

Land, Sea & Islands Centre, Arisaig

Comments from initial design options displayed in LSIC from 23rd May

All comments below are copied directly from those left on the feedback sheet and Post-It notes, as well as emails received from others. This includes spelling mistakes!

Specific preference for option 1 is shown in red; specific preference for option 2 is shown in blue. It just so happens that there are eight of each.

Arthur would like a tank with some fish inside

keep it simple - no café. Option 1 - and put all walk around displays in new bit. Insulate very well and have new windows. Don't put in ground/air source - too expensive. With new windows and insulation area would be warmed by low cost heaters. Keep this room (with a view) as a quiet, contemplative area and also where people can use the wifi for study. Consider coffee/tea machine?

No café - facilities available already in Arisaig. No as 'hang-out' space - Astley Hall could be utilised more this way. Keep it simple - we are not a city!

Café - yes. Creates good, healthy competition in village, attracting more visitors, giving more life to a sustainable community.

Option 1 with charred cladding :-)

Prefer Option 1

Option 1. No café! Will take trade from village.

Storage facilities needed so artefacts can be rotated. No café. Too big an extension.

Option 2. Better juxtaposition of old and new. (Musician)

Option 1 the best. No café, plenty in village.

option 2 - great light space. Big window to view of sea. Great for coffee area on sunny day.

Option 1 looks nicer.

Option 2 looks great! (Visiting architect)

Charred cladding! Great idea! Love the reference to how the fire was used in the Smiddy!

Keep it traditional - it's the local white clad harling - not wood that matches the old Highland houses built after the crofts.

Appreciate the references to the origins of the building in the blackened finish, but still prefer the look of untreated weathered wood, but with the black steel roof - this combination seems a softer option, and maybe there could be some charred wood panels inserted internally to suggest the link between the new and the old?

Orientation: prefer that the main orientation of the extension should be parallel (approximately north south) with the existing building, but with a glass link between the two structures to give a sense of separation. This could be used to create the extra space, rather than the single storey addition which looks somewhat block-like and a bit unwelcoming. The glass link could have a lower pitched roof, keeping your idea of 3 pleasing varying pitches.

If the new extension could protrude a bit further to the south, it would give the possibility of creating a glass 'corner' similar to that in the existing Room with a View, thus making best use of the views across the bay to the Islands. This would also have the advantage of creating a bigger courtyard space for outdoor seating. [NOTE: this contributor also left a sketch for a possible floor plan]

Not sure that a café is a good idea. Requires another level of H&S [*Health and Safety*] compliance. Better to leave that to existing providers.

Another café would be great - we could monitor sales at all outlets for a period to test fears about loss of sales.

Electric whatevers - more cost/outlay by ACT when money already stretched/hard to raise. Prefer option 2 if had to choose any.

Don't expect everything for nothing and certainly don't become too big 'for your boots'. Small/compact can have just as much as the 'wow' factor if not more than somewhere bigger. [Written below:] I AGREE!

I think that it should be good if there were no sheeps kept in captivity let them run free

I think a café would be a good idea giving the place more hospitality and also adding wifi so people can share their experiences on social network sites such as twitter, facebook and instagram etc! (café + wifi)

Prefer wood - lovely to combine old and modern.

We think a good thing would be a platform with glass floor so you could see under the sea + rockpools?!?!

I agree with this idea :-) would be lovely to look down and see the marine life beneath you

A wild life hide with a poster of all the things you might see and chairs where people can sit. You could make it like a room in the wildlife hide so you can sit down and relax

A big open space is a bit 'bland' - add interest by not being able to see all parts of the building, but be led through different spaces.

Keep simple. Far too much going on. Heating & storage needed.

Have you considered ground source heating and also photovoltaic roof 'slates'? Keep the carbon footprint low....

The history of the post office is a great addition. Sad to see what must be one of the last traditional posts close.

PRIORITIES: Parking bays; energy efficiency; extension to shop/display areas; storage built into building and not stand alone.

It's a lovely place, small is best! It is a fantastic place to come and read about family ancestry. More history of the local people up to present day.

More history of the harbour and the roads.

Great + amazing. Fabulis.

Like L-shape but think that option 1 is too long - do you need to use up space with more toilets?

A place where people could post the wildlife they have seen in the area, bit like this I guess.

Option 1 looks the better of the two. The wood cladding looks good.

Prefer option 2. It takes up less of the view than option 1.

Hang out space better in Astley Hall for games etc. MORE SPACE.

There is a lot of good information in here but it's all a bit jumbled up.

It's all very informative and clear and understandable. The only suggestion I was thinking of is: you're beautiful design could be anywhere, I would like to see something that is typical for here; for the Highlands. (Realising though that we would like big windows...) It's like the new houses at Camusdarrach, whether one likes it or not, it does not really fit in. The centre is for tourists and locals, so it would be nice to see it a wee bit more traditional.

Think option two looks better but extend the length of the new build rather than having other small building to the side. Most of the buildings in the village are of as you say the Victorian design is it not better that we make the new build blend in. No charred timber please. New stone wall along front edge with integrated seats and information boards good idea. Carpark area from option one with tree and blurred edges would look good. Canopy at entrance to the centre is a must.

Agree underfloor heating & air source heat pump.

Agree with priority of ground source heat pump, improvement of insulation & windows etc. Feel there is a need to retain simplicity of the building and extend it along similar lines but with much more window space looking out to sea. Slate roof 'A' frame shape extension beside current interpretive room on Rhu Road side. Porch good idea - keep simple.

option 2. like the way the extension looks a bit like a boatshed.