

Radio

STORNOWAY COMMUNITY RADIO GROUP

Tel: Stornoway 703609

Rev. S. J. G. Bennie
St. Peter's House
10 Springfield Road
STORNOWAY
Isle of Lewis
PA87 2PT

21st May, 1991.

To all members and associates

I enclose copies of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th May 1991, together with a draft copy of the leaflet for public information which it was agreed should be produced. It is a first draft, and you are invited to make comments on it. Some points may need to be amended or omitted and some other information included. When the text is agreed, Angus Maciver can then consider the format and graphics for the final document.

Various action was agreed upon at the Meeting, and those involved are asked to be in a position to report back.

The next Meeting of the Group will take place on **Wednesday 5th June 1991 at 7.30p.m. at this address** (as per the Constitution).

Since our last Meeting, I met in Inverness Thomas Prag, Managing Director of Moray Firth Radio to discuss their feasibility study of the possibility of a chain of community radio stations throughout the Highlands (and Islands!) On that occasion I also met representatives of Heartland Radio in Perthshire who are preparing their application for a licence to be submitted at the beginning of June. They have expressed willingness to share their problems in producing a business plan with us. I shall report more fully at the Meeting.

The next Meeting will include much information for debate and perhaps decisions, and so I hope that you can attend. Please let either myself or Morag Ann Macleod, our secretary, if you cannot be present. Her phone number is Sy 4408 (Home) and Sy 3564 (Work) -with 70 prefix, of course!

Leis gach deagh dhurachd,

Is mise, le meas,

Stanley J. G. Bennie
Chairman

Encls.

STORNOWAY COMMUNITY RADIO GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH MAY
1991 AT 7.30P.M. AT 10 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, STORNOWAY.

PRESENT: Revd Stanley Bennie (Chairman), Martin Hall, Angus Maciver, George N. Macleod, Andrew Larcombe, Calum Ferguson, and Irene Smith-Macleod.
APOLOGIES: Morag Ann Macleod, Colin Scott Mackenzie, Jon Hague and Alistair Nicholson.

The Chairman welcomed those present for the first time and gave a brief history of the work of the Group.

He had received information from the Radio Authority detailing conditions and fees for applying for and operating an Independent Local Radio station; the fee tariff for FM is £4 per 1,000 adult population up to 100,000; the DTI fee is £246 for less than 100,000 adults per annum. The DTI also charged :£18 per talk-back channel £36 per audio link channel £72 per terrestrial link.

FINANCE.

To meet current expenses e.g. postage, stationary, phone calls, photocopying, it was agreed that members be invited to contribute a small amount for a "kitty". Morag Ann Macleod was applying for a grant from the new Leader Programme through Barry Edwards of the Council for a feasibility study on the grounds of social, cultural and economic issues as this is a diversification programme. It was noted that the Local Enterprise Company has a training budget.

DISCUSSION.

It was generally felt that there was need for a plan or document to be produced as a handout so that people in the community would know what the Group is doing and giving the raison d'etre for Community Radio. It was felt that we would need to identify the needs of different groups in the community regarding programming and the possibility of market research was discussed.

ACTION.

Stanley Bennie: to write the text for the plan or document for public information.

Angus Maciver: to produce the document.

Martin Hall and Andy Larcombe: to approach the RAF Station Meeting with a view to fund raising.

Calum Ferguson: to approach 'contacts' in the media world for advice and information.

Morag Ann Macleod: to approach Barry Edwards at WIIC for funding for a feasibility study.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. To be decided.
The Meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

STORNOWAY COMMUNITY RADIO GROUP

What is the aim of the Group?

-to promote community radio within the catchment area of the town of Stornoway with a view to setting up and operating a local community radio station.

What is community radio?

-In the Broadcasting Act 1990 the Government set up the Radio Authority to oversee independent local radio and to offer licences for small community radio stations to serve small communities or special interest groups. During 1990 applications were invited in Scotland for stations in the Shetland Islands, Aberfeldy and Pitlochry,

Paisley, Inverurie, and Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes.

When could a community radio station begin operating in Stornoway?

-That depends on when the Radio Authority decides to advertise for applications for a licence for this area. They will wish to see public support for a community radio station through an enthusiastic Group. So, get in touch and get involved!

Is there a need for a community radio station in Stornoway?

Many people have fond memories of the bi-lingual output of the former BBC Radio nan Eilean. The BBC's current excellent programming in Gaelic and English is, however, transmitted to the Highlands and islands or to the

whole of Scotland. A Stornoway community radio station could supplement existing radio provision with programmes of very local interest.

What would be the coverage area?

-a low power VHF radio station is likely to be heard in the town of Stornoway, Point and Back North Tolsta, covering a population of approximately 15,000.

Would there be Gaelic programmes?

-Yes; Community radio is intended to meet the needs of the community and Gaelic is an important part of the local culture. The Group would wish to complement, not compete with the output of BBC Radio nan Gaidheal by, for example, bi-lingual programmes, Gaelic tr

tion programmes, and giving air-time to Gaelic groups who wish to submit programmes.

What is the target audience?

-All ages and special interest groups; the station will provide what the community wants.

What hours would the station broadcast?

-initially for a limited period at breakfast and tea-time. Later, hours can be extended. At other times another station can be relayed as a sustaining service.

What programmes are planned?

-Local interest items e.g. "Harbour News", "Road News", "School News", "On the Islands this Week"; special interest groups can produce pro-

grammes if they wish, e.g. Radio Rann; clubs and societies.

Who will run the radio station?

-initially, committed volunteers. If funds permit, it might be possible to employ a station manager/producer.

How will it be financed?

-by advertising, sponsorship, fund-raising, and subscriptions.

If I am interested in getting involved, what do I do?

-Get in touch with any member of the Committee (see names overleaf) and volunteer! If you are enthusiastic about getting involved, you won't regret it; it will be hard work - but great fun!

CONTACT PERSONS

Revd Stanley Bennie, 10 Springfield Road. Tel Sy 703609

Colin Scott Mackenzie, Park House, Matheson Road. Tel S: 702008

Morag Ann MacLeod, 42 Lewis Street. Tel Sy 704408

Jon Hague, Southend, 73 Lower Bayble, Point. Tel: 870727

STORNOWAY COMMUNITY RADIO GROUP

NOTES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING : WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY, 1991

Detailed information on any point may be obtained from the Chairman, the Revd Stanley Bennie, St Peter's House, 10 Springfield Road, Stornoway, PA87 2PT. Tel: Sy 703609.

26/04/90 Letter of Intent to the Shadow Radio Authority

25/05/90 et al. Contacts with **Thomas Prag**, managing Director of **Moray Firth Radio**.

29/05/90 et al. Correspondence with **Chris Higgins**, Social Development dept., **HIDB**.

Undated Information re **BBC Stornoway**.

04/10/90 News Release - **IBA**

24/10/90 **Inaugural Meeting**.

05/11/90 et al. Correspondence with officials of **Comhairle nan Eilean** about premises and finance.

28/01/91 Address to **League of Friends** of Stornoway Hospitals and Homes about co-operation.

Undated Notes from Jon Hague: "Star-Reulan Radio".

00/05/90 Advertising rates and programme schedule of **East End Radio, Glasgow**.

02/12/90 **Scottish Community Broadcast Group** per chairman, **John Gray**: *Heartland Radio Association; Community Radio Training Scheme; advice on training, equipment, finance, copyright.*

Various Proposed "**Special-Event**" Community Radio Station, **Stornoway Carnival, July 1991**: Sponsorship - requests to British Telecom, Bank of Scotland, Chevron U.K. Limited (all declined to sponsor); and to Cala Hotels - manager of **Seaforth Hotel, Stornoway**, is interested in sponsorship.

15/02/91 **OFTEL**: copy of **Class Licence to run Sound Broadcasting Systems**.

05/03/91 **Radio Authority** Press Release re first local licences.

March 91 **Radio Authority Independent Local Radio** : Notes of Guidance for Local Licence Candidates - includes annual licence fees.

