



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 26th January 2022

Location: Meeting held via Microsoft Teams video conference

Present:

- Kevin Reid - Chair (KR)

Ardersier and Petty Community Council

- Christine Wood (CW)

The Highland Council

- Cllr Trish Robertson (TR)

Scottish Water (SW) and ESD

- Graeme Campbell, Project Manager, ESD (GC)
- Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GSt)

Apologies: Janet Scorgie, Ardersier and Petty Community Council
Paul Sexton, Scottish Water



Community Liaison Group Objective

'The aim of the community liaison group is to minimise any negative impact and maximise the positive impact on the local community.'

The group will provide feedback and guidance on Scottish Water's programme of engagement and communication with the local community, elected representatives and other stakeholders throughout the construction element of the approved projects. This will facilitate feedback and enable informed debate that will help Scottish Water identify areas of concern, explore solutions, aid communication and progress the projects.'

Minutes

1. Welcome & introductions

KR welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions

KR asked if there were any comments or amendments in relation to the draft minutes of the meeting of 27th November. TR and CW indicated that they were content with the minutes which were approved.

Actions were reviewed as follows:

Action 1: Ardersier & Petty Community Council to confirm if it is content for Scottish Water to give permission for the proposed project on its land, which would allow a funding application to be moved forward.

GSt confirmed this had happened via the Community Council's meeting in December and noted his thanks for confirmation. Scottish Water would therefore give its approval as landowner for the proposed Butterfly Conservation project, which was needed to support the associated funding application.

Action 2: GSt to pass on Butterfly Conservation Scotland contact details to Janet Scorgie.

GSt confirmed that he had done this following the meeting – and that JS was also in touch with John Orr from the Highlife Highland Ranger Service who had been involved. He understood that the project hoped to engage the community further if it was successful in obtaining



funding and making progress, but that it would be some time before the proposed planting / habitat improvement work would go ahead.

Action 3: GSt to circulate diary appointments for the next two proposed meetings, as agreed (26th January and 30th March).

GSt confirmed this has been done and that it remained the intention, subject to the public health guidelines, for the March meeting to be combined with a site visit for members who wished to attend.

GC noted that it would be necessary to ensure suitable PPE was available for any CLG members attending – and that sizes would be needed for suitable safety boots and high viz jackets. GSt indicated that he would request this information and an indication of those planning to attend when he circulated the draft minutes of the current meeting.

Action 1: GSt to circulate details for the meeting in March and request shoe and jacket sizes from those planning to attend who would need PPE.

3. ESD project progress update

GC noted that there had been a bit of an issue with the galvanising of the handrailing for the Picket Fence Thickener (PFT), linked to issues with the supply chain for hydrochloric acid which was used in this process. The handrail had now been galvanised and he anticipate the PFT construction would be complete by the end of February.

Once the construction of the PFT was complete, with the lid of the tank and the handrails, the local control panel and the handrail would be commissioned. It had already been tested in the fabrication yard where it was made in Dumfries. There would also be a hydrostatic test on the tank to ensure it was watertight and then it would move into the commissioning of the tank itself.

Work was otherwise ongoing to remedy minor mechanical and electrical defects around the site that had been identified via routine checks.

GSt noted that he understood approval had just been received for the revisions to the planting scheme on the bunds, which had been discuss at the last meeting and circulated via email to the CLG.



GC confirmed that up to 500 Scots Pine were to be replaced with a mix of 250 silver birch and 250 mountain ash. He noted these species were deciduous, but were better suited to thrive in the conditions on the bund. The order had been placed with the supplier and it was hoped the new planting would be in place by the end of February. The hoarding was expected to come down as quickly as possible once the planting was complete. GC noted that some panels had recently been replaced by heras fencing to maintain a secure perimeter until this work had taken place. He noted there had been good growth of brambles and other vegetation around the inside of the hoarding which would continue to provide protection for the trees.

GC noted that his expectation was that the construction phase of the project would be complete by the time of the March meeting.

4. Feedback and discussion

- **Chairing of CLG**

KR noted that he understood there had been a query raised about whether he should continue as Chair of the CLG as he is no longer living in Ardersier.

GSt noted that he was aware that some members of the community had raised this, but noted that they felt it was not a matter for Scottish Water to determine. He understood that the CLG had originally appointed its Chair and felt it was for the community members of the group to decide if they wished to revisit this. He noted that the remit of the CLG would be completed once the construction phase of the project concluded. Scottish Water was happy to continue for a short period if members wished to monitor the early months of the site's operation, but its expectation was that engagement would then revert to being with the Community Council and elected members.

KR proposed that if there were objections to him continuing as Chair for the short period until the CLG's work was complete, he thought the Community Council should be asked to put someone else forward.

CW said that she saw no reason to replace KR as Chair at this stage in the CLG's work.

GSt proposed that the March site visit should include a meeting of the CLG, but that there was unlikely to be a need for further meetings beyond that unless desired by members.

CW suggested that a periodic email update to the Community Council might be appreciated by members, noting that meetings took place on the first Wednesday of every month.



Action 2: Ardersier & Petty Community Council to be asked to confirm whether it wished to put forward a new chair for the CLG's remaining meetings.

- **Future development**

TR asked for confirmation that there were no plans to upgrade the pipe to the WWTW. A query had been raised, but she had understood it was originally supposed to have been future-proofed.

GSt noted that he didn't think he had seen correspondence on this recently, but there was not expected to be any need to upgrade the rising main.

KR thought the issue that had been raised was that the pipes installed were already big enough to support further phases of development at the WWTW in the future.

GSt confirmed that this was correct. GC explained that two pipes of different sizes had been laid, which could be operated in sequence and then in combination when further houses were built. GSt reflected that any future phases of development at the WWTW site would be the subject of future planning applications, but the existing project provided for a significant amount of capacity beyond the currently connected population.

TR asked if the site had capacity to accommodate the full development of Tornagrain which she understood was expected to be 5,000 houses. GC noted that the project provided capacity for a population equivalent of 8,831 and the current connected population was around 2,000 - which included the currently connected houses at Tornagrain. GSt noted that a calculation was used to estimate the population represented by each house connecting. TR reiterated that further development at Ardersier WWTW would not be welcome.

- **Leaving a legacy**

KR asked if there was anything further to report on 'leaving a legacy' activities.

GSt confirmed that all the items originally selected had been delivered. While there was no direct involvement from Scottish Water, beyond its approval as landowner, he noted that the Butterfly Conservation project was welcome as it would bring about further habitat improvement – linking with work the community had carried out at Ardersier Common; and the new interpretation boards and waymarkers that Scottish Water had funded more recently.



GSt noted that before the pandemic there had been early discussions about a possible event at the Common to highlight the work that had been done there. This had not been possible as Covid had taken over. There might be scope to revisit this, but he recognised the time for this might have passed.

KR asked if members had any other questions or feedback, but no issues were raised.

GSt noted that, while outside the CLG's remit, he had noted in a previous meeting that some work was planned to renew the local sewers that served houses near the corner of Nairn Road and Station Road. This was necessary work to replace pitch fibre pipes, which were deteriorating, with modern pipes. He noted some of the more urgent replacement work had been carried out in 2018 or 2019. There would be a localised impact on the residents, but the work was important to ensure the houses didn't experience continuing problems with their drainage. Design work was in progress and the project was expected to be delivered by Morrison Construction on behalf of Scottish Water's 'in house' project management team.

5. Future meetings

KR noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 30th March at the WWTW site from 5:30pm.

KR thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.