

SPECIAL UPDATE FROM BARRA



Hello all

You may, or may not, know that Bùth Bharraigh has been on a long journey to try and secure its own premises in Castlebay.

The building we are currently operating from, the Old Co-op Building, is owned by the local authority who had plans to demolish it. We would like to repurpose and renovate the building for our continued use.

We entered the community asset transfer process in 2019 to try and maintain our current location which would enable us to develop our social enterprise further and give the business the security of a permanent place from which to operate.

Initially, our transfer request was terminated and then, after another submission, it was turned down on 2nd of July 2020. We lodged an appeal against the decision.

On 21st January 2022, we gave a presentation to the Community Asset Transfer Appeals Panel of CnES for the Old Co-op Building in Castlebay. Yesterday, we received the written decision notice. The panel granted the transfer for the following reasons:-

“1. After taking into account all relevant considerations and exercising its function in a manner which encouraged equal opportunities, overall, the Appeals Panel held that:-

i. agreeing to the request would be likely to promote or improve:

a. economic development,

b. regeneration,

c. public health,

d. social wellbeing, and

e. environmental wellbeing;

ii. agreeing to the request would be likely to reduce inequalities of outcome arising from socio-economic disadvantage;

iii. the benefits that might arise if it were to agree to an alternative proposal in respect of the land (in particular the demolition of the building) would be less than the benefits of agreeing to the request as set out above; and

iv. there were no reasonable grounds for refusing the request and that it should be granted.”

We would like to thank the Appeal Panel of CnES for hearing our case and dealing with it in a fair manner.

This has been a long road and we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support.

We are not quite there yet but this is a massive step forward. We now need to raise the money to renovate and make it something special for the whole island. It is a tremendous relief and achievement to have finally got this far.

I will keep you up-to-date with developments.

Thanks for reading,

Sarah, Bùth Bharraigh Manager