

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 24th July 2018
Seil Island Hall

PRESENT: Julie Ferris, Seumus Anderson, Yowann Byghan, John Gordon, Guy Knight, Nina MacLean, Steve Patterson, Rhoda Thomson, Cllr Elaine Robertson

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 35

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Kieron Green and Andrew Vennard, PC Jeremy Moore

INTRODUCTION – NEW COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the newly-formed Community Council, and all members introduced themselves. The new CC held its inaugural meeting on 28th June, when Julie Ferris was elected as Convener, Seumas Anderson as Vice Convener, and Yowann Byghan as Treasurer.

The Chair thanked all members of the previous CC for their work on behalf of the community, and thanked Uta Binnie for acting as Secretary for the previous year. A new Secretary is needed; anyone interested would be very warmly welcomed!

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Seumus Anderson, as a landowner with a potential interest in the Scottish Water proposals.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Community Council is registering with the Information Commissioner as “Data Controllers” under the Data Protection Act. A copy of the Policy will be available on the website, and by request from any member. Particular attention was drawn to the following: *Unless expressly requested not to, all communications to members of the Community Council will be shared with all members of the Community Council.*

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS 1st APRIL 2017 to 31st MARCH 2018

The Accounts were presented for approval, as there had been no CC to hold the AGM in May. The next AGM would be held in May 2019. The Treasurer thanked the former office bearer, Anne Marie Robin, for preparing the Accounts, and explained that following approval they would be submitted to A&B Council who would then release the CC’s grant. The Accounts were approved: proposed by George Mackenzie, seconded by Seumas Anderson.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2018 were approved and agreed as an accurate record: proposed by Sue Fenton, seconded by George MacKenzie.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 27th MARCH 2018

NEW GP CONTRACT - IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR SURGERY

The Chair thanked the community for the wonderful turn out at the previous meeting. More than 140 people had attended and there had been a great response to the call to write letters, reflecting the very high regard in which the community holds our Surgery.

Mary Phillips, the Practice Manager, had sent an email expressing thanks to all patients for their efforts and correspondence to all the powers that be. She explained that the Practice had received no formal notification of any changes proposed, but they believe that there is some reconsideration, thanks no doubt to the volume of correspondence and interest from patients. Alan McDevitt, Chair of the BMA's Scottish GP Committee, had phoned the Surgery in person. The LMC (Local Medical Committee) have indicated there may be reconsideration on the use of the "Work Load Formula" for Phase 2 (in 3 years time) and The Rural GP Association of Scotland have been invited to join the Short Life Working group. Both of these possible developments are positive.

Many of us had received apparently reassuring letters from "the powers that be", but the Chair repeated that when it comes to our Surgery we trust our Doctors, and we would keep up pressure as required.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 23rd JANUARY 2018

Scottish Water (SW)

The Chair read out an update the CC had received from Ruaridh Macgregor, Corporate Affairs Manager, Scottish Water on 5th April. This confirmed that the planning application for the Seaview Terrace Septic Tank would be submitted within the following week and referred to the extensive work underway to enable SW to fully inform the construction and design process for the new treatment works. SW were working towards submitting information including aspects from their survey work to A&B Council, as planning authority, sometime in May. As part of that process they would be seeking the Council's views on their proposals and asking for their feedback. They would write to the CC again when they had commenced that process. They advised their intention to hold a further engagement event, most likely in the summer, where they would present the planning documents for the preferred option. It was confirmed that at that stage, they did not envisage commencing any construction work until both sites had received the required planning permissions.

John Gordon read out the following:

**"REPORT FROM LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR SECC MEETING 24.07.2018
(The section in italics was added after the meeting as it was only received shortly before the meeting. All was presented at the meeting.)**

The local representatives on the Seil SW Stakeholder Group welcome the newly elected Community Council.

We trust that we can continue to work together in representing the broad spectrum views of this community regarding SW's Waste Water proposals for Seil.

We also hope that both new and former members of the CC appreciate the considerable history of investigation, research, consultation, meetings, local and independent expertise, knowledge and advice that has contributed to the proposal for full treatment at an inland site (Option 1A) now preferred by SW.

Thanks to John Gordon for compiling his history, all of which is in the public domain, to inform the new councillors and copies can be made available for anyone else interested.

Since the previous CC ended the stakeholders have received two letters from SW. The first was on 5 April and gave notice of an imminent planning application for a septic tank at Seaview and an update on site investigations at Balvicar. They also intimated that they were proposing to hold another engagement event in the summer. The second was on 15 May and informed stakeholders of an information leaflet which was delivered to property owners/occupiers in the vicinity of the present waste water treatment works. It informed them of investigation works lasting 6 weeks at the site of the proposed new treatment works.

A request for an update for the Community Council meeting of 24 July was received shortly before the meeting. The key points are

(1) Seaview Terrace: The planning application for the septic tank at Seaview Terrace was submitted on the 4th of June 2018. Following initial feedback from Argyll and Bute roads department we have been required to make minor changes to the design, which our delivery partners design team are currently doing. The red line boundary will remain unchanged meaning a full re-submission is not required. We expect to pass these drawings to the Planning dept. w/c 30th July.

(2) Screening option request – new waste water treatment works: Once all the preliminary survey work is complete we will be submitting a request for a Screening Opinion from Argyll and Bute Council on whether or not an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required for the new treatment works to be located on the hillside. This will be submitted in early August.

(3) Pre-Planning Submission Information Event: As previously discussed we will be holding an information event to allow the community to view drawings and supporting information ahead of the submission of the planning application for the new treatment works. The extensive survey and investigation work to enable us to fully inform the construction and design process has taken longer than initially planned, however this is almost complete and we now anticipate we will be holding the pre-submission information event in October where the community can meet with us view the drawings in full before final submission.

The local stakeholders are aware of a group, now calling themselves Save Our Seil, who are engaged in an active campaign to oppose 1A.

While acknowledging the group's entitlement to do so, we urge them to familiarise themselves with the actual facts, figures and conclusions available from the due process pursued by the SW Stakeholder Group over the last 2 to 3 years.

To base a campaign on inaccurate information, unavailable options and assumptions, thereby knowingly prolonging further the present pollution around Seil, seems at least, unhelpful.

After some attempts to deny the failure of the present treatment works and its infrastructure, it was SW who created the stakeholders group in June 2016. At that meeting the Chief Executive of Scottish Water "*recognised the challenge of addressing the potentially divergent views on the most appropriate approaches and noted there may not be a solution that fully satisfies all parties. However the process that SW will follow will be transparent and evidence based.*" The transparency of that process is documented on <http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/investment-and-communities/your-community/isle-of-seil>. However, we should all remember that it is SW who have made proposals and decisions and ultimately it is SW who will continue to do so.

Finally, the local members of the stakeholders group assure you that they have acted in good faith for the community and will continue to do so.

24/7/2018"

The Chair noted that the decision on the proposed siting of the treatment works rests with SW, not the Stakeholders, and expressed her opinion that there should be no suggestion

that anyone had, or ever would, act in anything other than good faith. Everyone cares deeply about the beautiful environment in which we are fortunate to live, and everyone wants to find the best solution. A key objective in the CC's Constitution is "to be a means whereby the people of the area shall be able to voice their opinions on any matter affecting their lives, their welfare, their environment, its development and amenity". To that end, the Chair suggested that the CC should repeat its invitation to SW to hold an open meeting.

Lisa Robinson introduced herself as a representative of a group called "Save Our Seil", which opposes the proposed location. Lisa said that the group also requested that SW be invited to a future meeting. There being no objections, the CC would request that SW send someone with technical expertise to an open meeting, either before or instead of the proposed October event.

Roads

The grass verges have been cut back, but it was noted that overhanging bracken, shrubs and other foliage impede visibility along the road thus endangering pedestrians and cyclists. The 30mph signs are also largely obscured. Nina MacLean raised particular concerns about the danger to children waiting near the Balvicar bus stop. The CC would contact A&B Council and the police to see what could be done to raise drivers' awareness, improve signage and maximise visibility by brush cutting where needed.

It was noted that knotweed on the A816 has clearly been sprayed, but the growth along Seil Loch appears to be flourishing. Cllr Robertson confirmed that the programme of spraying continues. Everyone was urged to report any new sightings of encroachment.

Police Report

No updates were provided. As noted above, concerns about speeding and/or careless driving, particularly near the Balvicar bus stop, would be raised.

Planning

Applications received since last meeting (full details available on the A&B website)

Erection of extension to dwellinghouse. Craobh Mhor Clachan Seil. Ref No 18/01583/PP Received Mon 16 Jul 2018: Pending Consideration

Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission to incorporate the change of chimney to flue. 13B Easdale Island Ref No 18/01400/NMA Received Tue 19 Jun 2018: Application Permitted

Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission to incorporate reduction in size of decking. Fasgadh, Clachan Seil. Ref No 18/01445/NMA Received Tue 19 Jun 2018: Application Permitted

Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission to incorporate changes to garage and incorporation of oil tank. Pen-Y-Ghent, Clachan Seil. Ref No 18/01353/NMA: Application Permitted

Alterations and extension to store to create café and change of use of garage to form 2 retail units. Balvicar Stores. Ref No 18/01205/PP Received Mon 21 May 2018: Application Permitted

Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission to incorporate change of roof covering. Cuan Cottage, Cuan Ferry. Ref No 18/01152/NMA Received Fri 11 May 2018 : Application Permitted

Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse. Ballachuan House, Cuan Ferry. Ref No 18/01048/PP Received Thu 26 Apr 2018: Application Permitted

Installation of septic tank, formation of vehicular access, tanker layby, vehicle turning area and ground re-profiling including rock armour protection. Land West of Seaview Terrace, Ellenabeich. Ref No 18/00985/PP Received Thu 19 Apr 2018: Pending Consideration

Erection of 2 replacement illuminated signs. The Oyster Bar and Restaurant, Ellenabeich. Ref No 18/00884/LIB Received Tue 03 Apr 2018: Application Permitted

A&B Council bus shelter

Cllr Robertson confirmed that the roads department had no concerns regarding the bus shelter, and it would not be prudent to undertake any further changes until issues surrounding bus turning were resolved.

Forward Planning for our community

Seumas Anderson gave an update on the development of an Isle of Seil Community Trust and reported that work was progressing on setting up a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation), with another meeting to be held shortly. Dr George Hannah was thanked for all his work in progressing the Trust on behalf of the community.

Ellenabeich & Easdale Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan

John Gordon reported that a positive meeting had been held with Mark Lodge, who was leading the consultation for A&B.

Bus service Ellenabeich

The temporary arrangements to maintain the service continue to function at present. A&B Council are looking to progress plans for the potential bus and coach turning circle with a view to submitting an application to the tourism infrastructure fund by the end of September 2018. There has been little community feedback regarding the proposal; it was noted that community support will be critical. Cllr Robertson reminded those present that the alternative is for West Coast Motors to terminate the service at Seaview.

Communication

The Chair thanked Christine Moinard, who has stepped down as a distributor of the Seileachan. The CC is very grateful to Sue Fenton, who will continue to distribute the Seileachan to the delivery team, and who also edits and prints the newsletter. It was noted that the Seileachan is highly-valued by the community, although some had not realised it is the newsletter of the CC. A volunteer is sought to distribute the newsletter on Easdale Island.

The new CC would continue to consider any constructive suggestions to improve communication and would check that contact details are easily available.

Phone Directory

The CC would consider implications of the Data Protection Act before the next edition.

Defibrillators

It was noted that all Public Access Defibrillators should be registered with Scottish Ambulance Service to ensure 999 operators are aware of their location. Lisa Robinson offered to deal with this on the community's behalf.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**Timing of meetings**

It was agreed to keep the public meetings at 6.30pm to tie in with the Easdale Ferry time.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

6.30pm Tuesday 25th September Seil Island Hall