

# Seil and Easdale Community Council

## Notes of Public Meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Seil Island Hall

### 1. Present:

- **Community Councillors:** Seumas Anderson (Chair), Heather Chaplin, Chris Dugdale, Martin Waddell, Tina Jordan, Anne-Marie Robin, Charles Struthers, Mike Shaw.
- **Council members:** Cllr. Elaine Robertson,
- **Members of the public:** 29 including Police Constable Jeremy Moore, Chief Inspector Glen Bland, Jane Nichols (Sec)

### 2. Apologies for absence: Alan MacFadyen, Inspector Julie McLeish, Cllr. Neil MacKay, Cllr Donald MacDonald, Robert Rae,

### 3. Minutes of last meeting: Proposed: Martin Waddell Seconded: Charles Struthers

### 4. Matters arising:

#### a) **Police Report:**

- i. Apologies from /Inspector McLeish, but C.I. Glen Bland and P.C. Jeremy Moore were in attendance.
- ii. C.I Bland encouraged the public to contact him with any issues relating to the way policing is carried out. He asked that his mobile phone number 07967 097 954 be made available to all community members.
- iii. On the question of likely cuts in the police service, C.I Bland explained that a total 10% cut is planned. This will be mainly from non-uniformed, senior officers, ensuring that frontline services are maintained.
- iv. Asked for an update on the issue of out of date emergency flares, P.C. Moore reported that they can't be accepted by the Oban police station. However, if anyone finds spent or out of date flares, they are asked to contact the Oban police or Coastguard, who will make the necessary arrangements, involving transportation of the flares to Girvan.
- v. Chris Dugdale asked if the widely-reported reduction in crime was in the opinion of the Oban police officers a genuine reduction. C.I Bland stated that in his opinion it was; common assaults are up, but all serious crimes are down. The one area of concern was drugs, although they are having some success in that area.

- vi. P.C. Moore informed the meeting that posters will be appearing around the local area informing the public about the risks of leaving valuables in cars, including the car keys. Although crime is relatively low in this area, we need to remain vigilant.

b) **Health matters:**

Tina Jordan submitted the following report:

- i. Locality Public Partnership Forum – 7 June, Oban. Tina was unable to attend the meeting and submitted her apologies, however, from the notes of the meeting she reported the following:-
  - a. Dental Access Centre (Harbour Bowl) – delayed until next financial year (2011-12) due to reduction in capital allocation.
  - b. Redesign of Mental Health services – ongoing. A further round of public update events are to be held in October.
  - c. Lochawe Railway incident – fortunately only 2 casualties were admitted to hospital and discharged the following day. The incident has allowed a full review of the Major Incident Plan.
  - d. Air Ambulance – a representative was unable to attend the meeting. Concerns raised included the control room's lack of knowledge and delays this might generate especially for medical emergencies on islands.
  - e. Hospital Redesign Project – Lorn & Islands Hospital. The redesign is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services to patients. A review of bed utilisation, operating theatres and endoscopy facilities is taking place. Plans are to be submitted by August and implemented by October 2010.
  - f. Young Person's Nursing Service – a presentation was given by Sheila McMonagle. Her post concentrates on the three areas of: support of families; supporting education; support for other professionals in dealings with young people.
  - g. Consultant Radiologists – Dr Thorpe and Dr. Brooks are now in post and the radiology service is continuing well.

Date of next meeting – 6 September 2010, Oban.
- ii. Area Public Partnership Forum – no meeting has been held since last CC meeting. Date of next meeting 17 August, Lochgilphead.
- iii. Dementia services – new office in High Street, Oban (opposite wholefood shop). Officially opening soon. Anyone will be able to pop in to get information on services etc.

Regarding the Dental Access Centre, Cllr. Robertson reported that as far as she understood, the money is ring-fenced and the project will definitely proceed at some point in the future. Tina reported that there is no update on the Easdale Island evacuation issue.

c) **Planning matters:**

The following 4 applications were noted:

10/01069/PPP	Land East Of Balvicar Farm Balvicar Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TE	Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse
10/00949/PP	Achnahullin Cottage Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QZ	Erection of dwellinghouse to replace ruined dwellinghouse
10/00850/PP	15 Easdale Island Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TB	Use of dwellinghouse with attached artist's studio as separate dwellinghouse and artists studio by removal of condition 3 of planning permission 02/01484/DET which restricted occupation of the studio to a person residing at 15 Easdale Island
10/00953/PP	Balvicar Boatyard Balvicar Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TE	Formation of breakwater

The first of these is a re-application, as the original planning permission had lapsed.

d) **Proposed Raera Windfarm:**

- i. As reported at the AGM, the Community Council's planning submission was lost but has been re-sent. The Chair read it out to the group, and it is available on the website. The views of the community at the time of the original submission, 11<sup>th</sup> February, were slightly in favour of the windfarm.

The issue was raised whether the views of the community submission at that time are a true representation of their current views. The Lorn Windfarm Action Group recently carried out a door to door campaign and asserted that the community is now against a Windfarm, in their opinions evidenced by the 238 objections that have now been received to the planning application, most of them reportedly originating from the Seil and Easdale area. There was an opinion expressed that the changes of view have come about because of an effective campaign, and also because the idea of Clachan Windfarm has come along, which clouds the issue, and that we must be careful to take into account the views of people who may not align themselves with the campaign.

- ii. The planning meeting to consider the application will now be held in September. Due to the number of objections received, it is likely to go to a hearing.
- iii. An email from Stuart Reid had been received by the Community Council, expressing a view that the CC should conduct a telephone survey using the local telephone directory. The Convener noted that one significant

problem with this is that not all members of a household have the same opinion, so the outcome of the survey might not be reliable.

- iv. The Chair referred to the map of wind turbine distribution in Scotland which was included with the Lorn Windfarm Action Group's planning submission, and the fact that there are virtually none within Argyll and Bute. Specifically that it could be argued that, as they have to be sited somewhere, a proportion of them should be in this area.
- v. Members of the public noted that the submission made no mention of the environmental impact of the windfarm, in particular: the effect on the healthy red squirrel population of Raera Forest; the effects on the acidity of the surrounding land and Loch Seil of the lime content of the concrete bases; the reported inefficiency of wind turbines as a source of power. Information on the release of methane from concrete had been previously requested from NPower, although no reply had been received. The question was raised as to whether turbines could be installed in an area of sensitive countryside, and also whether the greater effectiveness of tidal power generation could be pursued instead. There are also worries that if one windfarm is allowed to go ahead, it will set a precedent for others.

Mike Shaw replied that any planning submission had to be based on firm planning issues, and each has to be considered on its individual merits. As the base of the wind farm is not within the Seil and Easdale Community Council area, we can only object on the basis of either visual impact or effects of noise on health or wellbeing. If objections were raised by us on any other grounds, they would be bound to be overturned on appeal.

- vi. Asked what the Council policy is on alternative energies, Cllr. Robertson cited the national policy of achieving 20% of power via alternative sources. In the local plan there are designated areas where wind farms are a possibility, although any developer has to show their proposal would not be detrimental. These areas were not previously designated for industrial development.
- vii. Martin Waddell gave a brief summary of a report by Dr Christopher Hanning on sleep disturbance caused by wind turbines, which was commissioned by a Community Council in another area. The report concluded that there is considerable potential for sleep disturbance, the risk increasing the closer you live to the turbines. He recommends a separation between turbines and dwellings of no less than 1.5km, although in mountainous areas it may need to be more.
- viii. At the close of this item, Stuart Reid reminded everyone that submissions are still being accepted by the Council, and Charles Struthers added that submissions can be in favour of, as well as against, the planning application.

**e) Local roads:**

- i. Resurfacing work has been started, and although it has paused just now it will be completed. Surface dressing has, however, been shelved for now. On the Balvicar to Cuan road, the Council are looking at repairing rather

than entirely resurfacing. The community is encouraged to contact Charles Struthers with any issues with the state of roads.

- ii. On the subject of Japanese knot weed, Dick Walsh has a team working on eradication, and they have included this area in their trial. They are using Roundup (or glyphosate). It was asked if Himalayan balsam was also a plant that would be removed by the Council, as there are large areas of infestation on Seil.
- iii. Comment was passed on the trees which are overhanging the roads, causing a hazard for walkers and cyclists. It was also noted that the recent road improvements have resulted in sections of the roads now being wide enough for 2 vehicles to pass each other, and that the road markings could be reinstated to make this clearer, particularly to visitors.

f) **Scottish water:**

Charles Struthers reported that people still have problems resulting from the works, but that Scottish Water will not pass on their own snagging list, due to data protection issues, so the Community Council do not know what problems still remain. He therefore requests that everyone let him know of outstanding issues. An onsite meeting between the Community Council and Scottish Water has been promised.

The Community Council wrote to Ronnie Mercer (Chair of Scottish Water) and had a reply. This included appreciation of our concerns as well as an offer to help with the planned new path to the cemetery. This reply is seen as a positive development. We have also heard from David Innes, team leader with Scottish Water, although it is five weeks since we contacted him.

George Hannah asked how we know whether or not the system is working, and there doesn't seem to be an answer at this time.

## 5. **Other Business**

a) **Scottish Ferries Review**

Heather Chaplin attended this meeting today, the 27<sup>th</sup> July. It was mainly concerned with the ferry services local to Seil and Easdale. A consultation document was distributed, and will be placed on the website. The Community Council will be setting up a sub-committee to deal with this issue.

b) **Kilbrandon Graveyard**

A letter and email had been received from Iain Thornber about the state of Kilbrandon Graveyard, namely that sheep had been allowed to enter and make a mess. The problem is caused by the fact that there is a small gap where the new path goes to the war memorial and a gate was intended, and also part of the boundary is a wall which is crumbling. The Community Council will write to Argyll & Bute Council to ask them to address the issue.

c) **West Coast Motors**

West Loch Fyne Community Council had asked if any other community has been experiencing problems with West Coast Motors. Heather Chaplin reported that the school bus has left Easdale early on a number of occasions, and once didn't turn up at all. P.C Moore added that he had a complaint about Luing passengers missing the bus, which may also have been caused by the bus leaving Easdale early. Another problem is that some drivers drive very roughly, making the journey uncomfortable and requiring some passengers to wear seatbelts. George Hannah was asked if there had been any problems with buses at the surgery, and he thought not. He did comment that the possibility had been raised of a bus stop being provided there, which has not materialised.

**6. Documents to be tabled:**

Argyll Renewables Show – Wed 11th August Corran Halls (email from Andrew Hodge)  
Allenergy Affordable Warmth Surgery Dates for 2010  
Mental Health Newsletter  
Scottish Natural Heritage Summer 2010 magazine  
Farechoice - Community Food and Health newsletter  
SEPA Summer 2010 magazine

**7. Date of Next Meeting:**

28<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Easdale Island Hall, 7 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman:

Date:

Signed:

Secretary:

Date: