

Clarifications of MCW and Drimnin consortium proposals, from MCC meeting, Drimnin 4th June 2018

Veronique Walraven (MCW) and Dave Thompson (head of Community Land Team, Scottish Government) gave short presentations on Community Right to Buy and how this could relate to Killundine. Most of this is covered in the MCW "Aims and Objectives" document, but the following clarifications were made:

the maximum time allowed for the CRtB to be achieved is 8 months from the time it is activated; MCW are hopeful this could be achieved in 6 months. Under CRtB the ultimate decision on purchase would be made by independent ballot of members of the community. CRtB applicant has to be the ultimate owner, but management can be undertaken through a separate community organisation.

Following questions from community councillors and members of the public to Dave Thompson, MCW and representatives of the consortium, the following clarifications were made:

CRtB does not affect timescales for construction of a timber road. The earliest date for initiating construction of a timber link road, under both MCW's CRtB and the Drimnin consortium's current plans for private purchase, would be after April 2019 - this is the earliest date that funding from STTF can be secured. If other sources of funding were secured, work on the ground could begin, but only if agreed to by the current owners of Killundine. Having a CRtB in place does not affect development that can be undertaken.

Derek Lewis stated that there are no plans for any haulage from harvesting on Drimnin estate in the near future. The feasibility study for sea access for timber transport is currently reporting back and no decision has been made about the sea options versus the forest link road.

Representative of the consortium stated that they would probably not be able to buy Killundine if a community bid failed. Members of the consortium are likely to be in a different financial position in a year's time.

On the proposed gift of 250 acres to the community: the lower part of this land is under a forestry grant scheme for the next 15 years, which would make it restrictive for any development to proceed, the upper part is bog, with very little vale as farmland, the area as defined has no access for the Drimnin road. On its own, this area is likely to be a liability rather than an asset.

Point from a member of the public queried whether the Drimnin consortium had considered providing other, more useful areas of land to the community - for example the proposed path of the timber road - and the reply was given that community use/ownership of the area where the road would be constructed would interfere with the Drimnin consortium's proposed use of the land.