

SEILEACHAN

Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue, by **31 January**: scwfenton@gmail.com The *Seileachan* is also available on the community website: <http://seil.oban.ws> (together with full minutes and agenda) and on *The Slate*: <http://the-slate.freeforums.net>

COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CC) MEETING, 27 November

Argyll & Bute Councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green, together with 31 members of the public, attended the meeting in the Seil Island Hall. The Chair welcomed Anne Foster, the new secretary. Argyll & Bute Council (A&B) are no longer able to print minutes and agendas free of charge for the meeting and an email distribution list will be created for minutes and agendas to be emailed prior to the meetings. Anne can be contacted on seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com if you would like to be added to the list.

Scottish Water (SW) proposals for Seil

The Chair updated the meeting on events since the previous CC meeting, noting in particular the CC's request for a meeting with SW which had been declined. The council had received notification of a drop in event on the 28 November and requested a plenary session at this event, but again this was declined.

Argyll & Bute (A&B) Council Planning has determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will not be required for the proposed works. Although there was some concern from the meeting that the wider environmental impact may not be taken into account, the Chair noted that the Planning Officer has stipulated that a considerable amount of information should be submitted with any planning application to address the quality and sensitivity of the site, with particular regard to issues relating to the environmental impact, flora, fauna *et al.*

A spokesperson for the stakeholder group gave an outline of the history of the group, set up by Scottish Water, and how it had come to the conclusion that site 1A was the best option. The group included eight local residents, our two A&B councillors and an independent expert and it was chaired by Mike Russell MSP. The group spent 18 months looking at a wide range of options for fixing the problems of waste water treatment on Seil.

The local members had a number of aims: the solution had to maintain the natural environment and amenity of Seil and ensure that waste water was managed in a way that minimised the impact on our people and our surroundings. In particular, any new facilities had to be well away from housing and main roads, and hidden from view as far as possible. In view of the failures of the present system which employed new techniques, we also required any solution to use tried and tested technology.

After lengthy discussions with Scottish Water technical staff and the independent expert, the local members unanimously decided that 1A most closely fulfilled the

aims we had set and this view was endorsed by the wider stakeholder group. Members of the stakeholder group would be happy to give further details of why we believe that 1A remains the best option for our community.

A representative of Save Our Seil (SOS) stated that many in our community are disappointed that there will be no EIA and, although this would have delayed the process it would have meant that SW had to justify the choice of site 1A above all others. As this proposal constitutes the largest single infrastructure project that Seil will have seen to date, the community needs to ensure that the correct decision is made, for all of the right reasons.

The meeting noted that SW were only dealing with the immediate issue relating to problems with the installation at Balvicar and the septic tank at Seaview. Ellenabeich and Easdale did not come within their scope of works.

Bus service Ellenabeich

The CC is aware of the importance to the community of the service bus and coaches for local businesses. Alternative options for buses turning are being considered. The council would welcome feedback and also support for the bus service.

Parking at Ellenabeich

A useful site meeting has taken place to consider parking issues around the area at Ellenabeich where cars park for access to the Easdale ferry and where the public toilets are. The meeting also included representatives from Easdale Island. Two Designated Disabled Parking spaces are to be marked out as soon as lining machines and crew are available. Councillor Elaine Robertson confirmed that the guidance relating to the measurements of Designated Disabled Parking spaces would be adhered to.

It was noted that possible future changes to the law relating to parking on pavements could have a major impact if the area where cars currently park is classed as a pavement. Should this arise, appropriate measures will be taken by A&B Council to ensure the problem is addressed.

Community Payback Order

The CC has responded to the survey suggesting local tidying/cleaning/maintenance projects which could be considered for this scheme. A suggestion, from an Easdale resident, to repair a path on Easdale has been received. Councillor Robertson advised that A&B Council welcome suggestions and do often take them up.

Armistice Day Commemoration

The CC noted that our community is fortunate to have such an active branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, which organised a very moving service and had raised over £2,000 for this year's Poppy Appeal. Stuart Reid, on behalf of RBLs, thanked the community for their generosity.

