

## **APPENDIX C LT14 LEWIS HUB PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS NEWSPAPER ADVERTS**

# Stornoway Gazette



GUTH NAN EILEAN

Thursday, August 22, 2024

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## A TOUR LIKE NO OTHER

CYCLIST RECOUNTS HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE ISLES THAT WAS FULL OF SURPRISES

20 AND 21



## Four in a row for Na Barraich

The Uist and Barra League title trophy is once again decked in red and black ribbons after Barra FC were crowned champions for the fourth season on the spin.

The golden period for the Barra boys has continued with yet another league title taken home to Castlebay.

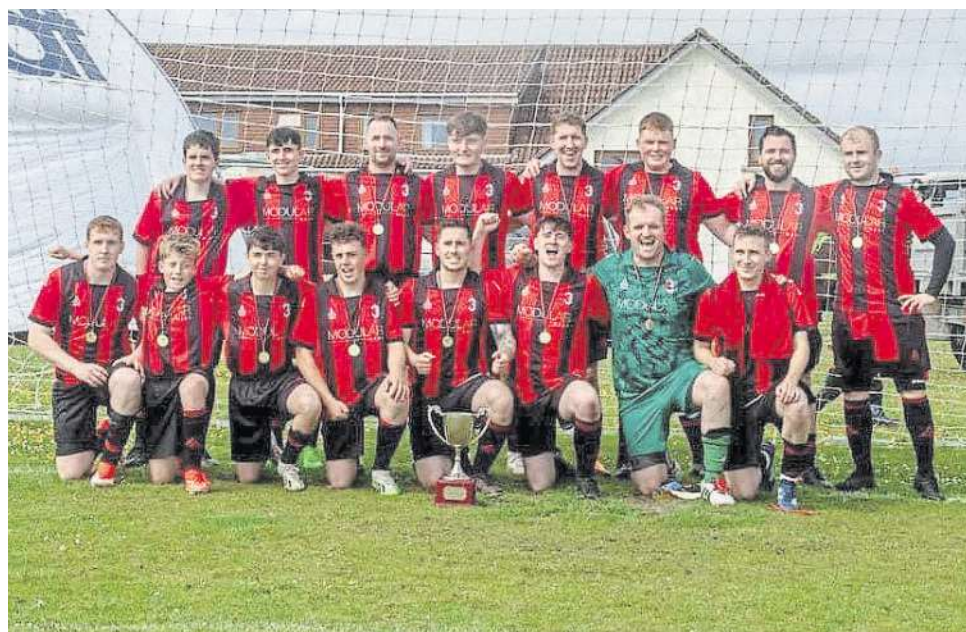
Barra were crowned champions earlier this week when title rivals Lochdar Saints slipped up and failed to beat North Uist.

It has been another stunning season for Barra who

boast a perfect 100 per cent league record at the moment having won all thirteen matches on league duty.

Na Barraich also won the Summer Cup earlier this season ensuring a double toast for the club in terms of senior silverware but the club will be disappointed to have tumbled out of the Co-op Cup they won last season after Barra were knocked out by Harris at the semi final stage.

See next week's Gazette for more from Barra's record setting four-in-a-row.



Barra FC: Champions again.

## Court hears concern over police station cover

Serious questions have been raised about the staffing of Stornoway Police Station and the quality of its CCTV following a case in the Sheriff Court which revealed massive gaps in existing arrangements.

The case resulted from charges against Malcolm Maclean of Timsgarry, Lewis, of leaving the scene of an accident and failing to report an accident which were dismissed, after the court heard evidence of his efforts to communicate via Stornoway Police Station.

Two days before last Christmas, the station doors were locked, the intercom system was linked to "someone on the mainland who had no idea where I was" and the CCTV could not identify who had tried to use the system due to "inclement weather".

In a letter to the Gazette, Mr Maclean writes: "The case raises significant questions about Stornoway's 24/7 emergency services that could have disastrous consequences for anyone fleeing attack or sexual assault or simply seeking emergency assistance at Stornoway Police Station" - now the only one on the island.

The case arose from a minor road traffic incident in which Mr Maclean's vehicle scraped a stationary Tesla car while entering the car park behind the Royal Hotel. The damage caused amounted to £360 and this was amicably settled between Mr Maclean and the car's owner.

Continued on page 5

# £4.5m windfarm deal: 'Important milestone'

Brian Wilson  
news@stornowaygazette.co.uk

Significant steps forward on community benefit from the proposed Spiorad na Mara windfarm, off the west side of Lewis, were announced this week, to general approval.

Once the windfarm starts generating in 2031, according to current plans, the developers will pay £4.5 million a year (linked to inflation) in community benefit to the area

covered by two local government wards, stretching from Ness to Uig, for a period of 35 years.

However, this does not preclude negotiations over other benefits during the construction phase while the agreement specifically does not cover payments related to landfill sites essential to the project's development.

Hopes were expressed this week that the announcement will demonstrate that constructive negotiations with the developers, led by North-

land Power, are producing positive outcomes and will encourage further discussions on supply chain and issues, as well as community payments.

The agreement announced this week is a tribute to the work of the West Side Estate Group which is made up of three community-owned estates - Galson, Barvas, Carloway - as well as one privately owned one, Dalmore, which cover the area in closest proximity to the proposed development.

A statement from the group said: "This marks an important milestone in discussions which have been taking place between the parties over recent years and demonstrates a clear commitment by the developer to residents in the areas located closest to the project, should the project proceed."

"West Side Estate Group stresses it has not taken any view on supporting the project but has had a clear objective to secure a commitment of this type from the develop-

er as early as possible in the project timeline".

Kenny MacLennan, chair of Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh, said: "As well as the community benefit fund, West Side Estate Group has been pressing the developer for more extensive and regular consultation with other organisations and communities prior to the consenting process starting."

West Side Estate Group say that they foresaw the need for pro-active engagement

Continued on page 3



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### GENERAL NOTICES

#### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

1. A Martin Maclean, 8 Galson, 0.1 ha, Site for a dwelling house (131099)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by **19/09/24** at [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

#### DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

1. Murdo Macarthur, 10 Cromore, 0.109 ha, Existing house, Barn, Polytunnel and Holiday Pod, Fencing conditions (128143)  
2. N Maclean, 7 Mid Borve, 0.166 ha, Amenity ground for existing house, Fencing/use conditions (127818)

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

#### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr. NORMAN MACDONALD has registered their croft 191 BALNABODACH, ISLE OF BARRA, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 01 April 2025.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home).

The croft registration number is C 10115.

#### Subletting of Croft

John Macarthur is applying to sublet the whole croft at 40B South Shawbost, Isle of Lewis to Roderick Murray, 29 South Shawbost, Isle of Lewis for 5 years.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of the advert.

#### First Registration of a Croft

Jill Mary MacInnes has registered their croft 3 Govig, Harris on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 6th May 2025.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C10124.

#### LEWIS & HARRIS RANGERS SUPPORTERS CLUB

##### \*DATE CHANGE\*

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the **AGM** will now be held on **Thursday 29th August 2024** at 7.30pm in the club's premises.

All members are encouraged to attend.

### GVOL

#### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Donald John Buchanan trading as DJ Buchanan Haulage Services of 7 Baile Nacille Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula, HS7 5ND is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at Airport Road Adjacent to Scottish Water, Balivanich, Benbecula, HS7 5LA. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

## PLANNING NOTICES



### COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

#### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

A summary of the planning applications and drawings, sufficient to explain the developments listed below, are displayed on the interim website of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. <https://cne-siar.gov.uk/>. (The Online Planning portal is not currently available) The full planning application documents, plans, and drawings may be viewed at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway HS1 2BW or Council Offices, Balivanich, Benbecula between 0900-1700hrs Monday to Friday by prior appointment.

Requests for an appointment, for further information or any written comments may be made within 14 days of the date of publication of this notice by email to [planning@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cne-siar.gov.uk) or by post to the Planning Service at the address given above, quoting the application reference number:

**23/00505/PPD – Seallam (Hebrides People Centre), Northton, Harris.** Alter and Extend Existing (Co Leis Thu) Hebrides People Centre Building. Construct New Student Accommodation Building and Associated Parking Area. Construct New Parking Area and Access onto A859. Create New Landscape Features, including paths and walkways. Install Air Source Heat Pumps and Roof Mounted Solar PV. (Revised building design, parking arrangements and landscaping proposals).

**24/00253/PPD – 1 Enaclete, Uig, Lewis.** Erect house, upgrade existing access track and create parking, install air source heat pump and wastewater treatment plant.

**24/00281/PPD – Scottish Water Access Track 2, Balallan, Lochs, Lewis.** Formation of access track.

**24/00283/PPD – Scottish Water Access Track, Miavaig, Uig, Lewis.** Formation of access track.

**24/00285/PPD – Storage Units, Mossend, Stornoway, Lewis.** Siting of 7no. shipping containers for self-storage.

**24/00294/PPD – Agricultural Shed, 9 Upper Aird, Point, Lewis.** Retrospective application for the erecting of a 25m x 5m agricultural building and siting of a steel storage container

**24/00296/PPD – 9A Drimisdale, South Uist.** Erect dwelling with ancillary infrastructure and services.

**24/00297/PPD – 6C Claddach Kirkibost, North Uist.** Erection of dwelling, provision of associated access, parking, drainage, installation of air source heat pump and other services.

**24/00298/PPD – Free Church of Scotland, Back, Lewis.** Site ground-mounted solar PV panels. Erect fence enclosure.



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## PLANNING NOTICES

#### The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended) Regulation 7 NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), hereby submits notification of pre-application consultation for a proposed development on Arnish Moor, Isle of Lewis.

The development site is located in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm on land to the south of Arnish Road and east of the A859 Road and partly to the west of the A859 Road and north of the River Creed.

The proposed development is for: **Proposed Construction and Operation of a Strategic Electricity Transmission Hub Consisting of a 400kV AC Substation, an HVDC Converter Station, and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, the Formation of Platforms, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds, Peatland Reprofitting and Improvement and Other Associated Operations (National Development).**

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for this proposed development on 06 August 2024.

Members of the local community and interested members of the public are invited to attend the following consultation event (Public Event 1) relating to the proposal described above to be held on:

**Thursday 05 September at Cabarfeidh Hotel, Perceval Road South, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2EU between 1500 and 1900**

Details of further consultation (Public Event 2) will be published in due course. This event is an opportunity to view the proposals and to meet the Applicant and the project team who will be available to answer questions about the proposal.

Further information can be viewed on the project website at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/western-isles/>

Further details can also be sought from the Community Liaison Manager whose contact details are listed below.

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal, may do so at the above event or by email or in writing to: Kevin Morrison, Community Liaison Manager, [Kevin.Morrison@sse.com](mailto:Kevin.Morrison@sse.com) Mobile: 07586 237 814, Battery Point, Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, HS1 2RT

These comments must be received no later than **17 October 2024**.

Please note that any comments made to the Applicant are not representations to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

There will be opportunity to make representations to the local planning authority following the submission of any subsequent planning application for the development.

Murray Agnew

For and on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

## TRAFFIC NOTICES



### COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

#### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

#### COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

#### TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

**(BAYHEAD STREET, CROMWELL STREET, NORTH BEACH STREET, CASTLE STREET, SOUTH BEACH STREET, KENNETH STREET, FRANCIS STREET, POINT STREET, BANK STREET, STORNOWAY) ORDER 2024**

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, under section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, hereby gives notice of the temporary road closure of the following sections of road between 12.00pm and 12:45pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**BAYHEAD STREET, CROMWELL STREET, NORTH BEACH STREET, CASTLE STREET, SOUTH BEACH STREET, KENNETH STREET, FRANCIS STREET, POINT STREET, BANK STREET** – from the roundabout adjacent to Porters Lodge, along Bayhead Street and Cromwell Street and North Beach Street, then turning south on to Castle Street, then turning east along South Beach Street to the James Street/Shell Street roundabout. Additionally, from the South Beach Street/Kenneth Street junction, along Kenneth Street, then turning west along Francis Street and Point Street, then turning north along Bank Street.

The temporary road closure is in the interests of road safety as the Royal Regiment of Scotland march in a parade in Stornoway, to mark the Regiment being granted the Freedom of the Western Isles.

Traffic will be held up at any junctions or accesses to the sections of road affected by the closure.

A copy of the Order and a plan are available on the CnES website: <https://cne-siar.gov.uk/home/roads/traffic-regulation-orders>

Calum Mackenzie  
Chief Officer, Assets & Infrastructure

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# Stornoway Gazette

GUTH NAN EILEAN

Thursday, October 31, 2024 [stornowaygazette.co.uk](http://stornowaygazette.co.uk)

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## Dr Doig and the missing memorial fund

AFTER 57 YEARS HIS LEGACY MAY FINALLY BE RECOGNISED

20 AND 21

## Stornoway pupil takes starring role

An eleven-year-old boy from Stornoway Primary is to star in *An t-Eilean* (The Island), having beaten children from all over Scotland to the role in the BBC's first Gaelic television crime drama, writes Katie Laing.

Tobias Macintosh, known as Toby, will be playing the part of Dougie Maclean in *An t-Eilean*, which has been filmed in Lewis and Harris and around Glasgow and is due to screen in early 2025.

The four-part thriller, which features fellow is-

lander Sorcha Groundsell in the lead role, cost more than £1million per episode and much of the filming has been done at Amhuinnsuidhe Castle in Harris.

Toby was involved in eight days of filming earlier this year, most of it at Amhuinnsuidhe, although he also filmed near Glasgow. There, he and his dad, Vojta Veszpremi, received star treatment at the Radisson Red Hotel, getting upgraded to the penthouse suite.

Turn to page 4 Toby is being touted as a future TV star



## 350 workers needed for Minch inter-connector

Murray MacLeod  
[news@stornowaygazette.co.uk](mailto:news@stornowaygazette.co.uk)

A total of 350 workers will be required during "peak" construction of the Minch inter-connector and associated on-island works, with a requirement that temporary housing provision be established, as well as placing major additional pressure on ferry services.

The scale of the challenge ahead became clear after sen-

ior representatives from SSEN Transmission, who are responsible for the project, addressed a meeting of Stornoway Community Council last month.

A new inter-connector across the Minch and convert-er station at Arnish is needed to enable future renewable energy projects on the island to export electricity to the markets where it is needed.

Kevin Morrison, SSEN Community Liaison Manager, and Colin Bell, Western Isles Lead Project Manager, attended the meeting of Stornoway

Community Council.

Minutes of the exchanges have been seen by the Gazette and help explain the level of activity over the next few years.

"Colin Bell explained that the impact of the project on transport links will be challenging for the island," the minutes state. "Demand for ferry capacity could rise three-fold over the next three years and could justify investing in a third ferry.

"Accommodation is another challenge. There will be 350 people at peak construction.

SSEN are working to identify capacity and are committed to a lasting legacy and invest in the housing stock."

The minutes further state that they have a "detailed list of sites, either brownfield or existing sites" and would "avoid using hotel accommodation during the tourist season."

"A mix of solutions are being looked into" and SSE is "looking at accommodation in the Stornoway airport area" which will be submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for planning permission.

The company representatives told the meeting that they would "maximise the local workforce, working with contractors", but given the scale of the work a significant number will need to come from the mainland.

"Colin Bell explained that SSEN will be spending £11 billion across the North of Scotland, £1.8 billion here in the islands, including the sub-sea cable" in order to transform the electricity transmission network so that renewable energy can be exported south.

## "Diversity" beats local knowledge in CMAL board farce

A prominent island business figure who was interviewed for appointment to the board of CMAL, the Scottish Government's procurement quango, has told how he was "grilled about diversity" and asked "absolutely zilch" about matters affecting the islands.

He told the Gazette: "I was surprised even to get an interview and did a lot of preparatory work but it was a totally surreal experience". With the chair of CMAL, Edinburgh lawyer Morag McNeill, leading the questioning, he was "grilled about diversity. They didn't really seem interested in anything else".

The appointments of Mark Tarry, a Yorkshire based railway professional, and Stuart Cresswell, who has spent his working life with Associated British Ports, were confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop, who again ignored calls for island representation.

Uisdean Robertson told the Gazette on Wednesday: "This is so, so disappointing to be ignored once again after everything that has been said and everything that has happened. Absolutely nothing has changed. This cannot go on".

The islander who was "grilled about diversity" explained: "I said that my business employs more women than men and that the only criterion is ability to do the job. What else was there to say? But that clearly wasn't the answer they were looking for."

Continued on page 3

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## PLANNING NOTICES

**The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended) Regulation 7  
NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION**

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), hereby submits notification of pre-application consultation for a proposed development at Amish Moor, Isle of Lewis.

The development site is located in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm on land to the south of Amish Moor and east of the A859 Road and partly to the west of the A859 Road and north of the River Creed.

The proposed development is for: **Proposed Construction and Operation of a Strategic Electricity Transmission Hub Consisting of a 400kV AC Substation, an HVDC Converter Station, and the Associated Undertaking of Earthworks, the Formation of Platforms, Landscaping, Means of Access, Means of Enclosure, Site Drainage, Temporary Construction Compounds, Peatland Re-profiling and Improvement and Other Associated Operations (National Development).**

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for this proposed development on 06 August 2024.

A consultation event on the proposal (Public Event 1) was held at Cabarfeidh Hotel, Perceval Road South, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2EU on 05 September 2024.

Comments received at the first consultation event and after the event during the consultation period have been summarised. Feedback on these comments will be presented at the second public consultation event (Public Event 2). There will also be an opportunity for further consultation at, and following this event which will be held on:

**Thursday 14 November 2024 at Cabarfeidh Hotel, Perceval Road South, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2EU between 3pm and 7pm.**

Further information can be viewed on the project website at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/western-isles/>

You can submit comments on the proposals to the Applicant by email or in writing to: **Kevin Morrison, Community Liaison Manager, Battery Point, Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, HS1 2RT**

E: [Kevin.Morrison@sse.com](mailto:Kevin.Morrison@sse.com) Mobile: 07586 237 814

These comments must be received no later than **28 November 2024**.

The Pre-application Consultation (PAC) process undertaken, and the feedback received will be summarised and presented in a PAC Report that will be submitted with any future planning application for the development.

Please note that any comments made to the Applicant are not representations to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. There will be opportunity to make representations to the local planning authority following the submission of any subsequent planning application for the development.

Murray Agnew

For and on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

## PLANNING NOTICES

**Lewis Hub 400kV Substation and Converter Station**

We are pleased to be hosting a second public Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) event on our proposed new substation and converter station on Amish Moor, following our initial event in September 2024 and feedback period which closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Any additional comments received following the second consultation event will be collected for the Pre-Application Consultation Report as well as those comments received at the first PAC event. The closing date for this feedback will be the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. We are holding this event to present our proposed design for planning submission, following feedback received from the first PAC event and ongoing design developments. We will also present our responses to feedback received as part of the statutory consultation, which is required for major and national planning applications. To support the growth in renewable energy developments across the north of Scotland, which are supporting the drive towards Net Zero, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand. As part of the investment, a new 400kV Substation and Converter station has been proposed to form the Lewis Hub located on Amish Moor. The Lewis Hub will be connected to a new Converter station at Fanelian, near Beauly on the Scottish mainland by approximately 80km of underground and 80km of subsea HVDC cable. From the land fall of the subsea cable at Amish Point, there will be a 3-4km long section of underground cable to the Lewis Hub.

**The feedback event will be held on: Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway, HS1 2EU We encourage all members of the local community and all interested parties to attend the event. @ssentransmission @SSETransmission SSEN Transmission would like to invite you to attend our Consultation & Feedback Event. Thursday 14 November, 3-7pm**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Liaison Manager: Kevin Morrison Battery Point, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2RT Tel: 07586 237 814 Email: [kevin.morrison@sse.com](mailto:kevin.morrison@sse.com) @SSETransmission @SSETransmission

To find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by using the following URL: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/western-isles](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/western-isles)

## GENERAL NOTICES



You can keep up to date on all the latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Premises Licensing, Licences to Sell Alcohol and Probate Notices in your local area.

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**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

A summary of the planning applications and drawings, sufficient to explain the developments listed below, are displayed on the interim website of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. <https://cne-siar.gov.uk/>. (The Online Planning portal is not currently available). The full planning application documents, plans, and drawings may be viewed at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway HS1 2BW or Council Offices, Balivanich, Benbecula between 0900-1700hrs Monday to Friday by prior appointment.

Requests for an appointment, for further information or any written comments may be made within 14 days of the date of publication of this notice by email to [planning@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cne-siar.gov.uk) or by post to the Planning Service at the address given above, quoting the application reference number:

**24/00270/PPD – 6 Mangersta, Uig, Lewis.** Erect house and domestic outbuilding; new access, parking and ancillary external area. Install private wastewater system.

**24/00473/PPD – Loch a Laip, Craigstrome, Creagorry, Benbecula.** Installation of ensiling plant and storage tank.

**24/00484/PPD – Community Hub & Café, West Tarbert, Harris.** Change of use of land for the siting of units for mixed uses, Non-Residential Institution (Class 10) and Cafe (Class 3), community garden and provision of 5 car parking spaces.

**24/00488/PPD – D MacDonald Ltd, Workshop, Balivanich, Benbecula.** Proposed 4.2m high rear extension to existing workshop to provide additional storage for building materials.



PLAN: Proposal is to enable the Bank of England to direct payments to a failing bank.

# Lords defeat bill designed to save banks

BY NICK LESTER

A heavy defeat has been inflicted on the UK Government by peers demanding that big banks are not covered by a new industry-funded bailout scheme.

The House of Lords, where, unlike the Commons, Labour does not have a majority, backed by 247 votes to 125 a Tory-led move to limit the scope of a tool for managing the failure of financial institutions, known as resolution.

Proposed legislation would enable the Bank of England to direct the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) to make a payment to a struggling bank to recapitalise it, with the costs covered by increases to a levy paid by the industry.

The government has said the mechanism contained in the Bank Resolution (Recapitalisation) Bill would provide more flexibility in responding to the failure of banks and protect taxpayers from

shouldering the financial burden.

The change supported by the Lords would prevent FSCS funds being used to support large institutions, already covered by a safety net, designed to absorb losses and support recapitalisation, known as the minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities (MREL).

The demand by peers for a rethink will be considered by MPs when the bill goes to the Commons.

Tory frontbencher Baroness Vere of Norbiton said: "The regime in this bill is not restricted to small banks or even small and medium-sized banks. It can be used for all banks, even the very, very largest.

"Using this mechanism in these circumstances would be astonishingly costly for banks and their customers."

Crossbencher Lord Vaux of Harrowden said: "Larger banks are required to hold additional resources known as MREL, effectively to ensure that they are able to bail themselves out.

"If the government is not confident that the MREL is sufficient for those larger banks then it should be looking to strengthen that regime, rather (than) extending a measure that is designed specifically for smaller banks."

Responding, Treasury Minister Lord Livermore said: "The government's policy intention is for the mechanism provided by the bill to be used primarily to support the resolution of smaller banks."

Stressing the need for "additional flexibility", he added: "To narrow the scope would constrain the Bank of England's optionality, particularly where it might be necessary to supplement the resources bailed in with additional capital resources."

He went on: "The government's clear view remains that this mechanism should be intended for smaller banks and the Bank of England should not assume use of this mechanism for larger firms."

## Strong trading for NatWest boosts positivity amid caution in market

The FTSE 100 finished higher after a largely cautious trading session, with uncertainty over the US election casting a shadow on global trading.

Many were also looking towards major interest decisions in the US and UK later in the week as the equity markets remained fairly subdued.

In London, strong sessions for NatWest and Burberry helped support some positivity in the main markets.

The FTSE 100 finished 7.09 points, or 0.09%, higher to end the day at 8,184.24.

Elsewhere in Europe, the other main markets were slightly lower as major multinationals were impacted by stronger currency rates against the weak dollar.

The Cac 40 ended 0.5% lower for the day and the Dax index was down 0.47%.

In the US, the main equity markets were



NatWest's shares hit their highest level for a decade.

weaker as investors sought security in Treasury bonds, helping bring down the yield on 10-year bonds.

Meanwhile, sterling lifted as worries about the US election weighed on the dollar.

The pound was up 0.12% at 1.293 US dollars and down 0.33% at 1.188 euros. Mining giant Anglo American slipped

marginally after it struck a deal to sell its stake in an Australian coal joint venture for AU\$1.6 billion.

NatWest saw its shares rise to their highest level for a decade as another broker upgrade helped it keep up its recent rally.

The banking giant was up 2.6% to 385.1p amid a boost from a share price target upgrade by Peel Hunt.

### Lewis Hub 400kV Substation and Converter Station



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To support the growth in renewable energy developments across the north of Scotland, which are supporting the drive towards Net Zero, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand.

As part of the investment, a new 400kV Substation and Converter station has been proposed to form the Lewis Hub located on Arnish Moor. The Lewis Hub will be connected to a new Converter station at Fanellan, near Beauly on the Scottish mainland by approximately 80km of underground and 80km of subsea HVDC cable. From the land fall of the subsea cable at Arnish Point, there will be a 3-4km long section of underground cable to the Lewis Hub.

The feedback event will be held on:

Thursday 14 November, 3-7pm

Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway, HS1 2EU

We encourage all members of the local community and all interested parties to attend the event.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Liaison Manager:

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To find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/western-isles](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/western-isles)



FOR SALE: The former abrdn office in Aberdeen's West End.

# Abrdn office block on sale for £1.275m

BY KELLY WILSON

**T**he former abrdn office in Aberdeen's West End is up for sale at £1.275 million.

Prince Arthur House was vacated by abrdn earlier this year when it made a decision to shut its Granite City office and ask all 90 staff to work from home.

Martin Gilbert, George Scott and Ronnie Scott Brown launched Aberdeen Asset Management (now abrdn) in 1983 and went on to make the financial services giant a global name.

The 9-10 Queen's Terrace building has been renovated and re-let to engineering consultants Apollo on a 10-year lease.

It is being marketed by CBRE as an office investment with the building taking in £135,000 in rent per year.

The category B listed building is made up of three floors and had been home to abrdn for 40 years.

CBRE said it has been extensively refurbished to provide open plan offices of the highest quality with

"magnificent period features" throughout.

The selling agent also said the building lies in an "extremely prominent location" in the west end of Aberdeen city centre, with office space totalling 8,440 sq ft.

It has been confirmed the lower ground floor, home to No 10 Bar and Restaurant, is not affected.

The brochure states: "The lower ground floor and two rear parking spaces are under separate ownership and does not form part of this sale."

Dominic Millar, CBRE chartered surveyor, said: "As one of the most recognisable assets in the west end, CBRE is pleased to bring Prince Arthur House office investment to the market."

"Nine & 10 Queen's Terrace provides high quality office and open plan accommodation that has been refurbished to ensure that the traditional craftsmanship and character of the building is retained.

"Investors are being

presented with an exceptional opportunity to acquire a high-profile office in the city."

The company's vowel-light name is a nod to its Granite City roots - it was formed in 2017 through the £3.8 billion takeover of AAM by Edinburgh firm Standard Life.

At the time of announcing the closure of its Aberdeen office, abrdn said it was targeting an annualised cost reduction of at least £150m by the end of 2025.

London-listed abrdn employs about 5,000 people globally, including around 2,200 in Scotland.

As of the end of last year, the Edinburgh-headquartered company's assets under management and administration totalled £494.9bn after net "outflows" of £12.4bn.

This was down slightly from £495.7bn at the end of June.

The group's investments arm "continued to face structural headwinds", with high inflation and geopolitical uncertainty impacting client portfolios.

## Drinks giant has thirst for growth despite lower sales due to weather

The drinks firm behind Magners and Tennent's said it has seen "some consumer caution" as shoppers tighten their purse-strings ahead of the Budget.

It came as C&C Group revealed lower sales for the past half-year as poor summer weather hit demand for cider.

Nevertheless, the Dublin-based business delivered stronger profits and said it is on track with performance targets amid efforts from the new management to revitalise the business.

Former Marston's boss Ralph Findlay became chief executive officer in June, in addition to his role as chairman.

Mr Findlay said he is "pleased" with the latest performance despite "unfavourable summer weather".

C&C revealed that net revenues declined by 2% to 861.4 million euros (£715.6m) for the



Ralph Findlay is 'pleased' with the latest performance.

half-year to August 31. It said the drop reflects the sale of the non-core soft drinks business in Ireland, lower contract brewing volumes and weaker UK cider sales.

The group said Magners sales volumes came under pressure during the period, dropping by 10%, as "the lack of sunshine in the summer months" hit the brand.

It comes as C&C is set to regain control and distribution of Magners at the start of next year after having the brand managed by Budweiser Brewing Group over the past seven years.

C&C said it has witnessed a strong performance by lager brand Tennent's, which increased its market share over the half-year.

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