

SEILEACHAN

Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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www.seil.oban.ws

February 2019

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

The *Seileachan* is also available by email (pdf). Drop Sue an email with your house name/number; you may also, however, receive a paper copy through your door.

There are some spare paper copies in Balvicar Stores.

• Please could distributors let me know if they are unable to deliver timeously, for any reason. 'Bank' distributors, available to cover any absences, are always very welcome. A distributor for Easdale Island is still sought.

SEIL & EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CC) REPORT January 2019

This report summarises the information the CC would have given at the meeting scheduled for 22 January, which was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. If you have any questions, or any other issues you would like to raise, please contact the CC Secretary seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com

SCOTTISH WATER (SW): New Waste Water Proposals for Seil

Since last meeting:

28 November 2018. Members of the CC attended the drop-in session and discussed concerns that our requests for a public meeting had been refused. We made it clear that we weren't being negative or disruptive but were seeking to address concerns in a constructive and positive manner, repeating our view that refusing public meetings only strengthens opposition. SW reiterated their view that they had consulted fully through the stakeholder process and the drop-in sessions.

We were reassured by the measures in place for monitoring/mitigating the impact on flora and fauna and the sensitive environment and hope we can assume that such measures would be in place for any site for a WWTW on Seil since the whole island is a sensitive environment.

7 December 2018. the CC received the Proposal of Application Notice that went to Argyll & Bute (A&B) Council, the CC & local community groups. **Comments must be submitted no later than 6 MARCH 2019.**

13 December email. The CC received an email confirming the date and time for another public engagement event; **6 February 2019, 2.30 – 6.30**. We urge everyone to attend this event, and to engage fully with the planning process. Project background and information is available on the Scottish Water website:

www.scottishwater.co.uk/investment-and-communities/your-community/isle-of-seil

BUS SERVICE ELLENABEICH

As previously reported, the current arrangement is to end in March 2019.

Thanks to those who have suggested the buses use the back car park. However, West Coast Motors advised that the turning into the car park would be too tight.

The Seil Island Hall committee has again discussed the possibility of a second entrance to the Hall car park to enable the service bus to enter and exit. The committee considers that

this would be unsafe as it is in close proximity to the children's play area. It would also prevent the hall from fulfilling its duty to maximise rental income, as full use of the car park is intrinsic to hall rentals.

PARKING AT ELLENABEICH

A&B Council have confirmed that the disabled parking bays at the pier head will be put in place.

Resident parking signs – the CC is costing up locally-produced signs and will see if these are effective. We recognise that these would be informal 'polite' notices.

BRIDGES

In response to concerns raised, A&B reported the following:

A&B Council carry out a General Inspection on Kilninver Bridge, Achnasaul Bridge and Clachan Bridge every 24 months. The most recent of these was carried out on all three structures on 28 March 2018.

Kilninver Bridge is subject to additional Special Inspections following the repairs to its spandrel wall in 2011. A minimum of six further Special Inspections are carried out over the 24 monthly period, generally over the winter months. Additionally, any concerns raised by members of the public have been addressed in accordance with the Council's prioritisation procedures. No movement outwith seasonal tolerances has been recorded, however the structure will continue to be monitored at this frequency for the foreseeable future.

Clachan Bridge was subject to a parapet strike sometime prior to mid-October 2018 at which time a member of the public reported their concerns. A Bridge Inspector carried out an interim inspection the same week and reported back to the member of the public. This inspection found the bridge had been subject to a vehicular strike resulting in minor damage of a non-urgent nature. Clachan Bridge has been programmed for a full Principal Inspection and Structural Assessment in 2019.

The CC has requested notification of when the inspections will take place, and a summary of the reports.

PHONE DIRECTORY

We had a fairly good response to the first trawl for consent via the *Seileachan*, with over 50 reply slips returned via the shop. There had been issues with delivery of that particular copy of the newsletter and the CC is very grateful to Sue Fenton & the delivery team who are working on ironing out any problems.

To stress – this was just a first trawl. We are now taking email replies (following clarification from A&B Council) and we will strive to get everyone in who wants to be included.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The CC is not aware of any further developments.

HEALTH

GP Appointment System. The Practice Manager has confirmed (as in the letter to all patients) that this was introduced by the Surgery to reduce waiting times and respond more efficiently to demand. So far, the new system is working very well, with sufficient appointments to meet each day's patient requirements.

A&B Council's consultation on Health & Social Care Partnership. The deadline for response is 11 February. The CC has submitted a response, but this is open to everyone (&

affects everyone!) Go to: www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/OurAreas/ArgyllandBute/Pages/ArgyllButeCHP.aspx

ROADS

There has been some patching of potholes (e.g. Ardencaple Road) though this is already degrading.

Verges. As agreed, the CC contacted the landowner *re* the approach to Balvicar junction & the overhanging vegetation has been cut back. PLEASE REMEMBER EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CUTTING BACK OVERHANGING VEGETATION FROM THEIR LAND/GARDENS.

POLICE REPORT

PC MacLeod highlighted the following:

A telephone scam from someone purporting to be from BT that led to the loss of several thousand pounds. NEVER GIVE OUT BANK DETAILS OVER THE PHONE OR GIVE ANYONE ACCESS TO YOUR COMPUTER. Bear in mind that the number listed, should you have caller ID, might have no bearing whatsoever of where the call is coming from.

The theft of approx. 1200 litres of heating oil from an outside tank on Seil. Do not hesitate to contact the police if you see any persons or vehicles acting suspiciously.

There have been two instances of prank 999 calls made from the call box at Balvicar Stores at around 1630 and 1730 on the 9 and 14 January. It would appear that youths are responsible as voices can be heard in the background.

Various road incidents relating to ice and animals on the road.

There have been reports of doors being tried through the night in Oban and Dunbeg and an intruder entered a house in Taynuilt but was scared off by a dog; REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR DOORS AND SHEDS.

The signs in place at Balvicar really look the part, so much so that Kilninver are hoping to get some for the road past their school.

PLANNING

18/02604/TPO Proposed felling and pruning of trees within Ellenabeich (SSE).

18/02605/TPO Pruning and felling of various trees and woody vegetation Various locations on Easdale Island (SSE)

18/01695/PP Erection of 1 metre high slate boundary wall, metal gates and fencing, installation of 2 folding parking bollards and formation of tarred area and patio area. 38 Ellenabeich. Application Refused.

19/00033/PP Alterations and partial re-roofing, formation of vehicular access and rebuilding of entrance wall and change of use of outbuildings to class 6 (Use for storage only), part retrospective. Former Highland Arts and Monaveen Lodge Ellenabeich

18/02640/PAN Proposal of application notice for proposed new wastewater treatment works including vehicular access to site. Land west of sewage works, Clachan Seil

18/01604/PP Erection of dwellinghouse with integral garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access Oban Seil Croft

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The CC contacted SSE about the problems reported regarding powercuts; SSE need to deal with the individuals involved, so the CC suggest maintaining a log of all incidents and reporting accordingly to: SSE distribution team, 0800 048 3515

Re internet interruptions, again the CC contacted BT who advise that a Major Service Outage for the whole area would be dealt with by Openreach, but as individuals are experiencing problems they should contact their service providers individually.

Date & time of next meeting

Tuesday 26 March, 6.30pm, in Seil Island Hall

A word of appreciation from a local

"Someone hung a shiny bauble on a bush opposite my gate. Several passers-by have enjoyed it, and I love it. A festive delight, and others appeared locally too. A big thank you — to a generous Christmas elf."

SEIL ISLAND HALL

January Lottery

£50 Kim Rowsell

£10 Doreen McNeil, Stevie Jarron, Peter Thorpe

February Lottery

£50 Sheila Lawson

£10 Iris Bell, Dave Simcox, Irene Breslin

LOST PROPERTY

Various items of clothing, umbrellas etc have been left in the hall. Please collect soon, or else they will be donated to charity.



RBLs BOOK SALE

The Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland are holding a book sale in Seil Island Hall on Saturday 9 March from 11am to 2pm to raise funds for our various forces' charities. There will be a raffle and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

EASDALE SCHOOL

There will be a garden work party on 16 March from 1030 –1300. Community members would be very welcome to come along and lend a hand.

The Parent & Carer Forum is running a Race Night at Seil Island Hall on Friday 22 March. Free entry. BYOB.

REV. DR. KENNETH ROSS

We have been very fortunate to have Rev. Kenneth Ross as Minister of the five Netherlorn Churches for the last nine years. Many on Seil will have met him, as he tried to visit most people when he arrived, and since then has taken regular services at Kilbrandon Church, Seil and Kilchattan Church, Luing. There have also been lots of weddings, and sadly funerals and, of course, some baptisms over that time.

Ken is now planning to move onto pastures new, returning to Malawi where he will be working with trainee Ministers at Theological Colleges in Malawi and nearby countries. We wish Ken and Hester well, as they leave us in March; they will be very much missed.

Ken's last services at Kilbrandon and Kilchattan will take place on Sunday 10 March at 10.00 am and 11.30 am respectively. The following Sunday 17 March, his last duties will take place at Craignish Church in Ardfern and then Kilninver Church, where he will be holding a baptism service. We will be giving a Farewell Pot Luck lunch from 1pm on that day in Seil Island Hall, and anyone who would like to say farewell to Ken is welcome to attend.

Jean Alexander, Session Clerk, Kilbrandon & Kilchattan

SEIL DRAMA GROUP

The Oban Times critic wrote that *Snow White and the Seven Seileachans* was 'a performance of parody, pun and side-splitting pantomime perfection.' If you missed it (how could you?!), then there is a chance to see the Drama Group at the end of March, in collaboration with Seil Sound, in another, very popular, *Seil Entertains*. Watch out for posters!

