



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 26th February 2020

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Highland Council

- Cllr Trish Robertson (TR)

Ardersier and Petty Community Council

- Kevin Reid (KR)
- Christine Wood (CW)

ESD (WWTW Project)

- Graeme Campbell, Project Manager (GC)

Scottish Water (SW)

- Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)

Apologies:

Roddy Balfour (RB)



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 and noted apologies from RB.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

The following action was carried forward from the previous minutes.

Action 1: ESD/SW to arrange a site visit for the CLG in Spring 2020.

It was agreed that the next CLG meeting scheduled for 27 May 2020 would be held at the site offices and would include a walk around the site for members to see progress.

3. Scottish Water update

Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)

GC circulated pictures showing the latest progress on site.

The aeration lanes and the slabs for the picket fence thickener and sludge holding tank were now complete and work was underway to backfill around the concrete works up to road level.

The tanks were due to be delivered in large sections starting from week commencing 9th March and would come via the C1005 via the operation of the traffic management plan in the usual way. There was expected to be



around 3 weeks of work to assemble the tanks on site and carry out hydro-static testing.

At the area just inside the gate, drainage chambers had now been installed and ground built up to road level. There was also a splitter chamber to divert flows into the storm tanks alongside when required.

The 2 Final Settlement Tanks were complete, with scaffolding in place to enable current work to assemble plastic boards that take scum from the final effluent at the end of the treatment process.

Scraper bridges were due to be delivered, similar to those on the tank within the existing operational site. 2 were expected to arrive over the first 2 weeks in March; and a further 2 before the end of April.

It was still a relatively busy time, with a lot of metalwork being delivered for installation. All pump skids were now on site, following pre-fabrication at AJ Engineering in Forres.

The next phase was road construction. Material from the site would be used for upfilling. Only 'Type 1' sub-base material and tar for the final surface would need to be brought in. The road were expected to start around the end of May. After June, the bulk of civil engineering work should be complete, although surfacing would have to be coordinated with the Scottish Water tankering team.

The site cabins were still to be relocated into the corner of the site to allow formation of the final road.

The final work which would follow involved connecting everything, carrying out pipe tests and eventually 'turn of flows' which would bring the new plant into operation.

Around 2 days had been lost due to windy conditions, but this was not too bad for winter. The current programme anticipated commissioning starting around the end of August or the start of September and continuing through into the new year, but there would be much reduced activity on site during this phase.

GC noted that the site had received notification about Eddie Mackay taking material down to the rifle range area on behalf of the MoD. KR indicated that he thought work was taking place to recover lead from the mound at the bottom of the range.

4. Discussion



Questions and feedback from members

KR asked what the position was with the site's power supply,

GC explained that SSEN had been targeting week commencing 27th March, however, this was likely to be delayed. The framework contractor who would install the new cable had wanted to change the agreed route, but this change was not being accepted and intention was to stick with the original route. Engagement with SSEN was being managed by Scottish Water's Specialist Services team. A road crossing would be involved in the connection, as previously explained, but it was expected this would be possible using traffic lights with one lane remaining open.

TR noted that there had been little recent feedback from residents and this seemed to be a good thing.

GC noted there was some noisier work taking place in the current phase, but the distance of the site from residents and the noise-dampening effect of the bund meant there should be significant impact on residents. He confirmed there had been no recent issues raised with the site team.

KR noted that he had met the team out removing road barriers following deliveries via the C1005 and they had been friendly.

GC said that there was a good team operating the traffic management system. There were continuing regular joint road inspections with the council to monitor for any deterioration. As previously, some verge damage had been noted which was from vehicles with larger tyres than the construction traffic to the Scottish Water site and the council was following this up with farmers who use the road.

Leaving a legacy

GS confirmed that the 4th interpretation panel had now been installed and was intended to highlight Ardersier Common to visitors using the Fort George car park. He understood John Orr was still pursuing some further work that he hoped to fund via the council, to provide a new bench on the Green Road and renew picnic tables. He was proposing not to go ahead with waymarkers within the site as he felt the new map and interpretation boards were sufficient.

Scottish Water was keen to support an event to highlight the work that has taken place at the Common and the community's input to it. Members noted that a regular community beach clean is normally held in late spring / early summer and suggested that the two things could be combined, with



a barbecue or picnic. GS agreed to explore this with Dawn Mackenzie to understand current plans see what might be possible.

Action 1: GS to contact Dawn Mackenzie to explore possibility of joint event, combined with annual beach clean.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

6. Future meetings

It was agreed that, as discussed at the previous meeting, 2020 meetings would move to a quarterly basis, keeping to the existing slot on the last Wednesday of the relevant month. The provisional dates for these would therefore be:

Wednesday 27th May
Wednesday 26th August
Wednesday 25th November

The May meeting was proposed to take place at the WWTW site to allow members to see the progress that has been made since their last visit. GS noted that members would require Personal Protective Equipment, including safety boots, and he would send a reminder nearer the time to confirm boot sizes for members without their own. Other meetings would take place at the PACE Café, starting from 5:30pm unless otherwise advertised.

Post-meeting note: Following public health guidance issued by the Scottish Government on Monday 23rd March 2020, in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, steps were taken to make working areas safe and secure and then to halt all construction activity on site. The site is being checked regularly while it remains inactive and the situation will be kept under review. Options for future meetings of the CLG will also need to be considered in light of the public health guidance and the current pause in site work.