

# SEILEACHAN

## Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

Vol 24 No 4

August 2020

This issue is being sent to email addresses made available through clubs and societies *etc* (apologies for any cross-postings) and will also be available on local Facebook groups, such as Seil Survival and the Community Council facebook. The community Council has decided that house-to-house deliveries cannot be made at this time. A few paper copies will be available at the shop for those without access to the internet.

The *Seileachan* is also available on the community website: <http://seil.oban.ws> (together with full minutes and agenda).

Seil & Easdale Community Council has its own **Facebook page**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/758246257908565/>

Contact: [seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com](mailto:seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com) for additions to the Community Council's email list, or any issues arising.

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue, by **30 September**: [scwffenton@gmail.com](mailto:scwffenton@gmail.com)

### SEIL & EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Although there could be no public meeting in July, your Community Councillors are constantly in touch to review ongoing matters and to respond to new issues raised by residents. Please remember that you can contact the CC at any time by email to [seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com](mailto:seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com) or via our Facebook page. We will continue to review ways of connecting with the community during this time.

### Community Council Membership

Yowann Byghan has stepped down from the CC as he is leaving the area. The CC would like to thank Yowann for his work as Treasurer and for his insight and help with the various issues the community has faced over the past two years. We wish him every happiness for the future. Other members have indicated that they will be stepping down at the next elections, which are expected to take place in October/November; there will be four vacancies. Some people have already expressed an interest and hopefully we will have enough nominations by the time of elections, so if you are interested please talk to one of the current members. The Secretary does not have to be a member of the CC; if you would like to know more about this role please email Anne: [seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com](mailto:seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com)

### SSEN funding

As previously reported, the CC applied for funding from SSEN and were awarded £1,550 to assist us during the Covid 19 crisis. We have tried to help as

many different sectors of our community as possible and so far we have:

- \* Delivered a card, a VE day commemorative tin of shortbread and a piece of artwork from local children to our 26 regular lunch club attendees (£168)

- \* Contributed to the cost of providing PPE for the Car Scheme volunteer drivers (£275)

- \* Distributed educational activity packs to the youngest in our community via the playgroup and school (£300)

- \* Helped Easdale School ensure a safe environment by providing two benches for outside learning (£340)

- \* Commissioned banners from a local company to welcome visitors, whilst reminding them to observe all safe practices (£320)

We will ensure that the remaining funding (£147) is applied to maximum benefit as the easing of lockdown, hopefully, progresses. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

### Buses and Coaches

The CC notes that the 418 service has been reduced and currently only runs on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. We understand the service is to be reviewed soon and will post any further information on our FB page.

The CC is acutely aware of the value of the bus and coaches to local residents and businesses. We would support any proposal to facilitate these vehicles turning at Ellenabeich that is viable and would not attract significant objections from local residents. Many thanks to those who responded to our request for feedback regarding a proposal to use 'grasscrete' to enable the grassed area at Ellenabeich to be used for bus/coach turning. We received detailed written responses from four couples and verbal responses from 12 residents. All were in opposition, therefore this is not something the CC would be able to support.

### New fence on Ardencaple to Puillobhain route

The CC had been contacted about this and recognise that there is a route via gates further up the hill.

### Road Safety/Speeding

You will have noticed that new road signs have been purchased and are currently located near the junction with Cnoc a Challtuinn. As with the signs at Balvicar, they will be moved occasionally by the CC so that they continue to have maximum 'noticeability.' The roads are much busier now as things ease and we continue to ask people to drive

with respect for other road users, particularly as the schools re-open this month and there will be more children and families about at busy times. We all have a part to play – pedestrians and cyclists should preferably wear something bright (and definitely high vis at night). Drivers – watch your speed and remember a bike or walker (not to mention a sheep!) could be round that next bend. Slow down and – please – **give them plenty of room.**

Our thanks to Argyll & Bute (A&B) Council for the neat verge cutting which helps with visibility, but landowners – it is your responsibility to cut back any growth overhanging the road.

### **Easdale Ferry**

The CC have been made aware of concerns regarding the procedures for the ferry in case of an out-of-hours emergency and are seeking confirmation from A&B that these cover times when the local ferrymen are not on duty.

### **Inner Hebrides Chamber of Commerce**

A chamber of commerce furthers the interests of its members, has a strong voice in representing their needs to Government, and can provide guidance and advice, as for instance with current Covid regulation compliance. It is for all businesses, regardless of size, and can include such organisations as museums and community halls.

There is a proposal to form an Inner Hebrides Chamber, which would have an annual fee of £9.95. This was discussed recently at a virtual meeting with representatives from several islands, including a member of Seil & Easdale CC. Feedback at that meeting was very positive, and it was left that each island would gauge interest and report back. The CC considers this to be a positive proposal, which as well as helping local businesses could help the CC better reflect their views. For more information see: [www.scottishchambers.org.uk](http://www.scottishchambers.org.uk)  
Please email Julie Ferris [ferrisjef@aol.com](mailto:ferrisjef@aol.com) by the end of August if you are interested.

### **Litter & Bins**

We recognise that many people already pick up litter on walks etc and we encourage everyone to do so. We feel this is better than putting up more signs at this stage, although of course we will do so if the situation worsens. The CC are aware of the situation regarding the need for more bins at Ellenabeich. We have asked A&B to provide another bin and will continue to work with them regarding this issue.

The refuse collection service is now back to the normal timetable; we would like to thank the crews from A&B for their sterling work during the crisis.

### **Phone Directory**

The updated 2020 edition is on sale in the shop. Any additions or amendments should be notified to the secretary.

### **Planning**

Oban Seil Farm. Agricultural building – still awaiting decision

Oban Seil Croft. Agricultural building – refused.

### **Scottish Water**

We await the announcement of a public hearing.

### **SEIL ISLAND HALL**

#### **July Lottery Winners**

£50 Janice Stewart

£10 Eddie Gully, Janice Baxter, Maggie Thorpe

#### **August Lottery Winners**

£50 Wendy Dugdale

£10 Barbara Smith, Judith Gillespie, John Taylor

The Hall has been awarded a £25,000 Small Business Grant, which should largely, if not completely, offset our losses this year. The Hall remains closed at present but the Trustees will discuss a plan for reopening the Hall as and when this becomes possible.

### **PLAY PARK**

The Play Park has now re-opened for use. There is alcohol hand gel at the entrance; everyone should use this, both when they enter AND when they leave, and to follow Scottish Government guidelines on social distancing. A new donation box has been put at the entrance; the Play Park is equipped, maintained and funded by the Hall alone. This is expensive and requires a lot of volunteer effort. All donations, however small, will enable us to continue its safe provision.

### **EASDALE SURGERY**

Please remember that we are still here if needed. We are still operating a telephone appointment system in the first instance with the Doctors arranging with patients to come to the surgery if they require to see them in person. Medication is still being collected from a box outside the surgery.

### **GOLF CLUB**

Isle of Seil Golf Club is now open to all members. 9 Hole competitions are running on Wednesday afternoons and weekends. Fun 9 Hole competitions from our forward tees will be held on Thursdays from 6 August, at 2.30pm. All members and visitors are welcome. Players are still obliged to report times of play to the secretary to keep records for contact tracing. Beginner coaching is available - contact secretary, Pat Mill, 300087 or email [clanmill@aol.com](mailto:clanmill@aol.com)

### **SEED FOR LIFE**

**The Seed for Life, Feed for Life Trust** is a Seil based charity working on farming, feeding and educational projects in the community of Bemvu in Malawi. We are seeking expressions of interest from residents who may be interested in joining the Trust to help support the fantastic work which is having life changing results in Malawi. Please contact Dave Alsop on 01852 300393. To find out more about the work of the Trust and how to donate please see our website: <https://seedforlife.org.uk/> or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Seed-for-LifeFeed-for-Life-268991476935806/posts/>