Schemes  
Lochaline Primary School

Present

Lesley Jones Chair MCDC

Clare Holohan

Jane Stuart-Smith

Tracy Lawes?

Lilia

Members of the public present 8

Nicki Jones

Alasdair

Veronique

Alasdair Schouler

Peter Boydan Jnr

Martin Simpson

Robert Laurie.

Lilia outlined an introduction to the history of the scheme. And the leaflet that has been circulated to all members of the community about the hydro scheme.

Sallachan is due to be completed and commissioned in November 2014. There are 5 possible schemes which MCDC is looking at. A feasibility study has indentified 2 of the 5 burns that are potentially viable. Allt Achadh Forsa and Barr River. At this stage MCDC will retain an interest in all 5 schemes for 18 months and the Forestry Commission have been informed about MCDC's interest in all.

The first thing to do is to get the detailed feasibility study done for the 2 burns which will cost about £15k.

150K needed in total to cover the feasibility study, consents, purchase of the grid connection etc. MCDC has been awarded a CARES loan of £150,000 for this which should cover 95% of these costs. If the feasibility study shows the project is not viable then the cost is converted from a loan to a grant and that is the end of the matter.

The issue is how to finance the community owned development assuming it goes ahead. There are a number of options form loans from social investment banks and share offers to all members of the community. This is attractive as the investment stays in the local community. The briefing note sent t everyone explains the financing.

A ballot is due to be held in December and it is vital to get the community to vote. If there are insufficient turnout then the whole thing fails. HC is organising the ballot

There were a number of questions:

- 1 Would be any local jobs. LJ said there was a possibility of a part time maintenance job. At this stage it was too early to be specific and partly why the feasibility study would be helpful.
- 2 LJ confirmed the schemes were run of river schemes with no storage.
- 3 Would the FC share its own feasibility study info with MCDC. MCDC understood MCDC will give info to them.
- 4 Would the FC pull the plug? MCDC does not think they will.

Members of the public were asked t spread the word about the hydro scheme and encourage everyone to vote when the ballot papers are out.