

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

For anyone, who is in any way savvy with the internet, you will be aware that, regardless of how much control one tries to exercise—advertisements make their presence known—either surrounding the things one is interested in, or popping up announced, completely unsolicited.

Now, obviously, the advertisers are paying good money to have these offers for their wares posted for our edification in the hope that they might make a sale or two—otherwise there seems to be very little point in them forking out the moolah.

However, I would suggest that the whole exercise might be counter-productive, as from my own personal experience, the self same adverts cause a resentment and an unwarranted intrusion, deleted whenever possible, and in no way would inspire one to accede to their offers—whatever they might be.

Seileachan Report – from SECC meeting 26th January 2016

The Chair welcomed 14 members of the public, Iona MacPhail, Regional Manager of Argyll Community Housing Association, Cllrs Elaine Robertson and Roddy McCuish and PC Jeremy Moore to the meeting of Seil & Easdale Community Council held in Seil Island Hall on 26th January 2016. All 8 of your Community Councillors were present.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS

Iona MacPhail gave an outline of the work of ACHA and explained that the Housing Association was engaging with local communities to get their views on rural housing needs. It was agreed that there is a need for affordable housing in this area which, together with other key infrastructure such as transport, health services and schools, would attract and keep young families in the area. ACHA needs evidence of that need, so encourages anyone who requires affordable housing to apply. Look out for the posters or visit www.homeargyll.co.uk for more information. Iona offered to come down to the Hall if anyone would like to talk over their application – contact details are on the website, or let any member of the Community Council know if you would like to arrange a meeting with Iona.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS

There were more submissions from Argyll & Bute than all the other regions put together! We should have a response some time in May.

ARGYLL SEA KAYAK TRAIL

The old signs have been taken down – we are assured A&B have this in hand.

SCOTTISH WATER: NEW WASTE WATER PROPOSALS FOR SEIL

The Community Council's latest letter to Scottish Water and SEPA was tabled. Email replies from both organisations were received shortly before the meeting – the Community Council will consider and respond.

John Gordon, speaking as a resident of Seaview, gave an update on Scottish Water from Seaview residents. SEPA had confirmed that there were significant overflows of untreated sewage from the treatment plant into Balvicar Bay. The CEO of Scottish Water put on public record an apology for the disruption and the way the work was done eight years ago. He also went on to say that the Clachan Seil project "is the case study that I use to show how the worst we have done in the past is exactly the opposite of what we endeavour to do in the future. The sewage plant complies with its SEPA discharge licence, but is sub-optimal in its performance and we are looking at how we can improve it in future." The full report is in the proceedings of the Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10287>

Copies of the letters and a transcript of John Gordon's update are available – details at end of SECC report.

ROADS

Charles continues to work with the Roads Department on our behalf, and has recently highlighted the need for drainage to prevent further erosion of the road surfaces. The weather forecast certainly bears that out!

HEALTH

The Community Council's response to Argyll & Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan was tabled. It could be summarised as "we already have excellent local health services, please leave them alone", but a full copy can be obtained on request.

POLICE REPORT

PC Moore reported that the only significant crime in the area since the last meeting was the theft of a quad bike just before Christmas.

PLANNING

New applications since last meeting

Erection of dwellinghouse and detached domestic garage/workshop

Land West of Dunearn House Ellenabeich
Ref No 15/03444/PP – Pending Consideration

Erection of wooden shed
Ferry Shed Easdale Island
Ref No 15/03145/PP – Pending Consideration

Erection of replacement shed
20 Easdale Island Oban

Ref No 15/03144/PP – Application permitted
Erection of porch

101 Easdale Island Oban
Ref No 15/03156/PP – Application permitted

Erection of extension and decking
Garragh Mhor Ellenabeich

Ref No 15/03058/PP – Pending consideration

VODAFONE RURAL OPEN SIGNAL (ROSS)

John Gordon reported that installations at the Hall, TnT, Balvicar Stores and the Surgery are all fully operation. Cuan Ferry would be enabled once BT have installed the line. John is still seeking feedback – let him know how your signals are going!

PARKING IN OBAN

The Community Council had submitted its response, which was tabled at the meeting.

EASDALE ISLAND FERRY ACCESS

Contractors will carry out the work to clear the channel and reinstate the sea wall as when weather permits.

KILNINVER AND CLACHAN BRIDGES EMERGENCY PLANS DEC 2015

Charles gave a synopsis of the draft Contingency Plans prepared by Argyll & Bute Council. Your Community Council has been pressing for the Kilninver plan since 2011, and following the incident on the Clachan Bridge last summer requested a contingency for that also. The draft plans (nearly 60 pages between them) were finally received last December. No plan can cover every eventuality, but it does mean that the authorities have thought about the scenario of loss of either crossing, and have recommended action to be taken in such a case.

FORWARD PLANNING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Anne Marie Robin proposed that the Community Council revisit a "forward planning approach" to address issues affecting the community. The proposal is that locally involved individuals be asked to join and contribute, to identify our assets, customs, needs and problems regarding schools, health, housing, employment, our young and old people, services etc. Any thoughts, comments or suggestions would be gratefully received.

PAPERS AVAILABLE FROM ferrisjef@aol.com on request:

The Community Council's response to:
A&B Health & Social Care Strategic Plan
A&B Oban parking proposals

Letter to Scottish Water & SEPA dated 7.1.16
Replies thereto dated 22.1.16 and 26.1.16 respectively
Update from Seaview residents 26.1.16

Full draft reports of Kilninver & Clachan Bridge Contingency Plans

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22nd March 2016, 19.00, Seil Island Hall

HALL COMMITTEE – Report for Seileachan January 2016

January Lottery

£100 Steph Anderson
£10 Jim Cunningham
£10 Ann Campbell
£10 Sue Fenton

LOCAL EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

It would be very useful to have an email distribution list to work alongside the traditional methods of posters etc to notify folk of anything that would be of interest to the whole community. The list could either 1. show email addresses, excluding those of anyone who specifically asked not to have their address made public. This could be useful to help recipients see who else has been notified, or 2. show no addresses at all. Either way recipients would, of course, be able to opt out at any time. If you would like to be included, please email seilis-landhall@gmail.com giving your name, email address, your preference for option 1 or 2, and whether you wish your email to be made public or remain hidden.

SEIL ISLAND HALL – WHATEVER NEXT???

As most people will be aware, the Hall Committee commissioned a feasibility study to address possible areas for improvement which had been identified by Hall users. These include: Play area, Storage space, Kitchen upgrade, Main hall extension, Heating system, Car park. The resulting preliminary designs were presented at the Christmas Craft Fair, and are on display in the Hall lobby. There will be a **PUBLIC MEETING 3pm SUNDAY 28th FEBRUARY in SEIL ISLAND HALL** to consider all and any aspects of the Hall and Hall usage – does it work for you now, what could it be, what would you like to see, absolutely anything else anyone would like to raise... Some points to maybe think about:

The Hall is for everyone in the community – young, old and all points in between! The great news is that we now have a Toddlers Group – what else could there be for youngsters? Anything the School would like to see? What about older children and teenagers? Our Lunch Club is a huge success – are there other activities that could use the Hall? Bridge, chess, writers groups/reader groups, poetry groups, local history, genealogy, classic films?

Into sports/fitness? There is a thriving programme including fitness, pilates, yoga. What else could be offered? Space to leave equipment, a small gym set up in converted loft space? Then there's the great outdoors – could we get fitness equipment set up for all age groups, what about a bowling green, any ideas??

Into arts & culture? There is our long established Art Group, for those who love a good old sing (& who doesn't, honestly?) there is Seil Sound. We've had fabulous piano recitals and folk groups.....not to mention the Pantomime! Is this an area that could be developed?

Party Time! Those who attend Ceilidhs and the New Year Dance have a great time – what could we do to boost attendance? Change the date/time/put on a bus – any ideas? The Hall is a great venue for weddings and larger functions – these generate income and help keep local hire rates low. Should we be pushing corporate events? Do we need a catering standard kitchen and enhanced main hall to encourage this?

IT'S YOUR HALL – PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK – SUNDAY 28th FEBRUARY at 3pm

THE CINDERELLA OF SEIL

If the definition of pantomime is a theatrical entertainment, mainly for children, involving music, topical jokes, and slapstick comedy, then Seil Drama groups production of The Cinderella of Seil scored highly on all counts. Except the majority were adults, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

The normally sane folk of our locale were transformed into a bunch of hissing and booing hooligans (ably abetted by the front rows of children) in response to John Colston's inspired adaptation of the well loved story. The stage was miraculously converted into Ardmale Hall in Ellenabeich, where lived the wicked stepmother (wickedly wicked), her daughters and Cinderella who delivered good songs despite her wretched state and having only a few friends.

The drama unfolded with a liberal sprinkling of local references and much hilarity thanks to the antics of Rhododendron and Hydrangea. Fairy Godmother Nuff kept us all amused (when she could be found) with her rhyming verses and addiction to confectionery. Highlights are too many to mention here, but the transformation of the swede into a "carriage" and the Gangnam style dance are memorable.

The result was a triumph. Musical accompaniment, scenery and the costumes were superb and the cast—young and old, so clearly relishing their roles that the audience was carried along by their enthusiasm. Congratulations to all those who brought us such fun, both behind the scenes and on the stage. Great entertainment enjoyed by more than 200. Was it brilliant fun? - OH YES IT WAS!

RBLs BOOK SALE

The Easdale Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland are holding a Book Sale in the Seil Island Hall on Saturday 19th March 2016 from 11am to 3pm to raise funds for our various Forces' charities. Refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you there.

