

SEILEACHAN

Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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www.seil.oban.ws

August 2017

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue Fenton, by **30 September**: scwfenton@gmail.com

Just tell Sue if you would prefer an email version. A copy will also be available on the web: <http://seil.oban.ws> where minutes of community council meetings are also published.

SECC MEETING 25 July, draft minutes

Councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green, plus ten members of the public, attended the Seil & Easdale Community Council (SECC) meeting held on 25th July in Easdale Island Hall.

NEW CONVENER

Julie Ferris introduced herself as the new Convener, and thanked Easdale Island residents for hosting the meeting on such a beautiful evening.

Julie thanked Chris Dugdale, who has stepped down as a member of the CC, for all that he has done, and continues to do, in support of the community. There is now a vacancy on the CC – elections are likely to be held in Spring 2018.

SCOTTISH WATER

John Gordon read a statement on behalf of the local stakeholders, and some of the key responses from Scottish Water (SW) following the open meeting held on 15th June. The full report is in the draft minutes of the July meeting which, as always, will be displayed in the hall and shop and soon on line at <http://seil.oban.ws>. A summary of the feedback from the meeting and other documents can be found on Scottish Water's dedicated webpage: www.scottishwater.co.uk/seil

There will be an increased presence across the island over the coming weeks relating to maintenance at the existing Balvicar works and investigations on the sewer network. SW will be carrying out CCTV surveys and manhole inspections in early August for two to three days each on the west side of the Atlantic Bridge and near Balvicar Stores.

There was discussion of concerns expressed by some residents regarding the transparency of the consultation process and the potential environmental impact of Option 1a. It was agreed that the CC would invite a SW representative, with technical expertise, to a public meeting.

Subsequent to the meeting, Scottish Water have informed both the stakeholders and the CC that they are about to submit applications to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for discharge licences. When advertised, these will be open to the public for comment. Work is progressing on alternatives to the proposed access track.

ROADS

Areas of knotweed along the road had been taped and we had been told that all necessary precautions were taken during verge cutting. Charles Struthers expressed

concern that the aim is to control and not eradicate. There was discussion as to whether the guidelines for reporting spraying near water courses to SEPA were being followed. Councillors Robertson and Green were satisfied that staff involved had undergone all necessary training, and suggested a representative of Argyll & Bute Council should be invited to address the SECC.

TRAMWAY COTTAGES ROAD ADOPTION

The ongoing saga regarding a broken drain was discussed. The Community Council is making every effort to resolve this as soon as possible.

GRAFITTI ON ROAD SIGNS

Councillor Green reported that the clean up of the road signs near Easdale Primary School has been approved.

HEALTH

Argyll & Bute Health & Social Care Partnership had issued a media release regarding the consultant recruitment challenge facing Lorn & Islands Hospital. Such challenges and the impact on local patients of centralisation of services in Glasgow were discussed. It is hoped that someone from SECC will attend the next meeting of the Health & Social Care Forum.

POLICE REPORT

PC Jeremy Moore clarified why some speeding motorists had been given warnings instead of a fine – because speeds were marginally over 30 mph and within the limits of accuracy of the recorder in use. A more accurate machine was used on two occasions recently – you have been warned! Speeding past Balvicar bus stop will be looked into after the school returns.

PLANNING, NEW SINCE LAST MEETING

All details are on the A&B website & the SECC minutes. No issues were raised. Planning permission for the erection of a fence (retrospective) at the Old Engineering Works, Ellenabeich had been approved.

BUS SHELTER

Tendering requests for the concrete plinth for the bus shelter were ongoing. It was hoped the shelter would be in place by October.

PARKING IN OBAN

Councillors Green & Robertson confirmed that a TRO regarding parking had now been published.

FORWARD PLANNING

14 participants had attended the open meeting on 29th June, and worked in two groups on the Footpaths and Sea Access projects. Both are progressing well while attempting to meet the challenges of community awareness, communication and consultation.

Sea Access: A 'signposting' document has been produced for both locals and tourists, which details existing access to the water for small craft and lists marine businesses on the island. It is now on the Slate Forum and the community website and is also displayed in Balvicar Stores. A letter is being sent to all landowners on the

eastern side of Seil, asking for help with access.

Footpaths: The group is concentrating initially on a footway between Clachan and Balvicar. A white line demarcation for pedestrians and cyclists at the side of the road has been decided as the most suitable option. Funding for a feasibility study will be sought through the Scottish Government's Improving Public Access Fund. Some work on the road edges would be necessary and parts of the verges might be incorporated, but there would be minimal disruption to properties at the side of the road, and funding would include making good any such disruption. Property owners along the proposed route will be fully consulted before any actions take place.

AOCB

Bins: The bins at Cuan had not been removed but the area was tidier, and the management of the bins from Easdale Island was satisfactory.

Tramway collapse on Easdale: A representative of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) had met with Alan MacFadyen and Duncan Smallman and this will be followed up by an inspection by an engineer. HES is looking for photographic evidence which might indicate the timescale of the deterioration.

BT poles on Easdale Island: BT engineers had visited the island to inspect the poles.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26th September, 6.30^{pm}, Seil Island Hall



SEIL ISLAND HALL

July Lottery winners

£50 Helena Bevis
£10 Dorothy MacKenzie, Morag MacSweeney,
Lisa Robinson

August Lottery winners

£50 Pat Jones
£10 Bill Mitchell, Ronnie Graham, Ann Campbell

The **Producers & Craft Fair** event raised a total of £1,081 for the hall. Thanks to all who contributed towards the event being such a success.

COMMUNITY CPR TRAINING

The Fire Brigade are providing CPR training for the community – come and learn how to save a life. Please contact Ronnie Robinson for more information/if you would like to attend. 7.30^{pm} Monday 18th September, Seil Island Hall, at 7.30^{pm}

HOSPICE DANCE

There will be a Charity Dance in aid of Oban Hospice. The organisers have appealed for raffle prizes – please leave at Balvicar Stores. 26th August, Seil Island Hall

YOGA will start again from 6th September in Seil Island Hall. The classes are open to all; just bring along a mat, if you have one, and wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move freely. A blanket for extra support or warmth during relaxation at the end of class is also helpful.

Wednesday, 9.30 – 10.45^{am} and Thursday, 6.15 – 7.30^{pm}
Drop-in £7 or (non-consecutive) 6-week class pass £40.
Private sessions are also available. Phone Karen on 300771 / 07793653080 for more information.

See: www.isleyoga.net or www.facebook.com/isleyoga for updates.

The family of **MOLLY CONSTABLE**

would like to invite you to join them for afternoon tea
on Saturday 2nd September at 3^{pm}
Seil Island (small) Hall

Please come and share your memories of Molly

SENIOR BADMINTON will be starting up again on Tuesday 5th September, 2-4^{pm} in Seil Island Hall. New members of all levels welcome.

Contact: Liz Dickey, 300482

EXPRESSING THE EARTH

Norrie Bissell would like to thank all who helped make the recent three day international conference such a success – excellent locally-sourced meals, accommodation providers, drivers and John Gordon for helping to make Seil Hall such a great venue!

Some of the creative work from the workshops can be seen on: www.geopoetics.org.uk;
contact: normanbissell@btinternet.com

BALVICAR BUS STOP – NO FLY POSTING

Please note that A&B Council have told us that it is **illegal** to post notices on the Council bus stops.

SEED for LIFE. FEED for LIFE

Your local, island-based charity – changing lives in Malawi

This is a sustainable, self-help feed aid programme assisting a community consisting of 26 villages in Malawi to feed themselves and supply a school meal for 1200+ primary school children. Since May, we have raised a sum in excess of £10,000 which will be used to finance a pilot programme which in itself will have life changing effect on the community. For further information and to support this worthy cause, see: www.seedforlife.org.uk

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR SEED

- Beekeeping, including an 'open hive' demonstration, with afternoon tea if desired. Contact Phil Moss: 300383 or aniseaneala@btinternet.com to arrange a date/time
- Hazel Cruickshanks has created a Luing Island Quiz, available to buy at Luing Stores
- Phil Moss' Whisky Distillery Quiz, £1 entry; the prize is a bottle of malt whisky. Forms from Phil
- Open Gardens Safari on Luing, Saturday 19th August
- Afternoon tea & book sale on Luing, Sunday 10th September
- An evening of African music (by Seil Sound) with a two-course hot buffet. Tickets £5 at Balvicar Stores. Seil Island Hall, Thursday 28th September, 7.30^{pm}
- Dance for Seed, Saturday 28th October, licensed dance, Seil Island Hall

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (SCOTLAND) EASDALE BRANCH – ANNUAL SALE

Annual Sale for Forces' charities in Seil Island Hall, on Saturday 26th August from 12 noon to 3^{pm}

Donations of baking, toys, bric-a-brac (not electrical) and bottles for the bottle stall are welcome at the hall from 9^{am} on the day, or in advance to Jim Watson (Ellenabeich): 300307 or Stuart Reid (Clachan Seil): 300311

