



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 27 September 2017

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
The Highland Council	Councillor Roddy Balfour (RB) Councillor Trish Robertson (TR)
Ardersier and Petty Community Council	Valery Kirby (VK)
The Ardersier Foundation	Lesley Smith (LS)
Ardersier Support Group	Tricia MacPherson (TMacP) Mya Chemonges (MC)
Scottish Water (SW)	Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr (PM) Brian James: Project Manager, SW Horizons (BJ) Gavin Steel: Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)

Apologies:

Abigail Reardon, Hilary Scholes, Trish Wilson



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

Kevin Reid welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Valery Kirby, who had agreed to join the Group on behalf of Ardersier and Petty Community Council.

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) *SW to monitor and ensure that installation of speed indicated display signs goes ahead.*

PM confirmed that a Purchase Order had been raised and the required paperwork had been sent to Highland Council at Glenurquhart Road. Unfortunately, there had been a delay in this reaching the Streetlighting team as it appeared not to have been marked for their attention. PM had confirmed that it had now reached John Beaton and was reassured that he was on the case. It was therefore hoped that the signs that had been purchased by SW would be installed relatively soon.

- 2) *SW to arrange for installation of 5 new benches along coastal path – 1 at the slipway and 4 replacing existing benches along the path towards the WWTW*

4 new benches had now been installed on the coastal path between the village and the WWTW. A further bench was ready to be installed beside the slipway once work in this area is complete and final reinstatement can take place.



Members welcomed the installation of the new benches and felt they looked good.

- 3) *SW to arrange for Common picnic area car park entrance to be renewed with compacted / loose car park surface material at next opportunity*

BJ confirmed that this work had been carried out several weeks ago. The Common car park had been quieter since the school summer holidays finished, so an opportunity had been taken to carry out this work.

- 4) *SW to formalise with Highland Council via letter the agreement with the CLG to avoid LGV construction traffic travelling inbound to the site from the Dalcross area via Stuart Street (turning left out of Stuart Street on to High Street)*

PM confirmed that this was in hand. He had written to Simon Hinson at Highland Council Planning Department, copying Roads Department colleagues. Agreement to the change proposed to the previously agreed Traffic Management Plan was to be confirmed by Highland Council.

- 5) *GS to pick up correspondence with LS and John Orr following previous meeting; and to identify a date for a future meeting.*

GS apologised that he had not yet done this and indicated that he would follow up with LS and John Orr as a matter of priority.

Action 1: GS to pick up correspondence with LS and John Orr following previous meeting as a matter of priority; and to identify a date for a future meeting.

- 6) *SW to explore whether fenced off section of the Pocket Garden car park could be reduced while work in the area is not taking place.*

BJ explained that he would cover this point and explain Scottish Water's intentions in his wider update on the Scottish Water Horizons work.

- 7) *SW to confirm its position in writing with regard to flows from the proposed Scotia Homes development at Croy.*

TR confirmed that this had been done a short time before the meeting.

3. Scottish Water update

(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update



BJ outlined that the majority of labour and plant associated with pipeline installation was currently working in the Inverness Airport and Mid Coul areas.

Clearance and reinstatement activities had been carried out at the temporary compound that was previously in place at the southern entrance to the village.

As already noted, 4 replacement benches had been installed on the coastal path and work had been carried out to provide an improved transition from the picnic area car park at Ardersier Common to the road.

As the CLG was aware, reinstatement work on the coastal path, south of the slipway, had been stopped in the summer in response to concerns that had been raised by customers. It was originally intended that this work would be completed once access to the adjacent area of land had been resolved and appropriate working arrangements put in place.

However, as the access issues had taken longer to resolve than first anticipated, Scottish Water Horizons was seeking agreement to resume reinstatements in order to reduce the extent of the site's visual impact before the end of the growing season. It also hoped to be able to create a safe footpath through the area where further pipeline installation is still to take place (until the work is able to commence).

BJ noted that SWH was continuing efforts to resolve the access issues and complete its work as quickly as possible. He apologised that the period of disruption had been significantly longer than was originally anticipated.

BJ also noted that planting in the vicinity of Geordie's Path and the picnic area was due to begin in October.

KR thanked BJ for the update and asked how soon a safe route along the coastal path was expected to re-open.

BJ hoped, subject to agreement with all relevant parties, the required reinstatement work would take place next week (w/c 2 Oct). TMacP noted the difficulty that the diversion caused, especially for people with buggies.

KR asked whether the compound at the Pocket Garden car park could be removed.

BJ explained that it was hoped the area of grass by the Pocket Garden car park could be cleared and reinstated, although a compound within the car park area itself would be retained. This was currently dependent on ongoing engagement with relevant parties.



(b) Waste Water Treatment Works update

PM confirmed that construction of the Ultra Violet plant at the WWTW is complete and that flows are now passing through it.

A regulatory process was ongoing to provide samples of the final effluent to SEPA and obtain their sign-off on this element of the project.

Commercial processes were ongoing in relation to the growth project which would follow, but beneficial use of the UV treatment had been achieved.

KR noted that he felt the impact of the UV treatment was poor value relative to its cost.

VK noted that there had been recent media coverage about the potential to take phosphate out of sewage for commercial use.

4. Discussion / feedback from members

Odours

VK and MC noted that they had experienced odours on the coastal path in the vicinity of the WWTW; and also on the road between Macleod Organics and the football pitches. MC felt the issue had arisen in the last 2 months.

PM explained that there is currently nothing new apart from the UV treatment at the WWTW and it was therefore difficult to understand why odours around the site would have deteriorated. He noted that there had been one complaint reported at the site entrance, which coincided with the emptying of the tank that stores waste from the site compound's temporary toilets.

KR noted that there had been investigation in the past into an issue near a ring of seaweed that is visible by the WWTW which had seemed to be linked to an unpleasant smell at certain times.

PM noted that it was key to try to pinpoint what the cause of any odours could be and that people reporting odours when they experienced them would assist with this.

TR suggested that walking along the coastal path at low tide was when odours were most likely to be experienced. PM indicated that he was happy to come out and do this. He noted that Scottish Water did not believe that any odours coming from the shore were linked to the WWTW.



Action 2: CLG members to report any odour issues experienced as close as possible to the time by emailing ardersier@scottishwater.co.uk or calling 0800 0778 778.

Action 3: SW to visit coastal path at low tide following any reports received to see if the odour issue could be experienced.

Fort George

VK asked if sewage from Fort George went to the WWTW. PM confirmed that it does and that there is a pumping station at the Fort which transports waste water into the Works from the north. RB believed that the Fort had historically had its own waste water treatment plant. PM was unaware of this but believed the Fort had been connected to the WWTW for some time.

Tornagrain

TR asked how waste from the housing currently occupied at Tornagrain is being managed.

BJ advised that Tornagrain has temporary tanks on site and waste was being tankered away. Scottish Water was not involved in this temporary arrangement.

Debris in the sea

MC asked if there had been contact about floating debris in the sea that appeared to be linked to sewage.

PM explained that any complaint of this nature would go to SW's Waste Water Operations team and would be investigated. He was not aware of any particular recent complaints.

VK noted the existence of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) that would discharge to the sea at certain times.

GS explained that CSOs are required during heavy rainfall events to enable dilute waste water to flow through the network. If this did not happen, the volume within the network could back up and result in flooding from drains.

BJ added that the foul only systems did not generally contribute to storm spills, but that there was a challenge with historic combined systems which included surface water run-off and were prone to being overwhelmed by storm water.

PM noted that SEPA looked at CSO operation as part of its licensing regime and that, depending on the nature of the infrastructure and the receiving water body, CSO discharges could be screened to avoid discharge of debris. He stressed that SW's Waste Water Operations team



would look into any complaints received to establish if the network was operating correctly or if anything needed to be done. Where older infrastructure was concerned, SW and its regulators had to strike a balance in planning investment which took account of asset age, the issues to be addressed and the impact on customer charges.

BJ highlighted, on a positive note, that the new rising main would reduce flows in the Ardersier village system by enabling the existing flows from Inverness Airport and the Castle Stuart area to bypass the village network.

Daffodils

GS noted that SW intended to carry out some additional daffodil planting on the areas of the bund affected by its work, as had been discussed earlier in the year, now that the appropriate season to do this was approaching.

GS asked if the CLG had any views on the type of daffodil that should be used and explained that SW also intended to contact residents of the adjacent properties, as it was aware some of them might not wish daffodils to be planted where they maintained the bund themselves.

TR asked that daffodils should be used that were all of a single variety, preferably early flowering, large and yellow – a relatively standard daffodil, similar to the King Alfred variety. TR asked if any extra daffodils could be made available for use elsewhere in the village. TMacP suggested that extra bulbs would be welcomed for use at the monument garden and this was agreed.

Action 4: SW to contact residents of properties adjacent to the relevant sections of the bund to confirm whether they are content for additional daffodils to be planted.

Action 5: SW to organise daffodil planting and pass any surplus bulbs on to TMacP for use at the monument garden.

Leaving a legacy

GS noted that the main points in progress had already been discussed – and that the delivery of new benches and speed indicator display signs was well advanced. SW intended to continue addressing the projects that best met its criteria. These had been identified via the paper it presented and discussed with the CLG at its meeting in July. GS indicated that he would circulate the paper again via email to the CLG.

Action 6: SW to re-circulate leaving a legacy paper to CLG members via email.

MC asked if SW would consider sponsoring equipment for the First Responders in the village. KR believed that a business had already



committed to funding a kit and MC explained that the hope was to purchase multiple kits.

PM explained the approach that had been taken to prioritising the ideas that had come forward via the earlier request for suggestions. One of the criteria had been to focus where there was a connection to Scottish Water's work and he felt there was a limited link.

MC provided some information about the kits that the group hoped to buy and PM agreed that Scottish Water would review and respond.

Action 7: SW to consider request for funding to equip First Responders in line with the criteria previously discussed and respond.

RB expressed concern that the concrete plinths on which the benches are mounted would not be sufficient to prevent them blowing over in high winds.

PM explained that it had been agreed at a previous meeting that the same approach to fixing the benches to the ground would be taken as had been used on the similar bench already installed on Stuart Street, close to the entrance to the village from the Dalcross area. PM also noted that the benches themselves are very heavy, which TMacP echoed.

BJ confirmed that the benches had been installed to the manufacturer's specifications. MC asked if there was a guarantee attached to them from the manufacturer. TMacP believed from the bench that had been previously installed in the village that they were guaranteed for 15 years and required minimal maintenance.

Newsletter

GS explained that it remained SW's intention to produce a further edition of the project newsletter before the end of the year. The aim was to time this in order to give a meaningful update on progress. Further information about traffic management would be included and any other thoughts on content from CLG members would be welcome.

5. Any other business

TR asked if SW was aware of a proposal for around 140 additional houses in Ardersier, in the vicinity of the Campbeltown area. PM indicated that he had heard about this and there was a process through which any developer could engage with SW at the appropriate stage in progressing their plans.

6. Future meetings



The next meeting would take place in the PACE café at 5:30pm on:
Wednesday 25 October

TR noted that she would have to give apologies for the next meeting as she was attending a road safety seminar.

TMacP noted that bookings for CLG meetings had now been extended through into spring 2018.

PM noted that SW was committed to continuing the meetings on a monthly basis if this was felt most appropriate by CLG members, but that this could be reviewed in the future if it was felt less frequent meetings were needed.