



## COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: Aros Waterfront Regeneration

### WHAT IS AROS WATERFRONT REGENERATION PROJECT?

Aros Park is a valuable resource of community land just South of Tobermory, owned and managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. It is currently used by both local residents and visitors to the island; its trails through attractive woodlands, popular walking, cycling and running routes, woodland play trails for children, loch fishing and picturesque waterfalls just some of its attractions.

For many, the most valuable assets within the park are those on the waterfront bordering Tobermory, including the original pier and slipway and the two disused historic buildings, one a former sawmill and the other an old boathouse. The deteriorating condition of all the pier and buildings mean they are in need of refurbishment if they are to be preserved.

Grant assistance has been successful to finance development of a business case & to assess its economic viability, including survey work on all of the structures to ascertain renovation costs and an Options Appraisal to determine the best development solution for the site.



### Land Purchase

The THA and FCS are keen to facilitate community control over these assets, and the Harbour Association is in the process of purchasing the land through the National Forest Land Scheme and Scottish Land Fund. The intention is to redevelop the buildings to create a sustainable visitor attraction and a highly utilised community resource in line with public aspirations, and dependent on the success of initial studies.



**Left:** Aros Pier has been derelict for many years, despite several attempts at restoration.

**Above:** The Old Boathouse and Sawmill buildings are in need of regeneration.

# So, what next?

## What are the proposed plans for the site?

The Tobermory Harbour Association are developing a business case focused on three main areas:

### WATERSIDE DEVELOPMENT

- Restoration of the Old pier & Slipway
- Refurbishment of the Old Boathouse
- Watersports facility & Sailing School
- Boat, Kayak, Pedalo & Paddle Board hire
- Water taxi link with Tobermory Pontoons

### HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION

- Restoration of the Old Sawmill into a Heritage Centre
- Café/Tearoom for sub-lease
- Shellfish Hatchery with explanatory tours
- Bunk-house style accommodation

### OUTDOOR FOREST ADVENTURE PARK

- Forest adventure playground
- 'Go-ape' style attraction
- Climbing Wall
- Treetop trail, 3D maze & lookout tower
- Orienteering Trails



## BUILDING ON WHATS THERE ALREADY...

Some of you may be thinking that you are happy with the facilities that are already in place and the activities on offer at Aros Park already...

The THA are aware that the User Groups of Aros Park at present form an important part of its function within the community, be it for dog walking, running, walking or play. FCS and THA will work together to ensure that any development plans complement the current natural, historical and cultural surroundings of the park whilst increasing the footfall of the waterfront and park to generate new economic activity within the town and create new and sustainable employment opportunities.



Top right: The original water mill



Bottom Right: Historic Aros

Left: Tree top trail

# Considerations

- Planning
- Heritage
- Landscape
- Wildlife
- Flora
- Fauna
- Existing Business



# Outcomes

## WHAT DOES THE MAIN PROJECT AIM TO ACHIEVE?

- Attract an increased number of visitors to the island
- Strengthen the local economy
- Create new and sustainable employment opportunities
- Regenerate key community assets
- Maximise the potential from existing visitors and attract new markets
- Strengthen local heritage through regeneration of historic buildings
- Increase sense of community through availability of increased facilities
- Increase community interaction between varying age groups
- Educate the community and its' visitors on the history of the Park and surroundings
- Work with local businesses to avoid duplication and secure gaps in the market

## SOME STATISTICS... TOBERMORY & THA



**700,000**

No. of passengers on Cal Mac ferries to Mull in 2013

Number of boat nights in 2015 **11,000**

**4.7** Average no of passengers per boat

**19,315**

No. of cruise passengers in 2015 visiting Tob

**£2.5m**

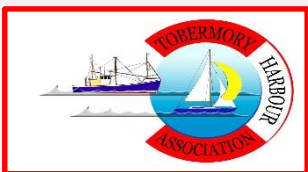
Gross Annual spend in Tobermory supported by the Harbour

No of local jobs supported by the THA

**61**

**85%** of Boaters use the local shops and pubs during a visit to Tobermory.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION



## How can I get involved?

As part of the initial funding through Awards For All (Scotland) and Heritage Lottery Fund, the THA will be carrying out community consultation between May and August 2016 to gain an understanding about what local residents would like to see happening at Aros Waterfront and to gauge support for our development concept. Some of the activities that will be taking place:



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Follow us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Aros-Waterfront-Regeneration-183140492044336/>

Follow us on twitter <https://twitter.com/ArosWaterfront>

Visit our website [www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk](http://www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk)

Join our mailing list [aroswaterfront@tobermoryharbour.co.uk](mailto:aroswaterfront@tobermoryharbour.co.uk)

### HAVE A SAY!

Participate in our questionnaire [www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk/arosurvey](http://www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk/arosurvey)

Complete our online survey [www.surveymonkey.com/arosurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/arosurvey)

### GET ACTIVE!

Join the Aros Waterfront Steering Group [aroswaterfront@tobermoryharbour.co.uk](mailto:aroswaterfront@tobermoryharbour.co.uk)

Visit our information stand at 'THA Party on the Path' on 7<sup>TH</sup> May, 2-4pm at Taigh Solais

Visit one of our 2 drop-in events Details coming soon on our website and social media pages