

Clachan Seil Wastewater Treatment - Public Meeting 15 June 2017

Comments from Chris Chubb, Environmental Policy Consultant, Independent Expert to Clachan Seil Stakeholder Group.

- ❖ The existing Clachan Seil sewerage and treatment system has failed to deliver the expected Shellfish Waters compliance improvements. There is insufficient storage and treatment capacity to deal with the high volume of rainfall-derived flow in the system (roof-water, road drainage, groundwater infiltration).
- ❖ Following discussions, site visits and meetings with members of the Clachan Seil Stakeholder Group over the past eight months **I believe that Option 1A**, - increased storm-water storage, relocation of wastewater treatment to a new inland site, and provision of a septic tank at Seaview Terrace, - **is most likely to best serve the needs of the Seil community.**

Comments on Option 1A:

- Fulfills the intent of the existing scheme – provision of effective sewerage and treatment to protect the Shellfish Waters of Seil Sound; and provides treatment for the currently untreated discharge from Seaview Terrace.
- Makes good use of existing infrastructure and largely maintains current discharge arrangements.
- Replacement WWTW is remote and well hidden from homes, minimizing risk of noise, smell, construction and operations nuisance.
- Uses low risk, tried and tested technology, capable of meeting the treated effluent and storm discharge requirements throughout the year.
- Enables better landscaping of the existing Balvicar site.
- Probably has a lower carbon footprint than Option 3.
- Delivers the Scottish Water Chief Executive Officer's commitment to "...remedy the project properly."
- Is supported by the Seil Community Stakeholders group.

Comments on Outstanding technical issues for Option1A:

- Optimizing access route to WWTW.
- Review Balvicar outfall terminal valve orientation, and possibly length of outfall.
- Investigate opportunities to discharge Seaview septic tank to soakaway rather than to sea.

Comments on Challenges Against Option 3 Variants

- WWTW close to homes – risks of noise and smell, and construction and operational visits disturbance.
- Scottish Water have a bad history of previous construction use of the site, including injury, nuisance and injunction.
- Lower level of effluent treatment, and higher pumping head, than present WWTW or Option 1A.
- New discharge proposed, into designated Special Area of Conservation and Marine Protected Area, close inshore. Does SEPA draft recreational water policy apply?
- Concerns that survey and modelling have not accounted properly for water circulation in Easdale Bay, potentially resulting in increased risk to public health.
- Untried treatment combination.
- Is not supported by the Seil Community Stakeholders group.