

# SEILEACHAN

## Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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

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Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue, by **30 November**: [scwffenton@gmail.com](mailto:scwffenton@gmail.com) The *Seileachan* is also available on the community website: <http://seil.oban.ws> (together with full minutes) and on *The Slate*: <http://the-slate.freeforums.net>

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 25 September

38 members of the public joined Councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green and members of the Seil & Easdale Community Council (CC).

### HEALTH

#### New GP Contract

As reported at the previous meeting, the level of response from our own and other communities appears to be bearing fruit. The Chair read an update from Mary Phillips, Easdale Medical Practice Manager: "Easdale Medical Practice met with Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie, Chair of the Short Life Working Group for Remote & Rural General Practice and Fiona Duff, Primary Care Senior Advisor for the Scottish Government. We conveyed our concerns and it seemed to be an informative and constructive meeting."

#### Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP)

The CC will submit a response to the HSCP's call for feedback on their new strategic plan 2019-22. The consultation is moving to a new phase – services affect every aspect of our health and wellbeing, so check out the information on the [nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk](http://nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk) website.

#### SCOTTISH WATER (SW)

The Chair updated the meeting on events since the previous CC meeting. The CC had repeated its invitation of the previous year to SW and requested that a representative with technical expertise attend a public meeting. SW declined the invitation and intends to hold another community event in November.

SW have requested an opinion from A&B Council (see planning website Ref 18/01871/SCREEN) as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for the proposed treatment works at site 1A. The CC would support an EIA to ensure as much information as possible is available.

The Chair read extracts from an SW update sent on 24 September 2018 which includes: "We (SW) have completed a National Vegetation Classification Survey which has identified the importance of the trees close to the site and importance of the wetland area in the valley. In order to minimise the impact on this we are now looking at a minor realignment of a portion of the road route. The process for planning for the Sea View Terrace septic tank is on-going. We have completed the Geotechnical Investigation for the site and lab testing of samples taken is underway. We are planning to hold a pre-planning information event in mid-November. I will be writing to the community in the coming weeks to confirm invite to a pre-planning community information event."

The Chair read out a further statement from the

local stakeholders: "Ruairidh MacGregor, on behalf of Scottish Water, keeps both the Stakeholder Group and Seil & Easdale CC informed about progress. The local stakeholders have kept Mike Russell, as Chair of the Stakeholder Group, in touch with developments on Seil and we understand he would be willing to come and chair a public meeting to explain why 1A was unanimously supported. Likewise, we have updated Chris Chubb, the independent expert, who would also be prepared to attend and explain technical and scientific aspects.

We understand that Save Our Seil (SOS) has received replies from Alan Thomson on behalf of the SW CEO, Douglas Millican, from Mike Russell MSP and from our Argyll & Bute Councillors.

We would like to remind the CC that the Stakeholder Group worked hard to find a solution that best meets the needs of the community and minimises disruption and damage to the environment. We chose 1A because it involves a new inland site well away from housing and hidden from the road. It uses a tried and tested technology and a much higher level of treatment of the effluent than Option 3. However, we repeat, as was acknowledged at the last CC meeting, any decisions ultimately rest with SW."

Lisa Robinson then read a response on behalf of SOS which is attached, in full, to the minutes available on the CC website. She provided the following summary for the *Seileachan*: "With over 100 signatories, SOS represents local people who are extremely concerned about the proposals to site a waste water treatment works in an unspoilt and environmentally valuable area of Seil (site 1A). The group formed when it became clear that the views of many people in the wider community were being ignored by SW and that the only chance of being heard was by joining forces. The group has always acknowledged that considerable time and effort has been invested in considering the most suitable option for dealing with our waste water and we understand that the local stakeholders would be disappointed to learn of our objections.

However, we have endeavoured to frame our concerns in a positive manner, suggesting what we consider to be viable alternatives to the proposed site 1A based solely on SW's own appraisal studies and were therefore saddened to hear the comments made by the stakeholders at the CC council meeting held in July. The stakeholders state that SOS are opposing the proposals without being familiar with the facts, figures and conclusions which have been made available and that in doing so we are responsible for protracting, what we all agree, is an unacceptable situation. In our statement to the CC we fully explain why we support an alternative site in a brownfield former quarry at Seaview (site 3) and state all of our sources. We hope that this will demonstrate that we are fully aware of all relevant information. Unfortunately SW have failed to answer any direct questions regarding

