

BCLC STRATEGY following 2016 and lacking current grant funding

BCLC's primary objective is to develop the forest resort for the benefit of the island in terms of jobs, visitor attraction and community facility.

1. We can see no better way of using the community asset of the forest for this objective. To develop this objective we have a scheme for a forest centre and we have already applied for funding for this, sadly without success so far. We intend to continue to seek funding. As planning permission is in place this has already enhanced the value of the forest, and we will seek to preserve this.
2. Our secondary objective is to find small local projects with which we can help and provide some sorts of facilities. These projects may be businesses, where we already have developments in place, or activities. Also where nothing is now planned for reasons developed later in this document.
3. A tertiary objective and recognising our present issues, is to ensure the simple survival of the charitable company, to prevent the assets from being moved to off-island or into political control.

The problems in achieving all of these objectives are, in the main, community support and funding -

To develop community support we need more involvement from the community through better communication via website, Buteman and forest small scale event involvement. We also need to bring organisations such as BCC, Rotary, other Island charitable groups and the like into the process. The current divisions within the membership represents both the greatest challenge and the best opportunity for support.

To achieve the funding needed the board believes we need to do more to present the business case, for forest development which is strong enough to justify commercial loans and/or investment as well as grants and other third and public sector support.

The first essential is to strengthen the board, hopefully through greater community involvement, as above.

Governance is an issue with BLF and the public, so we will be producing and reporting regularly on an overall business plan for the next 2 years. At present, as the board is significantly under strength and there have been no offers from the membership, we have not been able to produce such a plan.

We also need to strengthen our case with more detail work on the operation, management, jobs and revenue for the main project. Once again, these specialities badly need help and assistance from our knowledgeable members and supporters.

The board has agreed that Mr Peter Vincent is the member who can best manage the development of this strategy going forwards. To this end he will be seeking member support at the AGM.