**RNLI Community Meeting 25th November 2020 7pm via Zoom**

**Present**: Gillian MacLaren, Andy Peddie, Daryl Wilson, Cllr Porteous, Gillian Saunderson, Cllr Docherty, Elizabeth Riches, Roy Giles, Janice Laird, Joan Paton, Cllr Holt, Martin Dibley, Bill Kennaway, Louise McEwan, Shaun Suttie, David Tod, Sheena Watson, Alec Gardner, Shona Muirhead, Roger Grundy

Andy welcomed everyone and individual introductions took place.

Bill Kennnoway (Boat Club) explained his clubs desire to see improved facilities for harbour users and visiting yachts. A previous study carried out by consultants in 2015 found Anstruther’s facilities to be of poor quality and possibly with the worst on the East Coast. Also, would like to see the facility as an ideal base for water sports. Possible funding could be sought from sports bodies- Bill to investigate further. Discussion re Fife Council harbour finances. ER explained recent dredging was undertaken from funding from Capital budget and Cllr Holt confirmed there is a finite amount of revenue funding available for the Harbours dept.

Shona M intimated the Rowing Club would ideal like use of the ILB shed, ideal for storing one/two skiffs and associated equipment. Ideal location and providing sufficient shelter. Also use of toilet facilities, showers if possible and meeting room on an ad hoc basis. Discussion took place surrounding the shared use of such space as a community hub, booking system etc. Shona has discussed finances with committee and stated grant funding would be required if they were to pursue using the space.

MD estimates running costs at approx. £15-20K per year for entire building, with electricity being main cost. Building could potentially be split into 8 self-contained units.

Joan (SFM) initially interested in using space, however due to SFM finances at this present time, it does no longer seem viable. Keen to echo viewpoint of Bill (Boat Club) to improve facilities for harbour users.

Roger (James and Mary Walker Trust) wish to use main ground floor space of the building to house and display the original lifeboat, which is now restored and requires a home for viewing. It would be educational visitor attraction, offering history of the boat, the shed etc.

Shaun would like to use the main ground floor space and small boathouse for the lobster hatchery which would be set up and run as a charity. Successful project in North Berwick released 14,000 juvenile lobsters in the water last year and had 3.5K visitors. Again, an educational visitor attraction with longer term community benefit (sustainable lobster fishing). This project would require grant funding and Shaun is in contact with agency to provide further support with this matter. DW asked if lobster hatchery requires to be cited close to the sea, Shaun confirmed the closer the better as fresh seawater required.

Alex confirmed himself and Roy would like use of the existing shop space to use as a commercial ticket office and shop front for their boat trips. Finances are no issue as costs would be covered by business. Changing room also of interest, although notes others are interested in this area also. Currently only one shower is cited in the changing rooms.

Haddies also interested, no representative in attendance.

MD and ER suggested Sandra McCrae could be approached to form business plan, approx. cost £1.5K, she has completed several in local area and has thorough knowledge of the community. AP agreed costs and feasibility of this will be investigated further by CC.

Roy suggested the main boat shed door would need replacing as it is very costly to maintain and probably not energy efficient.

Janice reminded all the importance of setting up an overarching group to oversee any successful Community Asset Transfer. At the next meeting AP will invite Nicky Donald (DTAS) to attend. Her role is to support groups with CAT and assist with the setup, constitutions, roles and responsibilities, election of office bearers, funding issues etc.

Martin asked if minutes could be published on website. DW sought clarification from all members that there were no confidentiality reasons and agreed to publish minutes online.

Janice remined the group of the timescales involved with community asset transfer and the need to set up correctly and ensure the right mix of groups use the asset to make best use of grants, reductions etc.

Daryl asked everyone to consider any others in the wider community who may like to get involved with the Community Asset Transfer group, especially those who do not have a vested interest in using the space. If anyone is interested, please contact Daryl for further information.

Next meeting proposed date 10th December will confirm based on Nicky’s availability.