

## **Project information**

The 2016 Dunadd Community Plan identified that the area was lacking community facilities to develop the ideas and aspirations of Dunadd residents.

in 2018, just after the Dunadd Community Enterprise was set up, The Church of Scotland made its intentions to put Kilmartin Church on the market along with the church hall, Kilmichael, and Ford Churches.

This project will consider Kilmartin Church building and explore its possible uses. The first stage of this is a feasibility study.

## **Approvals**

The project is to be overseen by the Directors of Dunadd Community Enterprise; a company limited by guarantee. The Enterprise has, at the time of writing, 102 members, who the directors report to. However, not all of the community are members of the Enterprise so there is need for wider community consultation within the project.

## **Communication**

Communicating with the Dunadd community, is not a straight-forward task. There is no central community point, and the 720 residents are spread out over a large isolated rural area comprising of four villages, isolated settlements, and farms. Not all the community is covered by high speed broadband and leaflet dropping is a time-consuming process, taking a couple of volunteers a couple of days.

However, the project will only succeed if the community participates and feeds back its views.

## **Overview**

The Church of Scotland had given the Enterprise twelve months to find a way forward on purchasing the church building, before putting the building on the open market. This time span was not achievable as the project also needed to identify and apply for funding to carry out the feasibility study. The Kilmartin House Museum had also been in talks with the Church of Scotland regarding the purchase of Kilmartin Glebe field, which was needed to help it towards its goal of a refurbishment project. To aid this a memorandum of understanding has been agreed between the Museum, a benefactor, and the Enterprise. The benefactor will purchase the church building and Glebe field, to enable both organisations to continue at their own pace. The purchase of the building is a major risk to the benefactor as the outcome of the project is uncertain. The final decision could be not to continue with the purchase and development of the church building.

## **Executive Summary**

The feasibility study will enable the community to make an informed decision on whether to progress with a business plan and purchase the church building. Within this process, communication and feedback to and from the community is a priority.

The community has already provided ideas on possible uses of the church building within the Dunadd Community Plan. These were confirmed and expanded at two further meetings that the Enterprise organised during its setup. There has also been an online survey asking for more ideas.

The community has stated it wants to explore the feasibility of the church building; however they want the graveyard to be respected.

The Church is on a tourist route with lots of visitors, one estimate is up to 100 people a day in the busy summer months, but this needs to be clarified. There are two significant crosses within the church building, the ownership of these is presently unknown and the study needs to identify the ownership and begin a dialogue with their owners.

Heating and running cost of the building will need to be identified, looking at innovative ways that the building can use modern technologies. It also needs to identify how to get water and sewerage into the building.

The project will look at three options for uses of the building. These will be put before the community for discussion and for making decisions and identifying next steps.

### **Expected Benefits**

The feasibility study aims to explore the condition of the building, identify repairs that need to be carried out to make the building secure, safe, and watertight. It will identify possible uses of the building and related costs to develop these, if the community decides to proceed toward purchase and redevelopment of the building.

### **Constraints**

The building is being forsaken by the Church of Scotland as it is too expensive to maintain and run. It also has no water or sewerage which makes the use of the building difficult for other activities other than church services.

The building is a grade B listed building that is set in an active graveyard that is owned by Argyll and Bute Council. Access to the building is via a pathway, the ownership of which is unknown at the moment, but thought to be Argyll and Bute Council. There is a war memorial arch across the pathway that inhibits access to the site for building works.

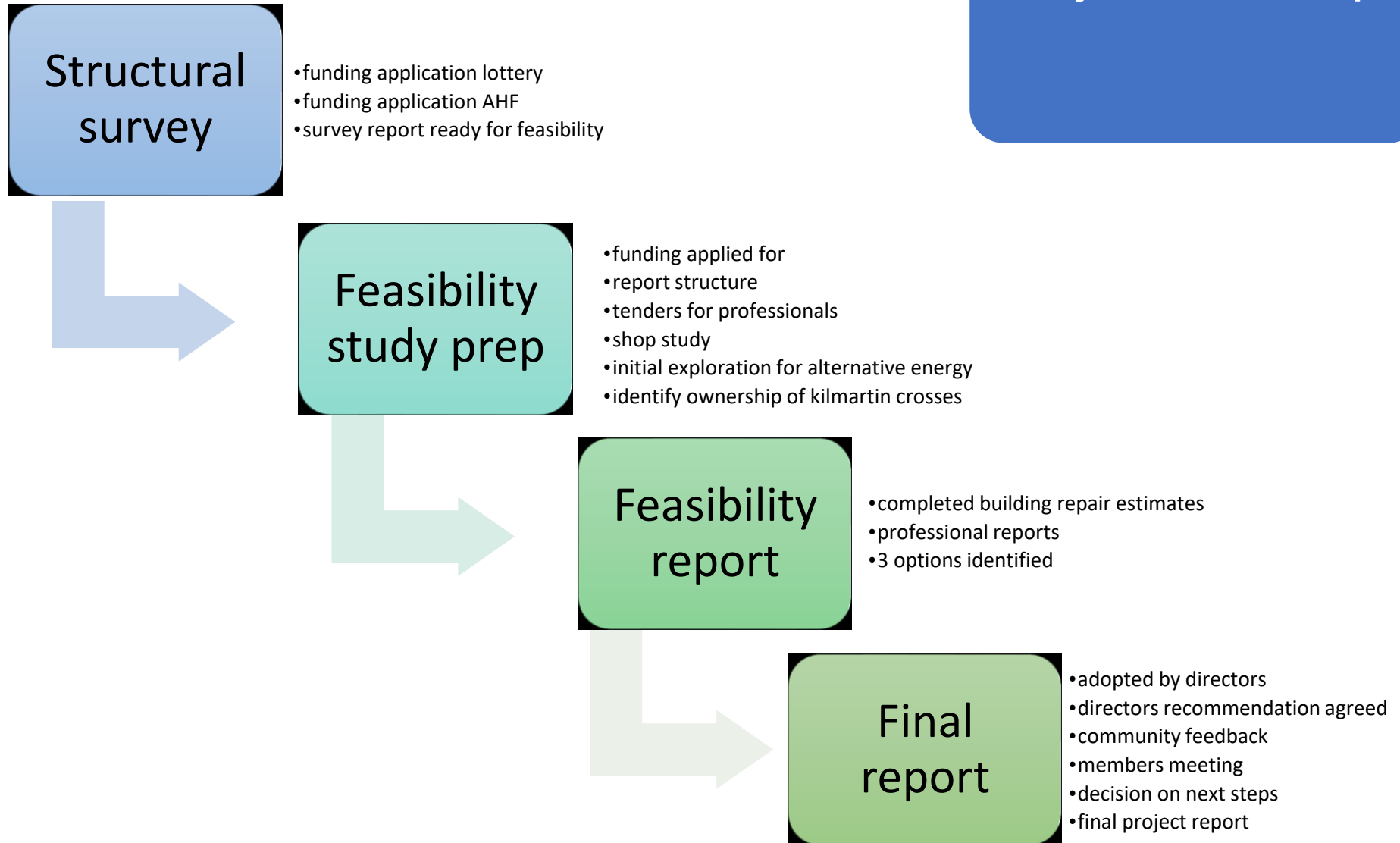
It is expected that there will be challenges in how a listed building and modern building standards will marry together.

### **Timescale Costs**

The project will need to apply for outside funding so timescales will be dependent on the successful awards of grants.

For the initial work Dunadd Community Enterprise has been awarded a grant of £20,000 to engage a consultant for a 12-month period.

## Project Process Map



MONITORING KILMARTIN CHURCH PROJECT			
Description	Outcome	Target date	
Structural Survey	Funding applied for viability study  Appoint surveyor Survey completed Inside & outside reports received	26 May & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct  Oct 2019 Nov 2019 to be negotiated	Completed & achieved Completed
Feasibility Study Preparation	Report structure identified Three options for building use – brief agreed Prepare briefing sheet for tendering Advertise for Professional Inputs Appoint for Professional Inputs Shop study Explore alternative energy options Establish ownership of Kilmartin Crosses	Sept 2019 Sept 2019 Sept 2019 Sept 2019 Oct 2019 Nov 2019 Dec 2019 Nov 2019	Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Draft received  Completed
Feasibility study	Estimates for building repairs sought Professional reports completed	Dec 2019 Nov 2019	
Report Received	Report prepared	Dec 2019	
Final report	Report accepted by directors Publish findings Community meeting to discuss findings Members decision Next steps agreed	Dec 2019 Jan 2020 Jan 2020 Feb 2020 Feb 2020	