

OBAN COMMUNITIES TRUST

Feasibility studies (October 2014)



WHAT

Creating a cultural and heritage hub for Oban in a disused primary school.

HOW HIE HELPED

Project planning support: £8,000

- To commission various feasibility studies and business planning support.

Officer support:

- To make strong applications to private and public sector funders.

OUTCOME

Group given professional advice and information to inform business plan and support to make funding application.



BACKGROUND

Oban Communities Trust formed in August 2014 with the aim of submitting a bid to Argyll and Bute Council to take on ownership of the disused Rockfield Primary School building and grounds in central Oban. The group intend to establish the former school as a cultural and heritage hub for Oban and to generate sufficient income to cover management and maintenance costs. To assess the feasibility of their ideas and meet the requirements of the council a range of preparatory studies were required. Some funding was secured from Investing in Ideas and a local charity, with the remaining 40% contributed by HIE.

PROJECT DETAILS

The grant part-funded the following areas of work:

- Appointment of Architect/ QS to update costs and advise on works required to meet outcome of community consultation and market analysis work.
- Market assessment of potential uses of the building.
- Appointment of animateur to engage the community, undertake detailed consultation and develop partnerships.
- Preparation of Business Plan and Project Development Plan.
- Legal and financial advice to review the group's governance to ensure compliance with the main funding streams.

HIE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

We worked with the group to identify the professional support required to develop the business case. This included appointment of technical specialists, including a museum consultant, to advise on options for use and development. HIE funded £8,000 towards the costs of this professional work which totalled £20,000.

OUTCOMES

HIE support helped to:

- Increase the knowledge and skills of OCT to support the development of a strong business case for acquisition of the Rockfield School.
- Support OCT to develop strong applications for funding for acquisition and development.
- Broaden community consultation and engagement to enable community participation and determine support for the proposed project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Contact

Oban Communities Trust

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