



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 28 November 2018

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
Ardersier and Petty Community Council	Valery Kirby (VK) Christine Wood (CW)
Highland Council	Cllr Roddy Balfour (RB)
Scottish Water (SW)	Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)
ESD (WWTW project)	Graeme Campbell, Project Manager (GC)

Apologies:

Cllr Trish Robertson, Paul Morley, Sam Neill



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.

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 continue monitoring success of reinstatement work in the vicinity of the Pocket Garden / car park and carry out further work as required*

GS noted that final seeding and reinstatement carried out towards the end of the growing season, once use of the area was reduced, appeared to have achieved improvement. It remained possible for any remaining issues with reinstatement to be addressed next year.

3. Scottish Water update

(a) Waste Water Treatment Works

GC gave an update and shared some photographs showing the continuing progress of work at the WWTW site over the previous 6-7 weeks.

The deepest excavation on the site, of around 4 metres for the aeration lanes, had been completed. Only approximately the top 1.5 metres of the tanks would be above ground level for safety reasons. Groundwater had been encountered and an abstraction system had been used with a settlement system to filter out silt and sediment before water drained back into the ground.

Six concrete pours had taken place to make up the aeration lanes: the base, four external walls and one central wall. The last of these pours had



been completed the previous day (Tuesday). The concrete would be left to cure for a week, after which water would be pumped into each tank and monitored over a further week to test for any leaks. GC noted that he was very pleased with the quality of the concrete work. Once water tests were completed successfully, the excavation around the aeration lane tanks would be backfilled.

The other large excavation was for the Final Settlement Tanks, although this was slightly shallower than the aeration lanes. In one area of this excavation, traces of insulated asbestos had been found and a process had been followed to confirm the material and the quantity present before proceeding further.

While the quantity was low, it was marginally above a threshold which meant it has to be removed from the site and disposed of safely at a licensed facility near Falkirk. This was expected to happen in the coming two weeks. Managing the issue had resulted in around 3 weeks' delay.

CW noted that part of the area had been used as a rubbish dump in the past. She expressed interest in any old bottles that might be found. GC indicated that he thought some items had been found and set aside and he would check.

Action 1: GC to check if there have been any finds in the course of excavation work which might be of interest.

RB noted that it was likely that the debris from demolished old military huts had been disposed of in the area.

GC explained that after Christmas, it was expected that concrete work for the circular Final Settlement Tanks would begin.

RB asked if local businesses were engaged in the project.

GC noted that AJ Engineering from Forres and Metalwork UK from Easter Ross were both supplying steelwork and components. The only large item that was being brought from further afield was the scraper bridges which were coming from the Republic of Ireland. It was expected these would arrive and be installed in the Spring.

Progress with work overall was generally good and the delay with the Final Settlement Tank excavation was not expected to impact upon the overall programme.

RB asked if there had been any significant impacts on work from weather.

GC indicated that weather had generally been good so far.



RB asked when work was expected to be complete.

GC indicated that the formal target date was February 2020, but this included around 4 months of commissioning so construction work was expected to be largely complete sooner. The current civil engineering work was expected to be complete by May, which would allow the focus on site to move on to mechanical installation.

RB asked what the highest structure within the WWTW would be.

GC indicated the highest structure would be the sludge holding tanks at a height of around 5 metres. The bund on the seaward side of the site would be built up to a height of around 3.5 metres – higher than currently and higher than the hoarding. There would be a temporary fence around the outside of the bund to help planting to become established, but the site's permanent security fence would be inside the bund.

RB asked about odour control at Allanfearn and whether similar arrangements would apply at Ardersier.

GC explained that the Allanfearn site is quite different to Ardersier, because it includes the sludge treatment centre for a wide area. The process of drying and treating sludge presents different odour risks which would not be relevant at Ardersier. While there is no odour control on the current WWTW at Ardersier, odour control was being provided on an abstraction system built in to the new process. The storm holding tanks would have charcoal filters in their vents to control odour.

(b) **Outfall**

GS conveyed apologies on behalf of Sam Neill of aBV, but had received an update before the meeting.

Arrangements remained on track for work to begin in the new year. It was expected that construction activity would start in January or early February and the access agreement with the MoD allowed for this to continue until the end of May.

A sign had recently been placed at the Fort George car park to give walkers and other users of the coastline advance notice that access would be restricted around the site of the outfall over this period.

A planning application had been submitted for improvements to the junction at the entrance to the MoD land, which would allow HGVs to turn directly into the site from the C1005. If granted, this was likely to be one of



the first bits of work on site and would be likely to require additional traffic management measures.

The early work would include a final pre-start bathometric (seabed) survey, enabling work and the establishment of site cabins.

The detailed programme was in development with the specialist marine contractor, ABCO Marine. It was expected that pipes and collars would be pre-fabricated off site in approximately 12 metre lengths. As previously indicated, much of the work would take place from a back-up barge operating from Inverness Harbour. Traffic to the shore-based site was included in the existing Traffic Management Plan covering all of Scottish Water's work and would use the arrangements that have been operating.

GS sought the views of members on signage and locations from which people take access to the coast in this area.

KR noted that some people use an entrance from the C1005 to access the coast and it might be beneficial to display a sign here, as well as at Fort George.

Action 2: Scottish Water / aBV to review signage ahead of work starting and add the further location suggested.

GS noted that correspondence had been received from the local MSP's office, on behalf of a resident, raising concerns about the work on the outfall extension and requesting that a further drop-in event be held about this. He asked members whether they felt a drop-in event would be useful.

Members indicated that they were not aware of any demand for a drop-in event and felt that the impact of the outfall work on the village would be low compared with the earlier and ongoing work. GS indicated that this had been Scottish Water's view. It would respond to the correspondence and he would update CLG members on the decision taken.

Action 3: Scottish Water / aBV to decide whether a drop-in event should be held and, if so, advise CLG members of the arrangements.

(c) **Scottish Water Horizons**

GS indicated that there was nothing to report in relation to the Scottish Water Horizons Work, beyond what had been noted under item 2.

4. Discussion

Leaving a legacy



GS had received the artwork for the History Group walk leaflet. He had printed 50 copies for the time being and would investigate options to print more in order to have plenty in stock. CW noted that For The Right Reasons in Inverness had carried out printing for the History Group previously.

Action 4: Scottish Water to arrange further print run of History Group walk leaflet.

GS noted that John Orr had recently proposed engaging a Black Isle based company, Interpretation, which specialises in natural / cultural heritage interpretation boards etc to progress with new Interpretation Boards at Ardersier Common. An initial site meeting with members of Interpretation's team was due to take place on 10 December. GS noted that he had emailed Lesley Smith to see if she was able to attend, as she had previously represented the CLG in discussions about the Common. If any other members wanted to come along, they would be welcome but otherwise he would provide an update at the January meeting.

Newsletter

GS indicated that the option of doing a further newsletter early in the new year had been kept open, but it was likely a letter would be sent to residents instead - informing them about the start of the outfall extension and the arrangements in place.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

6. Future meetings

It was agreed that 2019 meetings would continue to be held in the PACE Café, if available, on the last Wednesday of alternate months.

2019 meeting dates, unless otherwise notified, would be:

Wednesday 30th January
Wednesday 27th March
Wednesday 29th May
Wednesday 31st July
Wednesday 25th September
Wednesday 27th November

Action 5: Scottish Water to book the PACE Café for 2019 CLG meetings.