**Paper for TBI Admin meeting 13 April 2022**

Letter from Christian explaining the thinking on the Repair Cafe addressed to Rose Grant and Martin Sherring

Dear Rose, Bob and Martin

Thank you for your emails and apologies for the delay in getting back to you all at TBI-life suddenly took over and things got a bit hectic. Thank you Martin for the link to the radio programme-I haven't actually listened to it yet but they were recording while we were there at Boat of Garten.

Gillian, Donnie (from Black Isle Men's Shed) and I attended the lunchtime session which was really useful and gave us a lot of thinking. We then stayed for the Repair Cafe itself in the afternoon where it was good to meet Bob(?) and have a chance to talk.

I'll send a separate email with some photos of the Repair Cafe (not the best I'm afraid!). and some of the documents they use there for registration, volunteers etc (and to build up evidence they can use for future planning and for funding applications). Boat of Garten people have said that we would be welcome to use and adapt these, and they've also offered to come and help with our first session.

I've also attached a draft proposal as we discussed when we held our Zoom meeting. This could be used as a basis for funding applications and for publicity, adapting as required. It is only a draft with initial thoughts after visiting Boat of Garten and following conversations with various people.

We had a good conversation during the cafe about whether we should locate in one place-probably around Fortrose area-or should move around different locations as Bob suggests. We've thought since that for simplicity and until established it might be good to keep it focused on one location (although Bob's suggestion about linking some sessions with the Community Markets would be a great way of publicising it and reaching out). Once people were aware of it and there is a steady group of volunteers  workshops in different Black Isle locations (on, for example, tool sharpening) could be offered and then there would hopefully be the potential for other groups to develop if enough people were interested.

I've been investigating some possible funding and have contacted Di Agnew, the Ward Manager, about the Discretionary Fund details, although need to chase that up as I haven't heard back. We're also checking availability and costs of different meeting places. Black Isle Men's Shed is willing to provide PAT testing at the cafes and will also, I hope, be a source for volunteers, although a number of other people have expressed interest.

We think that the next stages are to form a small Steering group with representatives from Transition Black Isle and Black Isle Men's Shed, and then probably to conduct a very basic community survey. We'd then hope to have a meeting (with food and a chance for people to socialise as well) for potential volunteers where we could carry out some repairs and share thoughts and questions, followed by the first open cafe, hopefully supported by Boat of Garten folk.

I'll send a separate email to arrange an initial meeting and set up some kind of Steering Group-as Rose suggests, after the Easter so probably the week starting 18th (or perhaps 25th) April.  It would also be great to link up with your Highland Community Waste Partnership staff member once they are in post.

Thanks again for your support and interest and looking forward to speaking again soon.

Best wishes

Christian MacLean (she)