



THE ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

Friday 4th November 2022

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust and Subsidiary Companies Board Report - AGM 10th November 2022

Please find enclosed a copy of the Board Report which will be presented as part of the Chairs report to members at the AGM on Thursday 10th November 2022. The Report refers to the 2022 Board Action Plan and gives an update on current activity.

1. Continue to reduce the debt burden on IGHT to below £500,000.	IGHT debt had reduced from £686,430 at 20/21 year end to £500,180 by 21/22 year end. 1 further property has been sold in the 22/23 financial year which brings the current debt level for IGHT to approx. £290,000.
2. Identify a programme of further housing and agricultural improvements.	IGHT continues to invest in its built and land assets with planned maintenance due to take place over the coming year. This includes further fencing and required home improvements.
3. GTL to open and operate the Gigha camp and motor home site.	Construction works were delayed however the campsite opened to customers in August 2022 and proved to be a busy month. Further works are underway to improve and enhance the sites offering. A campsite manager is in post and employed directly by GTL.
4. Take forward and secure funding for Ardminish Housing project.	IGHT has been awarded a grant from Scottish Government's Rural and Island Housing Fund and a grant and loan from Social Investment Scotland. IGHT is currently working with Argyll and Bute Council to bridge the remaining funding gap. Planning permission has been approved and construction tenders have been received, meaning works can get underway once the full funding package is secured.
5. Develop the Activity Centre business by installing a solar PV system and offering e-bikes for hire.	The solar PV project was delayed due to the timing of the campsite construction completion as panels are to be installed at the campsite also. This work is scheduled to be completed before end of 2022. E-bikes are now available for hire from the Activity Centre and are being marketed alongside the new paths network.
6. Continue the programme to improve the path network and interpretation on the island.	The Gateway to Gigha project continues to progress with a revised completion date of April 2023. Paths have been created and upgraded, plinths for interpretation have been installed with panels due soon, fingerpost signage and waymarkers are in progress of being installed, e-bikes are now available to hire from the Activity Centre, and adaptive e-bike options to be available soon. Events and training have been carried out over the course of the project by the Ranger Service which is funded through the Gateway to Gigha project.
7. Continue to deliver Achamore Gardens Development Plan and continue Phase 1 works.	A 10-year development plan has been created along with the Head Gardeners restoration plans to focus on the future sustainability of the Gardens. The plans consider staffing, training, education, facilities, and ways to generate income as well as identifying potential funding streams. Plant and woodland surveys have been completed along with an initial design strategy. Two apprentice gardeners are now in post and continue to work towards their qualifications in horticulture.



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8. GREL/ GGPL Boards to continue exploring succession planning for the turbine income.	An Options Appraisal was carried out for GREL through the HIE framework. The report recommendation is to replace the 3 V27 turbines with 2 V52's. GREL is working with HIE to secure further funding to contract consultants to provide project management and technical support to continue the planning of this project.
9. Begin the island wide Woodland Management Plan.	A contractor has been engaged and an outline survey has been drafted on the existing woodlands. Further consultation work will be delivered to gauge ideas and interest in the future of Gigha's woodlands.
10. Engage volunteers in environmental projects and promote low carbon initiatives where possible.	The Ranger service now offers activities and events to help promote and protect our natural and cultural heritage, as well as introducing ways to protect Gigha's environment. The Trust is working with a community-led Net Zero group to review ideas and opportunities.
11. Review opportunities for EV charging points.	The Trust secured a grant from HIE in February 2022 to purchase, install and commission a public EV charge point. The work has been contracted to the same contractor that is due to install the PV panels at the Activity Centre and campsite later this year. The EV charging point is to be located at the campsite.
12. Launch new Visit Gigha marketing platforms and ensure all island businesses are well represented.	A new Visit Gigha website and social media platforms were launched in early 2022 with support from the ScotGrad programme. The platforms aim to promote local businesses as well as targeting sustainable travellers.
13. Continue promotion of the Gigha Community Fund to support small island projects and initiatives.	The Fund has and will continue to support small community projects and initiatives that support a thriving Gigha community.
14. Continue regular reviewing of policies and risks.	An Action Plan for policies and risk assessments has been prepared and is being reviewed and implemented.
15. Facilitate skills development and training opportunities for staff, directors, and residents.	Training opportunities have been offered through the Gateway to Gigha project. IGHT staff members are also offered opportunities to undertake additional training direct to their role. Annual staff appraisal feedback is helping to form a training programme.
16. Continue the process of reviewing core costs and achieving value for money.	Professional fees are continually reviewed, including accountancy and land management fees. The Trust continues to use on island contractors wherever possible.