

ULVA BUYOUT UPDATE 19 3 18

SCOTTISH LAND FUND GRANT

Today we received the wonderful news that our application to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) has been approved by the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham.

Under the Land Reform Act, we already have the right to buy all of the estate apart from Ardalum House for £4,241,000 and today's SLF grant award of up to £4,415,200 means we can now open negotiations and make a fair and serious offer for the whole estate.

Today marks a hugely significant step, not only for Ulva but also more broadly for North West Mull. Our top priority is to renovate the existing buildings and provide secure leases for present and new residents and businesses. We aim to have 20 or more people living on Ulva within two or three years, rising to as many as 50 or more in time as new houses are built. Social and economic development of Ulva will bring benefits to the neighbouring communities on Mull. Schools, shops, local services and businesses will all receive a boost from the increased population and also from the increased number of visitors we are confident we shall see once accommodation and facilities are provided for them on the island.

We very much hope that we will be able to enter into constructive discussions with the owners so that we can successfully conclude a deal for the whole estate. However, to protect the community's interest under the right we have been granted, we shall immediately be making a formal offer for the registered land, which comprises the bulk of the estate.

This is a momentous day in the story of Ulva and North West Mull, but we still have much to do. Our fundraising effort has to step up a gear to ensure we can fund not only the purchase but also the high priority developments identified in our Business Plan. Including for example, house renovations, planning for new builds, infrastructure improvements, reinstatement of farmland and provision of visitor facilities.

Thank You to all our Supporters

We want to take a moment to acknowledge the help we have had from so many people to enable us get to this point. There is no doubt that the strong community support shown by the petition and then the postal ballot, along with endorsements received from other community organisations on Mull and nationally all helped to strengthen our application for funding from SLF. As did the 460 plus people so far who have donated money to the cause via our JustGiving appeal. In addition, many people have given freely of their time and energy through what has been a demanding process. So, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone!

Please continue to support us. Either via our JustGiving appeal or directly by contacting the office.

<http://www.tinyurl.com/Ulva18>

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