



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 31 July 2019

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Highland Council

Cllr Trish Robertson (TR)
Cllr Roddy Balfour (RB)

Ardersier and Petty Community Council

Christine Wood (CW)

ESD (WWTW project)

Graeme Campbell, Project Manager (GC)

Scottish Water (SW)

Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)

Apologies:

Kevin Reid (KR)

Valery Kirby (VK)



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

TR conveyed apologies on behalf of KR and welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and no amendments were made. Actions were reviewed as follows:

- 1) *ESD and SW to organise site visit for CLG members able to attend for 3:30pm on Friday 21 June.*

It was noted that the site visit had taken place and that members had found it helpful to see the progress of work on site for themselves.

3. Scottish Water update

Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)

GC circulated pictures showing the latest progress on site.

The excavation of storm tanks which members had seen at the site visit in June had now been backfilled and would be landscaped. GC explained that the storm tanks are in place to receive and temporarily store high flows during storm events. There are two tanks, each with 60 cubic metre capacity.

GC indicated that weather in the past two months had generally been helpful and progress had been good.

The pipework to the Final Settlement Tanks had been completed during the period and they would now be backfilled.



The mechanical system for the Aeration Lanes was expected to be delivered around the end of September. This system was effectively a grid of hoses enabling air to be bubbled through the waste water to assist in the secondary treatment process.

GC added that the Motor Control Centre was now on site. This would bring together all the communication cables from around the site and all the alarms which would link back to Scottish Water's Control Centre to allow continual monitoring of the plant. A kiosk would be built to house this.

GC explained that the original expectation had been that the need for the Traffic Management arrangements would be complete by Christmas. 2 items had unfortunately been delayed: the half-bridge scrapers, which were now expected to be completed towards the end of January and the end of March. ESD would therefore need to submit a request to Highland Council to extend the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) which enables the Traffic Management Plan to operate. The arrangements would only need to operate on the days when remaining deliveries were scheduled to take place. GC acknowledged that the delay to the programme was disappointing, but explained that the quality of materials was important and it was ultimately felt better to wait to be assured of the right quality. There was still scope for commissioning activity to begin in other areas of the site from Christmas onwards.

4. Discussion

Questions and feedback from members

RB asked if there were any issues with the electricity supply to the site.

GC explained that a new electricity supply was required and that this had been arranged via Scottish Water's Specialist Services team. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks has been engaging with relevant landowners and occupiers about final arrangements for the new connection. It was expected that this might involve a localised planned power interruption and, if this was the case, SSEN would notify any affected customers in line with its processes.

TR asked if the CLG would be informed of the dates when the Traffic Management Plan would operate in the new year, given that it would not generally be in operation.



GC indicated that the CLG could be informed of plans via email. He noted that the Traffic Management Plan appeared to have been operating smoothly in recent months, with no further issues or complaints.

Action 1: ESD and SW to consider requirement for communication and arrangements for operation of the Traffic Management Plan on defined date in the new year.

RB asked if there was a risk of odour problems when the new plant starts up, as there had been in the past at Allanfearn.

GC explained the odour management measures which had been included in the project. He also noted that the Allanfearn site was significantly different to Ardersier, particularly because it received and treated sludge. He understood that improvements had been made in the past at Allanfearn to minimise odours linked to the sludge treatment process.

Leaving a legacy

GS provided CW with copies of the Heritage Group's walk leaflet which had been printed.

CW indicated that the supply of the additional copies was timely and thanked Scottish Water for arranging this.

GS updated members that new interpretation boards at Ardersier Common had now been installed and provided photographs of the panels in situ. GS noted his thanks to John Orr of the Highlife Highland Countryside Ranger Service and Verity Walker of Interpretation, as well as her designer Colin Macconnachie. There had also been excellent input from the community and he hoped residents would be pleased with what had been delivered. GS understood there had been a quality issue with the new map of the site at the picnic area car park, but this had been quickly remedied.

There was a further interpretation board still to be installed on the coastal path, near the Fort George car park, subject to planning permission. There was also still work to take place to install waymarkers on the main paths through the site. John Orr had contacted Highland Council about funding a new butterfly-themed bench for the Green Road and renewal of the picnic tables in addition.

Members present welcomed these improvements at the Common.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.



6. Future meetings

Remaining 2019 meeting dates, unless otherwise notified, would be:

Wednesday 25th September

Wednesday 27th November

TR indicated that regular CLG meetings may not be required after November. GS suggested that this could be discussed further at the remaining 2019 meetings.

Action 2: Discuss requirement for meetings in 2020 at September meeting and agree suitable arrangements.