

TIREE COMMUNITY BUSINESS

Land and asset acquisition (March 2014)



WHAT

Purchase of the Island Centre building.

HOW HIE HELPED

Acquisition costs: £110,000

Officer support:

- To identify potential sources of development funding and to assist group with development plans.

OUTCOME

- Community ownership of an income generating asset.
- Increase in group capacity of TCB.



BACKGROUND

Tiree Community Business (TCB) is a membership based community enterprise which provides a range of printing and reprographic services to the local area, and produces the local newspaper, An Tirisdeach. Along with 2 other organisations the company had been tenants of the Island Centre in Crossapol following its conversion from a knitwear factory to a suite of business units. TCB identified an opportunity to increase income generation and develop a more sustainable business model through ownership of the building.

PROJECT DETAILS

Community consultation demonstrated local support for the proposal and gave TCB a range of ideas for diversifying the use of the building to benefit the community more widely, such as indoor play facilities for children; toilets/showers/laundry for visitors; increased office space for rental; tourist information and heritage facilities. TCB also engaged with an architect who presented 3 development options, on which the community was invited to vote and provide comments.

Acquisition of the building would allow TCB to undertake significant refurbishments. They are keen to improve the energy efficiency of the building through better insulation and the installation of a new heating system; they are also planning a wind turbine to generate renewable energy and reduce their energy costs.

Acquisition would also provide them with an additional income stream through ongoing rental of office space to the other tenants.

HIE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

We provided £110,000 towards the purchase costs, and assisted the group to develop robust, fundable plans for the development of the building as a sustainable community hub.

OUTCOMES

HIE support helped to:

- Bring a local asset into community ownership which would contribute to the economic, social and environmental development of the area.
- Enhance the knowledge and skills of TCB to plan the project and take on ownership.
- Provide access to a wider range of funders for refurbishment costs through ownership of the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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