

SEILEACHAN

Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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April 2018

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue Fenton, by **31 May**: scwfenton@gmail.com

Just tell Sue if you would prefer an email version.

If distributors are going to be away for the first week of the month (June), then please let Sue know so that a substitute/s can be found.

The Seileachan is available on the web: <http://seil.oban.ws> where full minutes of community council meetings are also published, and also on the Slate Forum, <http://the-slate.freeforums.net>

COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CC) ELECTIONS

Only three people stood for election for the eight places on Seil & Easdale CC, and had been duly elected: Seumas Anderson, Julie Ferris and John Gordon. This was not sufficient to constitute the CC and so a by-election will be held in May. If you want the community to continue to have a voice in our democratic system, please consider standing.

SECC MEETING 27 March, draft minutes

It was wonderful to welcome more than 130 members of the public, three Argyll & Bute (A&B) Councillors and a reporter from the Oban Times to the meeting. With all members of the CC and Drs Miranda Barkham and George Hannah on the stage, the Main Hall was absolutely filled to capacity.

New GP Contract

Dr Barkham provided an overview of implications for Easdale Medical Practice. Dr Hannah then outlined proposals on Community Teams which had been unveiled at a meeting the previous week. A number of questions from the floor and the excellent turnout demonstrated how much everyone cares for and appreciates our surgery, and the community's determination to do everything possible to protect it. From the reassuring reply the CC had received from Mike Russell it was clear that the volume of letters already sent had raised awareness of our concerns with 'the powers that be.' But as the Chair pointed out, with all due respect to our elected representatives, when it comes to our surgery we trust our doctors! Everyone was urged to continue expressing their views – copies of contact details and key points to be raised were distributed, and are available by email from Uta Binnie (ian_uta.seil@btinternet.com) The deadline for responses is 28 July.

It was gratifying that 61 members of the public remained for the rest of the meeting.

Scottish Water

The Chair read out the latest update received from SW regarding site inspections at Seaview and ecology surveys in the area identified for the proposed new treatment works.

Roads

The Chair thanked Charles Struthers, who is stepping down from the CC, for all he has done to forge excellent relations with the Roads Department and achieve so much on our behalf.

Planning - full details are on the A&B C website:

List Old Coach House, replacement windows, Oyster Bar signs *etc* Re the latter, the Chair noted the onerous planning requirements needed to basically replace like for like, and the burden this places on small local businesses.

There was discussion on the proposal to place a skip in the back car park at Ellenabeich. It was clear that further consultation was needed, and the Chair confirmed that A&B C had placed this on hold until then.

Forward planning

The formation of a Community Development Company for Seil is to facilitate community needs and projects. Forms were distributed to ascertain community interest and support – additional copies are available in Balvicar Stores. An **Open Meeting will be held on Thursday 26 April at 7.30pm**

Ellenabeich & Easdale Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan

Thanks were given to all who had drafted a joint response from The Community Council, Eilean Eisdeal Community Trust and The Slate Islands Trust. This paper forms part of our formal objection to the Draft Appraisals; a joint meeting is to be arranged with the Conservation Officer and A&B Planning Department. Everyone was urged to respond to the document via a form available on the A&B website – deadline 30 April.

Bus service at Ellenabeich

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

