

New life for Remote Harbour

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Kinlochbervie's plans for breathing life into Clash Harbour are gathering pace.

Talks will be held this week aimed at drawing-up plans to breathe new life into a remote corner of the Highlands.

The community of Kinlochbervie in north-west Sutherland acquired a site which includes a redundant harbour several years ago.

It now has permission to clear the coastal one-acre spot at Loch Clash to make way for new facilities.

Community leaders are keen to hear what people want and a public meeting will be hosted by local charity the Kinlochbervie Community Company (KCC)

and development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) on Wednesday afternoon.

Ideas already mooted include a heritage centre, bunkhouse, cafe and small parking area for camper vans.

KCC chairman, Graham Wild, said he was delighted Highland Council had approved the clearance of the site under its vacant and derelict land fund.

“Once cleared, the next step will be to come up with architectural designs,” he said.

Kinlochbervie Community Council chairman, Gary Sutherland, added: “We’d like to see what new facilities people feel the area requires.

“We want to explore ways in which we can achieve that while promoting the area as an enhanced tourist destination to help revitalise the existing businesses and maybe encourage some new ones.”

Roy Kirk, HIE’s area manager for Caithness and Sutherland, said he was looking forward to an open discussion.

“We have every confidence it will be well attended, as well as informative and productive,” he said.

According to the Kinlochbervie Community Growth Plan, the village recognises “a need to diversify and look at innovative ways to address the challenges”.

Local MSP Mike MacKenzie is expected to attend the “Loch Clash and Beyond” event, which starts at 1.30pm on Wednesday at The Kinlochbervie Hotel.

A community bus will provide transport to and from the meeting. Bookings can be made by calling 01971 521054 or e-mailing nwcba@klb3.wanadoo.co.uk.