

**Seil and Easdale Community Council**  
Next Public Meeting: 1930, Tuesday 22 November.  
Easdale Island Community Hall

**AGENDA**

**Present**

Seumas Anderson, Heather Chaplin, Martin Waddell, Ann Marie Robin, Alan McFadyen, Sue Vest, Const. Ian Young, Counsellor Neil MacKay, Counsellor Elaine Robertson, Dr. George Hannah + 14 members of public

**Apologies**

Chris Dugdale, Mike Shaw, Robert Rae, Charles Struther, Jeremy Moore

**Minutes of last meeting**

Proposed by Heather, seconded by Henry Tarbet

**Notices**

Jane Nicols was thanked for her work as Council Secretary. Due to her leaving Seil, she will no longer be doing this. Sue Vest was welcomed as the new Community Council Secretary

Heather Chaplin will be moving to Oban in December and thus will be leaving the Community Council. This will leave 2 vacancies. The next elections will be around May 2012.

Councillor Donald Sky MacIntosh sadly passed away recently. He was Counsellor for Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles

**Matters arising**

**Scottish Water**

Once work is completed, a tanker should be expected approximately once every 15 days to remove sludge. Dr Hannah stated that this is not how the system should work and that it should biologically digest. The ongoing costs are currently being borne by Scottish Water although concerns were raised by a member of the public that this ultimately will get passed onto rate payers. It was also asked why no one has been identified as being ultimately responsible. Dr Hannah said that Balfour Beatty had effectively been 'sacked' and that issues were being rectified but not solved. He suggested that it would be cheaper to replace the system with septic tanks and that the current situation was unlikely ever to work properly. He has had contact with the Ombudsman but as yet with little effect.

A fence at Pumping Station 2 (known locally as Hitler's Bunker) has led to discussions regarding whether it is too close to the road and whether pedestrian safety and driver

visibility are affected. Charles has had conversations with the landowner. Scottish Water have also been approached although they say it is a landowner issue

Other various individual issues which have arisen have been dealt with (as far as the Community Council are aware – satisfactorily) with by David Innes.

The Cnoc a'Challtuinn drain is now sorted and appears to be fine. Dugdale confirms that water is now draining freely.

## **Roads**

Scottish Roads have been identified as having a pothole every 55 yards. Members of the public are advised to report potholes on: 01631 569160

Cnoc a'Challtuinn Road has been identified as being in a poor state of repair

A washout on Kilniver Hill 3 weeks prior to the meeting was cleared within hours of it being reported and remedial work has now taken place.

There has been no further evidence of movement at Kilniver Bridge since the summer. Discussions are ongoing regarding whether to repair, replace or bypass the bridge but as yet there are no costs available. There were no counsellors or emergency services at the last emergency planning meeting. A further meeting is planned on 29 November. Heather requested that a request be made for an increase in monitoring over winter months. It was agreed that the engineers involved should be trusted on their judgement.

The final siting for a bus shelter at Ellenabeich is yet to be confirmed. Heather will continue to gauge local opinion.

## **418 Timetable**

Cler MacKay said that although he had no definite facts, he was confident that the 418 timetable would be preserved close to its current state for the foreseeable future and that the longer term future looks positive.

## **Police Report – Const Ian Young, Dalmally**

Inpt Julie MacLeish was unable to attend but will be invited to future meetings

Witnesses are being sought re vandalism to MSP Mackenzie's car in Ellenabeich.

The winter driving campaign is underway and drivers can expect a heightened police presence on local roads

The public were warned about a group of travelling thieves currently operating in the area. They are very bold and have been witnessed during crimes but not reported as they have

not appeared suspicious. Const. Young stressed the importance of reporting any suspicious activity to the police.

An expensive car was recently stolen from Dalmally by an individual who removed the keys from the kitchen while the house was occupied. The advice is even in 'safe' rural areas to ensure that doors are locked.

A question was asked about the 'fish scam' whereby an individual pretends to be selling fish to judge whether a house is empty or, if occupied had items worth stealing. Const. Young confirmed that an individual had recently been arrested for this offence although vigilance was still necessary.

Internet scams continue. An individual from Tiree recently lost £25,000. The advice is not to respond to requests for money and not to open attachments from unknown senders. Suspect emails should be reported to the local police.

Cler MacKay reported that in Oban there has been funding sought to upgrade from tapes to digital CCTV. This will benefit outlying area as suspect vehicles travel through Oban can be identified. It was raised that we are heading for a society where everything is recorded. Ian Young clarified that the current systems only register 'marked' number plates. It was asked whether, given there are a number of miles of single route road; the Atlantic Bridge would be a good location for such a camera. This was acknowledged as a good idea, should finances and logistics (such as storage of recording equipment) be resolved.

Elaine Robertson raised the issue of direct access to police support following an incident where a break in was underway in Kilchrenan but the call was directed to a call centre where operators were unaware of local geography. Const. Young agreed that villages such as Dalmally with Police Houses benefit in this sense.

Easdale Island was noted as a relatively safe area due to the restricted entry / escape routes. During times of population influx (such as the Stone Skimming Championships), this may be less of the case. A theft during the last Championships highlighted this.

## **Planning**

There has been an application for an extension at a house on the Cuan Road

Planning permission granted for the Tower House

Chris and Seamus attended a planning training meeting where they were taken through process of a planning application and what considerations are considered relevant. The system of getting electronic alerts when progress is made on particular applications was also discussed.

## **Health**

Dr Hannah reported ongoing issues with evacuation from Easdale. In a recent incident, district nurses were sent over to Easdale but the Ambulance crew would not go. The

helicopter requested was diverted to another incident and the call to Oban Mountain Rescue did not reach the team. Dr Hannah raised concerns that OMRT although willing to help are more expert in trauma rather than medical incidents. The individual was evacuated several hours after what should have been a 2 hour transfer. Cler Neil MacKay was aware of the incident and has forwarded his concerns. Elaine Robertson said that Derek Lesley was also aware of the issue. The Community council will continue to express their concerns and actively seek a resolution.

### **Community Engagement Meeting**

This was attended by Heather and Seamus. The focus was on increased communication between the council and local communities and progress appeared positive.

### **Other Business**

#### **Local Development Plan**

Ann reported on meetings attended by local counsellors. The Community Council have investigated various options and will be submitting recommendations for inclusion at the next stage of the LDP.

#### **Documents to be tabled**

Elaine Robertson made available a 1 page survey for Ali Energy on Sustainable Power.

#### **Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 24 January, 19:00, Seil Hall