

# SEILEACHAN

## Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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[www.seil.oban.ws](http://www.seil.oban.ws)

December 2017

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue Fenton, by **31 January**: [scwfenton@gmail.com](mailto: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 full minutes of community council meetings are also published.

### News from SECC MINUTES OF 28 November 2017

Councillors Kieron Green, Elaine Robertson & Andrew Vennard, PC Jeremy Moore, plus 24 members of the public attended the meeting. Apologies from Charles Struthers, Graeme Bruce & Alan Macfadyen

#### SCOTTISH WATER

As agreed in July, the SECC had invited Scottish Water (SW) to attend the September meeting with a technical representative. SW's attendance was subsequently postponed pending the outcome of investigations into various alternatives which had been raised. A postal invitation to an open event on 6 December was then sent to all residents on Seil.

The local stakeholders have received no further update from SW since the last public meeting. Speaking for the stakeholders, Anne Marie Robin urged the 'silent majority' to provide feedback when SW update on recently completed studies and investigations and advise on the next steps. She stated that so often it is only those who wish to object who make the effort to be heard. We are sure all involved in this project, now entering its 4th year, would welcome a conclusion sometime soon.

#### ROADS & BUS SHELTER

The bus shelter at Ellenabeich is going ahead; the base has been constructed and the three-bay black bus shelter should be erected soon. There are no further updates on the knotweed spraying programme and no major issues with the roads. The cemetery wall damage will be repaired in the coming months.

The SECC still awaits feedback to its formal request to Argyll & Bute Council to regularise the adoption of the Tramways Cottages road and effect the repair of the broken drain as soon as possible. Councillors Keiron Green and Elaine Robertson were both certain that the road had now been adopted and would follow this up.

#### HEALTH

The Easdale Island defibrillator has been replaced and SECC has agreed to partial funding. On Seil, in addition to the defibrillator outside the hall, it is hoped others will be available outside the surgery, at the Tigh an Truith and hopefully outside the shop or at Cuan Ferry. More than 40 people have already been trained in their use, though it was noted that the defibrillators are designed for use even without training.

#### POLICE REPORT

PC Jeremy Moore provided an update on the Crimes/

Offences that have occurred in the community's area since the last meeting. Call outs for oil spills were also being addressed and all are reminded that these can be reported by calling 101 or 999 if it is perceived as an emergency. However, it is always better to err on the side of caution with oil spills. For small spills a gritter is called and for larger spills chemical treatment is used to clean the spills.

A reminder that Rural Watch is now live and the scheme can be found by logging on to [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)

#### PLANNING & LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR BUILDING: New since last meeting

Site for the erection of dwelling house including ancillary artisan workshop space. Land adjacent to the Sewage Works, Clachan Seil. Ref No. 17/02605/PPP/ Status: Pending consideration

A discussion took place on the above application. The applicant included a document/map in the submission entitled 'Planning Statement' (21677182), which outlines future developments and settlements being considered in the context of the new Local Development Plan due in 2020. This included a social care facility, footpaths and residential accommodation. It was noted that only the application being considered at this time could be responded to. The 'Planning Statement' will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Although the closing date for responses was 29 November, an extension was granted to the SECC until 14 December. Concerns were raised about the precedent for building between the road and shore, the proximity of the sewage works, and the coalescence of separate areas of settlement.

#### FORWARD PLANNING

The Footpaths & Sea Access projects have been put on hold while a Seil Community Trust is set up. It is hoped to have an open meeting in mid-February to discuss this. Catherine Dougan, of the Development Trusts Association Scotland, will be invited to attend and offer advice. Details of the open meeting will be publicised in due course. Any further suggestions for this meeting agenda are welcome.

#### ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

##### Bins – Dumping of Commercial Waste

The problem of commercial waste being dumped in the Seil Hall bins was highlighted. It was noted that this constitutes fly tipping which is a serious offence. If the problem continues A&B Council will be approached for further help and enforcement support.

##### Highland Arts Development

The Chair thanked Tony Hill for providing the tabled document regarding possible developments for the Highland Arts site, which was read out. An extended version of the document is available in the Heritage Centre.

Concern had been raised about access to the hill above Ellenabeich via the former Highland Arts car park which is no longer open. The SECC had contacted Tony Hill (the new owner of the Highland Arts site) and Jolyon Gritten, the A&B Council Access Manager, to establish the facts before responding. Tony Hill confirmed that the car park would be permanently closed.

The Access Officer advised that this is a difficult issue, which could be argued either way. It is possible that enough visitors and residents have used the path over at least the last 20 years that sufficient evidence can be found to allow the route to be claimed as a public right of way. This can be a long and drawn out process which may, or may not, be successful.

The SECC also contacted Edward Gully, the owner of the hill, who stated that he would prefer people to access the hill by the metal gate which is to the right of the road opposite the Hall car park. This minimises the risk of gates being left open and sheep getting out into the village.

#### **A&B COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Councillor Elaine Robertson reminded the meeting of the A&B Council budget consultation. Funding is expected to be confirmed by the Scottish Government towards the end of the year for 2018-19. Estimates indicate that the budget gap could be as much as £8.5m in 2018/19, and £33.9m over the next three years. The link to the consultation will run until 2 January 2018. The next Councillor open surgery is on 14 December, in the Corran Halls from 7:30-9:30; comments regarding the budget can also be made then.

#### **ARGYLL VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME**

It was highlighted that the Argyll Car Scheme should be supported by the council and not cut as suggested in the last council meeting. This scheme is an important lifeline and will have a significant knock on effect to costs, challenging independent living.

#### **LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

Preparations are underway for a 2018 edition. Are you new to the area and want to be included? Do you know of a property near you that has a new occupier? Are your business details correct? Do you want to advertise a new business? Please contact John Gordon on 332 or gordonjdm@hotmail.com

#### **TABLED PAPERS**

- Document for Easdale. The Highland Arts site by Tony Hill
- Proposed Masterplan Map of Oban Seil community by George Fleming & Cameron Planning

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 28 January 2018, 6.30pm, Seil Island Hall

#### **SEIL ISLAND HALL**

##### **November Lottery winners**

£50 Helen Glennie  
£10 Kate & John Lee, Janet McColl, David Glennie

##### **December Lottery winners**

£50 Tim Sinclair  
£10 Paul Green, Campbell Fleming, Kim Rowswell

#### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT KILBRANDON**

Come and join us for our Advent and Christmas services – all services will be held in Seil Island Hall pending the replacement of the heating at Kilbrandon Church.



**Sunday 17 December**  
**Nativity Family Service** at 10am

**Wednesday 20 December**  
**Carols by Candlelight**  
with Seil Sound, 7.15pm  
(Christmas drinks & nibbles from 6.45pm)

**Sunday 24 December**  
**Christmas Café Church** – drop in from 10 to 11am – carols, cake & calm space; appropriate for all ages

**Christmas Eve Watchnight Service** at 11.30pm – carol singing from 11.15pm

#### **SEED for LIFE. FEED for LIFE.**

Since fundraising started in May this year we have raised an incredible amount, in excess of £16,000, for which we thank all those in the community who have taken part in events.

Monies have been sent over to Malawi; all the maize has been planted and shoots are already 2-3 inches high with the planting of soya and ground nuts well on the way. 3,000 trees are also in the process of being planted – these are for fruit and cooking fuel. This pilot project should directly affect the lives of approximately 1,800 individuals over in Bemvu including feeding the 1,200 primary school children with one meal a day. Thank you once again to all who have contributed in one way or other but, as this is an on going project, any assistance at all is very welcome. Dave Alsop (393).

#### **EASDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Wednesday 13 December**  
**School Nativity** 10am in the school hall.

Next term, the topic the children will look at is '**Our Island.**' We are looking for help with photographs of old Seil and anyone with information or interesting stories to come and talk to the children. Please contact the school (243) if you could help.

**SEIL SOUND** will be singing festive tunes at **The Oyster Bar** on Saturday 23 December between 3 & 5 pm.

Seil Drama Group  
presents

#### **CLACHAN JACK**

Seil Island Hall

Saturday 27 January 2018 at 3pm & 7pm

Get your tickets NOW (£5) from Balvicar Stores!

#### **SEASONAL DANCE**

with Hector MacFadyen's band

Licensed bar  
Seil Island Hall  
Friday 29 December, 9pm  
Tickets £8/£4

We need your support!

