



John
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Director

Sunart Community - Key Learning Points

- Asset Development
- Working closely with Community Council
- Unlocking volunteer capacity
- Push the Boundaries of Social Investment
- Don't take no for an answer!



THE CADISPA TRUST



SUNART COMMUNITY PLANNING APPRAISAL 2014



Aerial photo of Strontian in 1967



Aerial photo of Strontian in 2009

REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED BY



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SCOTLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED

Dr Geoff Fagan

Kylie Fagan

In association with Sunart
Community Action Plan
Working Group

The CADISPA Trust



April 2014

Sunart Community Appraisal - Executive Summary



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Housing





100kw Hydro Scheme





Separate
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SUNART COMMON GOOD FUND



Community Asset Transfers in the pipeline



Lessons Learned

- A) We couldn't have done so much if we didn't have support from the Community Council.
 - *Community empowerment and local democracy debates may present opportunities for closer working ?*



Lessons Learned

- B) We couldn't have done it without a supportive framework for community empowerment and social enterprise. (Lottery, Land Fund, HIE, Community Shares etc.)
 - E.g. Visit Scotland and Forestry Commission negotiations have been easier in this post legislative era, rather than when we built the hydro and had to jump through hoops to acquire land from Scottish Water



But.....

- We've had to react to property sales
- C)is there any way we could encourage public bodies such as FCS or local authorities to be more proactive – come to communities earlier please!
- D) We've still had to persevere.....E.g.:





- SCSBL is first Community Benefit Society to receive support from Scottish Land Fund (we had to convince them it's a community asset (not a school!))
- New CBS Rules created for (A) local and (B) external shareholders with A's forming a Board majority



Persevere!

- So, Community Benefit Society Rules have now been changed to fit the SLF criteria – so don't be put off!!
- It took Highlands and Islands Enterprise 18 months of nagging to agree to fund a worker. (sadly the post was not extended despite exceeding our 2 year targets)



And finally.....

- E) The policy change by HIE to stop supporting Local Development Officer posts is, we believe, a retrograde step
- They have retrenched to a policy of providing centrally approved consultants to help communities, rather than developing community empowerment
- Is there any chance of a re-think?



Thank you for listening

