

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 27th March 2018
Seil Island Hall

PRESENT: Julie Ferris, Seumus Anderson, Anne Marie Robin, John Gordon, Graeme Bruce, Alan MacFadyen, Uta Binnie, Charles Struthers, Cllr Kieron Green, Cllr Elaine Robertson, Cllr Andrew Vennard

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 133

APPOLOGIES: PC Jeremy Moore,

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Seumus Anderson, as a landowner with a potential interest in the Scottish Water proposals, and as a member of The Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust with regard to the discussion on the Ellenabeich Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. Graeme Bruce with regard to planning application 18/00355/PP.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2018 were approved and agreed as an accurate record; proposed by Sue Fenton, seconded by John Gordon.

NEW GP CONTRACT-IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR SURGERY

It was clear from a letter to the CC from Mike Russell that he and others had already received a considerable volume of correspondence from our community. We had received some apparently reassuring responses but the Chair noted that, with the greatest respect to our elected representatives, when it comes to our Surgery we trust our Doctors.

Dr Miranda Barkham provided an overview of the new GP contract and its relevance to our local service, and Dr George Hannah outlined proposed changes to Community Health Teams which had been discussed at a meeting the previous week.

Dr Barkham explained that the new contract commencing April 1st will initially not result in any changes. After three years however, it is anticipated that the changes will be significant.

Our current practise has about 1000 patients and two GPs offering quality holistic care and meeting the 4 C stated goals of the new contract: Contact, Comprehensive, Continuity and Co-ordination. Rural care is responsive care, anticipatory, predictive and benefits from GPs who are “all-rounders” who can offer many tasks and treatments in a single patient visit. The feeling is that the new contract may benefit city practices; however it is difficult to see how this formula can be applied in Argyll without considerable travel for patients.

The GPs believe that public support is beginning to have some effect but more letters need to be written to local councillors, MPs MSPs and the BMA to review the scoring system for rural practices so that the service is not downgraded and potentially lost all together. Copies of a list which the Surgery had provided of contacts and key points to raise were distributed, and would be emailed on request to the Secretary. All are encouraged to write to the names on the contact list including Alan McDevitt at the BMA.

Questions from the floor:

Why would “rural proofing” have been missed out in this contract?

Answer: These considerations were missed out for the current contract, however further discussions in July between GPs and the Council may address these.

Why do we need “first point of contact and remote location teams” when we already have the best point of contact?

Answer: The proposal is if you need a GP you go directly to see a GP but if you require any other of the ancillary services, then you call another number, who will direct you.

Is the cut-off date for response the 28th March?

Answer: The first phase of the contract is done and cannot be changed, however the second phase deadline is the 28th July, so keep writing until implementation.

How rural is Oban. One might assume that Oban is rural too. Could the services in Oban be at risk too?

Answer: Yes, Oban is rural. Seil is seen as a remote practice and not rural and is therefore more likely to close. Importantly, three years of uncertainty is not good for rural and remote practices and will make recruitment even more difficult.

Has the practice got the potential to be a treatment room?

Answer: Health board staff will also be employed for the treatment centres and these will be sited in highly populated areas. So, it is unlikely that Seil will be chosen.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 23rd JANUARY 2018

Scottish Water (SW)

The Chair read out the following email update received from Ruaridh Macgregor, Corporate Affairs Manager, Scottish Water on 9th March:

“As part of our commitment to keep the community on Seil informed and updated I would like to advise that our Alliance partner, Amey Black and Veatch will be carrying out site investigation works at Seaview Terrace W/C the 19th of March 2018.

The work involves carrying out trial pits to confirm the location of existing services and is likely to last 4 days. This location is associated with the proposed Septic Tank which would serve Seaview Terrace.

I would to re-assure the community that this is part of continued investigation works to enable design and as I mentioned in my previous update we will write to you to confirm when the required planning applications will be submitted.

In my previous update I advised we would be carrying out ecology surveys in the area identified for the proposed new treatment works and I can advise this will take place today.

If you require any further information or I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch.”

The question was raised whether more ecology recordings would be taken by the independent ecologist, James Homer, at a different time of year as this might not be the best time. It was reported that The Lorn Natural History Group had accompanied James Homer on his survey and over 70-80 different plant species were recorded and the information presented to SW for their records. Further surveys will be completed in the future.

With reference to the previous minutes, it was stated that the local area in question is defined as sensitive countryside on the local plan and cannot be compared to the rest of the island. Hen harriers have been seen in the area by many, however nesting has not.

There are no current holdups to progressing the sewage treatment works, however it was suggested the SECC should write to SW for updates on the sequence of deadlines we should now anticipate.

Roads

Tramway cottages road adoption: The council has received sufficient letters from residents regarding the adoption of the tramways road to formally adopt the road. Once this has been completed the gully trap can be repaired. It was noted that the trap remains a health and safety issue.

Public Carpark Ellenabeich: The carpark has been given new white lines, however the trailers are still there.

Potholes: Argyll has been awarded 15 million pounds funding to improve the roads over three years. Some funding needs to urgently go to Mull the rest will be used on the mainland. Significant surface dressing is expected and potholes will be addressed.

Brush invasion at the side of the roads is the responsibility of the council and will be cut back. Kilniver Bridge is being monitored and will be continue to be monitored. Charles will be happy to help out with any roads issues in the future but will be stepping down from the Community Council. The Chair thanked Charles for all his work in forging an excellent relationship with the Roads Department, and for achieving so much on our community's behalf.

Police Report

No updates were provided, apart from a warning about online fraudsters posing as HMRC.

Planning and Listed Building Consent for Building. New since last meeting
Alterations and extension to dwelling house (incorporating public art studio), erection of garage and new boundary walls and associated works The Old Coach House Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 Ref. No: 18/00355/PP | Received: Thu 15 Feb 2018 | Validated: Thu 08 Mar 2018 | Status: Awaiting decision

Installation of replacement windows and doors and replacement of timber facings on existing porch with PVCU; Dunjeain 37 Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RQ; Ref No:18/00193/LIB | Received: Friday 26th Jan 2018| Validated: Friday 26th Jan 2018| Status: Application Refused.

Erection of 2 illuminated signs The Oyster Brewery Bar Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 Ref. No: 18/00181/ADV | Received: Thu 25 Jan 2018 | Validated: Wed 21 Mar 2018 | Status: Awaiting decision

Replacement of existing television broadcasting antennas, Arqiva Relay Television Transmitting Station Grianan Easdale Argyll and Bute Ref. No: 18/00198/TELNOT | Received: Thu 25 Jan 2018 | Validated: Thu 25 Jan 2018 | Status: Permitted

Development Use of land for siting of skip for recycling and general waste. Car Park Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Argyll and Bute Ref. No: 18/00178/CPD | Received: Wed 24 Jan 2018 | Validated: Wed 24 Jan 2018 | Status: On hold There was considerable discussion and concern about the above application. Cllr Elaine Robertson assured the floor that Consultation with the community was the next step and that until then everything was on hold.

The Chair noted the onerous process to obtain permission to change signs at the Oyster Bar, which places a burden on small local businesses.

A&B Council bus shelter

Cllr Robertson has asked the roads department to check the bus stop as it does not appear to have a flat plate and may need adjusting. Further updates will be provided as these become available.

Forward Planning for our community – Formation of Community Trust To facilitate the many community needs and projects already identified the Community Council Forward Planning Group and Kilbrandon Trust have agreed to create a Community Development Company for Seil.

To move this forward, an open meeting will be held in Seil Island Hall on Thursday April 26th at 7.30 pm.

In advance of the meeting we are seeking applications for membership as it is crucial to ascertain community interest and support before proceeding further.

Please note there is no membership fee required and no work involved in being a member.

At the first meeting in April, from the members who have indicated an interest, it is hoped to elect an Interim Board of Directors.

So to help us get started, please ensure you pick up a form tonight. You might like to complete it now and leave in the Returns box here or complete later and leave in the Returns box in Balvicar Stores.

More forms will be available and distributed to houses.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Ellenabeich and Easdale Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

A meeting was arranged on 23rd March between Anne and John representing the CC, Mike Shaw and Jim Watson representing the Slate Islands Heritage Trust and Jess Hill representing Eilean Easdale. There was a lot of convergence on views and it was agreed that

a single letter to the Council requesting a meeting with the planning department would be the best way forward. The purpose of the letter would be to set out to the Council why we need a serious meeting with the planners, even before conservation is considered. Mike drafted this letter and all contributed minor refinements (letter tabled below). Elaine Robertson confirmed that the planner now in charge of this consultation was Mark Lodge.

It was noted that completing the consultation document before the 30 April deadline is very important. Although the residents of Easdale Island and Ellenabeich were targeted by the Council it can also be completed by any interested resident.

Bus service Ellenabeich

The Public Service Bus (and coaches) to the centre of Ellenabeich will function as present to 1st October 2018. A&BC are progressing plans (copies were distributed or available from the Secretary) for a new bus turning and coach parking facility at Ellenabeich. In the event of delays to these works Seafari have agreed they will assist maintaining this service until a solution is found..

Communication

A show of hands indicated that less than a dozen of those present use the websites (Seil on line and Slate) as their primary source of information, while there was resounding support for the delivery of the Seileachan to all households. The Chair pointed out that there is no such person as "the CC" but a group of 8 who must consult before responding to issues. Any constructive suggestions to improve communication would, the Chair suggested, be welcomed by the new Community Council.

Phone directory

The 2018 directory, complete with colourful cover designed by pupils of Easdale School, is now available and for sale in the Balvicar Stores. It was agreed to donate £100 from the proceeds of sales to the school in recognition of our young graphic designers' efforts.

Defibrillator

Easdale island has raised money for a new defibrillator and formally handed over their original one to Seil. As previously agreed, this will be located at Balvicar Stores.

TABLED PAPERS:

- Communication Contact List
- Dr George Hannah letter 7 Mar 2018 to Cabinet Secretary
- Threat to rural general practice Easdale medical Practice Dr George Hannah letter 21 Mar 2018 to Kieron Green, Vice Chair of Health and Social Partnership
- List of MSPs email addresses
- Community Development Company (Seil) Application for membership 2018
- Easdale Island & Ellenabeich Conservation Area Appraisals. 2017-2018

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.