

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse

Timeline

Automation took place in 1988

Northern Lighthouse Board sold the land & buildings to **Peter de Savary** in 1989 (retained ownership of the tower, occasional's bothy & right of access)

De Savary restricted public access to the lighthouse grounds by a gate at the end of the dykes.

Lighthouse Committee formed

De Savary sold to Highland Regional Council in 1991 with a view to "use the site as a key attraction for visitors to the mainland's most westerly point and have it act as an economic generator for the whole of West Lochaber". Councillors visited in 1994 and rejected plan for HRC to open a visitor centre as it 'would not be viable & would be another white elephant'.

In 1994 the Lighthouse Committee ran temporary exhibition in the engine room & attempted to gauge public interest & potential visitor numbers. Estimated 4,000 visitors /season

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust constituted in 1996(18/12/96) in order to access funding that was not open to HRC. Business plan indicated an annual shortfall levelling out at approx. £12k by 2001. Highland Council agreed to fund this gap (Ref Ward Manager Dot Ferguson 13/6/96)

Initial Trustees: M Foxley (HRC), C MacMillan, J H MacPhail, M Khan, R Smith. R Townsley (NLB)

25 year lease signed in 1996 at £100/anum

Project Manager appointment: To secure funding & deliver a visitor centre, letting houses (1 Winter Only), coffee/craft shop.

Funding from: ERDF, Heritage Lottery, Lochaber Ltd, SNH, HRC & Rural Challenge Fund. **Total £314K**

Contract was awarded to N MacDonald, Portree. Scheduled to be completed by 31/3/97.

January 1997: Applications sought for a manager to run the visitor centre & letting houses. 70 applicants. Manager appointed 21/4/97. Centre opening was delayed until June 1997 Main contractor went out of business before finishing the works. Works completed by J MacPherson, Caol by end of June 1997.

1998: added a 'virtual reality tour of the tower' to the exhibition with financial assistance from BT.

1999 : Exhibition components moved from East House to PLK's House in an effort to generate more revenue by letting East House year round.

1998: First meeting between manager & NLB Director of Engineering with a view to gaining public access to the lighthouse tower.

2004: Public Access to Tower begins in August.

2009: Paths project completed with LEADER assistance

2009: New Geology exhibition opened

2010: Turbine commissioned with funding from CES & LEADER

2012: HC funding cut 25%

2014: Turbine Fails

2017: HC funding cut 25%