

### Place Names & Archaeology (Ness, Lewis)

A LEADER grant of £75k has been awarded to Comunn Eachdraidh Nis as they plan to deliver an exciting new project (Place Names and Archaeology of North Lewis) to coincide with the year of History Heritage and Archaeology 2017 - which also marks the 40th anniversary of Comunn Eachdraidh Nis. The project will create three new posts, two full-time and one part-time.



### Community Energy Facility Based Programme, (Community Energy Scotland)

This project will retain 2 FTE staff to support communities across the Outer Hebrides by providing professional advice over a two year period to develop facility-based energy efficiency, renewables, and innovation/ sustainability projects. Under this joint initiative LEADER and Western Isles Development Trust (WIDT) will fund staff in Stornoway and Benbecula to advise groups throughout the Islands. A key priority for the Outer Hebrides LEADER Programme is to support 'renewable energy and efficiency' and the LEADER Local Action Group approved £28k to assist this project.



## THE OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020 'Sustaining Socially Inclusive Communities'

### LEADER FUNDING UPDATE: SPOTLIGHT ON PROJECTS

#### Hebrides Dance and Wellbeing Studio, (Sandwick, Isle-of-Lewis)

Kirstie Anderson, Director of Isle Dance (an established dance and fitness business) plans to diversify a croft in Sandwick and develop a studio space for dance, fitness and well-being, to cater for a number of local businesses and the community - thus encouraging more people to become active. The project will be managed by Kirstie, working with architects and builders to create an eco-friendly studio space, outside Stornoway. Within this multi-use space, the business will deliver a core timetable of classes in addition to renting facilities to other instructors. The space will also provide innovative services and facilities not currently available in this community and provide a hub for the local fitness and dance enthusiasts. This project also aims to fulfil a need by freelance instructors for appropriate, affordable, and clean rental space from which to deliver classes - enabling them to meet an increasing demand for fitness and wellbeing services. Additional training and employment opportunities will also be met. The LEADER funding of £125k approved by the LAG for this project will enable Kirstie to achieve her ambitions.

### Huisinis Gateway (North Harris)

A grant of £125k has been awarded to The North Harris Trust to aid the redevelopment of an existing community asset in a remote rural location, for the benefit of the local community and visitors to Harris.



The construction of the Huisinis Gateway building will incorporate toilet facilities, changing rooms, an exhibition area, car parking and a campervan site. Huisinis Gateway is destined to become a must-visit destination on a trip through the Outer Hebrides - and will draw increased visitor numbers to the area, securing a larger proportion of tourist spend for businesses along the Huisinis road. The asset will be key to a sustainable future for the township.

### Bothag Bhuirgh (West Coast, Lewis)

Bothag Bhuirgh will host a camping facility on a croft in Borge, Lewis. Two camping pods, sleeping up to five people will be created. A luxury and a family pod, along with an additional amenity pod. The site is situated on the route of the Hebridean Way - and the LEADER grant of £30k awarded to Alice MacLeod will enable this project to be delivered to a high standard.



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### **TrixPix Studio & Marketing (South Uist)**

A LEADER grant of £68k has been awarded to TrixPix Ltd, a media production company based on a working croft on the Isle of South Uist. Crofting is undertaken in parallel to the business and informs much of the creative work. This project has two interlinked strands - to construct a state-of-the-art multi-media studio on the croft to provide a flexible, permanent, properly resourced base from which TrixPix can operate and grow. In addition, to develop TrixPix as an international brand through a cross-platform, English/Gaelic international marketing campaign to support and extend business growth. It is anticipated the project will secure 2 full-time jobs and create 2-3 FTE jobs.



### **Na Bothain (Isle-of-Harris)**

Na Bothain (a croft diversification project) aims to offer a unique glamping experience on a working croft on the west coast of the Isle of Harris. The project will see the development of an existing site to house two timber glamping 'wigwam' pods with a Shepherd's hut-style laundry/ bike storage area and stone dyke fire pit/ BBQ seating area. Guests will also be offered the opportunity to assist with everyday crofting experiences. LEADER funding of £41k will enable this business to achieve its aim to offer affordable, nightly, accommodation and glamping packages for passing walkers, cyclists, motorcycles and hikers walking the Hebridean Way – as well as offering the hire of an 'essentials kit' for families.



### **John's Bunkhouse (Isle of Berneray)**

A modern purpose-built, eight-bed bunkhouse will serve summer visitors, cyclists and walkers travelling the Hebridean Way. The bunkhouse will also have Wi-Fi access, be low-energy and waste-aware - and meet the needs of modern hostellers for quality streamlined facilities and offer greater comfort and privacy. The proposed development will be situated in the centre of the long-distance walking/ cycle route - a five-minute walk from the causeway to North Uist and the ferry to Leverburgh in Harris. Owner, Mary McCormick, will target the increasing numbers of cyclists, walkers & transient visitors passing through Berneray in the summer months, providing functional good quality accommodation suitable for their needs. LEADER funding of £70k was approved to enable delivery of a larger scale project.

### **Ceòlas Gaelic Media Post (Isle of South Uist)**

LEADER funding of £49k has been approved by the LAG as part of an overall package to support a new post of Gaelic Media and Communications Officer. This three-year project aims to support existing initiatives by developing Gaelic digital, social media and online communication and learning. The project will enhance Ceòlas' existing Gaelic-medium social media and will offer Gaelic-medium social media support and maintenance to other organisations. The project also aims to develop local and digital Gaelic language learning initiatives.

### **Uig Lodge Restaurant (Rural Lewis)**

Uig Lodge have ambitious plans in place to build a new restaurant overlooking Uig Bay. The Uig district of Lewis is among the most beautiful locations imaginable - and it has become apparent that the visitor sector in Uig has been increasing exponentially in recent years. Not only will the new restaurant help to build upon the local tourism industry (and across the island) it will create vital additional employment opportunities in a fragile, vulnerable area. A LEADER grant of £125k will enable this project to proceed.



### **The Wee Haven (Isle of Benbecula)**

A LEADER grant of £13k was awarded to The Wee Haven – a project which will provide accommodation, complementary therapies, yoga and relaxation for clients wishing to relax and unwind in a peaceful island setting. By acquiring a pod and yurt, the applicant will be able to offer a flexible number of options appealing to a range of customers. It aims to appeal to the cyclist/ walking and wellbeing markets. The project will offer accommodation in a stylised pod, offering comfort, homely touches and a welcome pack with holistic therapy treatments available on-site and yoga classes in the yurt. The studio space in the yurt will be used to expand the number and range of community yoga classes and workshops for visitors and locals alike.



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