

Seil and Easdale Community Council Meeting 26th March 2019

Appendix 1

Q (JF) Why did SW decide to come to a meeting now when the CC had been requesting a meeting for 2 years?

R (AT) Reassure you there has been no plot. SW have been doing lots of events to engage with the community and had much correspondence over that time.

Q (JF) If this scheme does not go through, is the fall-back position the septic tank plan at Seaview?

R (AT) No, but SW would look at other options.

Q (JF) Could this design fit anywhere on the island?

R (AT) It depends on the available footprint. The general feeling is that a site away from view and from where people live is preferable. If it is doable then it's what we try to do.

Q (LR) What are the projected costs?

R (SN) £5m is estimated, but SW are still going through a more detailed assessment and the price will reflect this.

Q (LR) Will it cost more?

R (SN) We can't tell, but the price was robust to begin with.

Q (AC) Is there a future for the Stakeholder group now?

R (AT) The Stakeholder group was formed at the time with the best of intention. Now that the decision has been taken to proceed with this option we will continue to listen to the opinions of the community, (Planning is a separate process), we suggest the forum from now will be through the Community Council and there will be no on-going engagement with the Stakeholder group. The CC Chair agreed this was the preferred approach.

Q (IS) How soon do you expect to be this to be going on for so we don't keep polluting Balvicar Bay?

R (AT) The decision from Planning could be November 2019 if the application goes in May. (SN) If successful SW then need to go through further governance process and would aim to start Spring 2020. Likely to take a year to complete.

Q (WB) The notes distributed by the Stakeholder group suggest we should contact elected representatives and then list members of the group?

R (AT) Contact should now be with SW via the planning process, outwith the Stakeholder group. We would encourage comment via A&B during the planning application process. I can clarify that Ellenabeich is not part of the scheme as it would have to be considered as First Time Provision. SW does not decide who gets funding for First Time Provision and you would need to pursue this through elected parliamentary representatives. SW is not aware of any on-going discussions for Ellenabeich.

Q (TH – later) Any possibility of Ellanabeich being connected?

R (AT) – You would need to write to SEPA in the first instance

Q (WB) So we would lobby MSPs and the Environmental Regulator?

R (AT) Yes

Q (KR) Can SW send copies of the plans to the Post Office and A&B do not?

R (LT) Yes, and they will also be on the website.

Q (GB) A&B Planning Portal does not work very well. Is there any other way to respond.

R (JF) I often email directly to Fiona Scott.

Q (GB) The problem is you can't see the documents on-line.

R (KG) The system has been upgraded and it should now be OK

Q (LR) Can SW confirm mechanisms to be put in place to inform the public what is happening?

R (AT) We will go through the CC

Q (CH) Can the height of the building be reduced? Has it been?

R (SN) It hasn't been but we are planning to reduce the sight of it by peat bunding. We are looking at the design to do what we can. We need 3m to accommodate the equipment and access requirements.

Q (ST) Are there any plans to screen the road?

R (LT) This is being looked at by the team and a visual assessment will be part of the planning. We did think that there were not many parts of the road you would be able to see.

Q (ST) Will it be fenced?

R (SN) There will be some fencing and gates required, including a fence around the plant and some stock-proof fencing. There will be gates at the bridge to stop livestock crossing. The boundary fence will remain. There is no plan to fence at the 'black' gate, but there will be a gate at the road.

Q (ST) How wide is the road?

R (SN) 5 metres

Q (ST) It will be a scar on the landscape?

R (SN) It looks worse on the plans as some areas will be grassed over.

Q (GB) What will the ambient noise levels be? Will there be an increase? Have you done a noise survey? Of vehicles going up and down the road?

R (LT) No, we have not done a noise survey. It can be looked at. Noise levels will be part of the Construction Management Plan.

Q (GB) What will SW do with the sewage during construction?

R (SN) We will build first then change over. SEPA have advised that we will be allowed to not have the storage tanks in place in the initial stage.

Q (RT) If the road is 5m wide that makes 4000 square metres of road surface. What is the size of the site itself?

R (SN) I can't remember. (CH) I recall it is 2.5 times the existing site. (LT) The size of the site area is yet to be determined until we know the exact scope of landscaping.

Q (IS) I feel we are just talking around issues and want to progress the project as soon as possible Can't we just get on with it.

R (JF) I don't think this has slowed down the overall project. (AT) SW need to listen and see if we can do anything to take account of comments so that hopefully, we have done all possible to satisfy planning.

Q (KR) I understand the decision to go for 1A was made by the SW board a long time before the CC were approached.

R (JF) We are where we are and people need to know now what is being planned and are informed. (AT) The reason the board agreed was as a result of the Stakeholder group indicating this was the preferred option and we had to go to the board to get approval for more money. SW knew the Stakeholder group would never be representative of all views. SW feel everything has been done with best intentions.

Q (RT) What is the deadline for the report?

R (LT) The plan will be submitted at the beginning of May

Q (RT) So we need to get comments to you by the beginning of May?

R (LT) Mid-April would be better so that we can consider comments and take them into account.

Q (GT) Is the budget available? Is it ring-fenced? Will you have enough to cover an increase?

R (SN) Yes we have the £5m and some contingency monies.

Q (RR) What guidance did you have in setting up the Stakeholder group?

R (AT) We approached the CC (a number of years ago) and a number of people were put forward, elected councillors, the MSP and an expert. Throughout, new people joined. It was done with the best intention.

Q (RR) So no particular guidance or legislation?

R (AT) No.