



## **Ardersier Community Liaison Group**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday 29 May 2019

**Location:** PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

**Present:**

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
Highland Council	Cllr Trish Robertson (TR)
Ardersier and Petty Community Council	Valery Kirby (VK) Janet Scorgie (JS)
Highlife Highland Ranger Service	John Orr (JO)
ESD (WWTW project)	Graeme Campbell, Project Manager (GC)
aBV (outfall project)	Steve Scott, Customer Manager (SS)
Scottish Water (SW)	Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)

**Apologies:**

Christine Wood (CW)  
Cllr Roddy Balfour (RB)  
George Labram (GL)  
Kris Cameron (KC)



## **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 everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted from CW, RB, GL and KC.

### **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) *aBV to confirm the requirement for and status of work to upgrade bellmouth at field entrance into MoD land.*

SS explained that there had been discussion with the MoD, following agreement that a different access could be used during construction of the outfall. The upgraded bellmouth was not required and it had been agreed that a gate would be renewed instead.

- 2) *Scottish Water into traffic movements within the village and provide feedback at the next meeting.*

GC noted that logs were kept of all vehicle movements arriving and departing the site. Any unescorted HGV vehicles would be clearly identified as breaching the agreed Traffic Management Plan, but there had been none at the ESD site.

The site team at the WWTW had been aware of some loads passing the site and the Site Manager had been monitoring this. GC had spoken to Historic Environment Scotland but they had advised there had been little activity at Fort George.



GC explained he was aware there had been a further incident with a delivery of pre-cast concrete rings to the aBV outfall extension site on a Saturday. The delivery had been expected on the Friday, but he understood its journey from Ireland had been delayed.

SS acknowledged there had been two known breaches of the TMP linked to the aBV site and apologised for this. aBV's Project Manager had taken measures to minimise the risk of any recurrence and the new outfall was now being backfilled so there was little further work at the site.

JS noted that she had witnessed these incidents, one of which occurred at 9:30am on a Saturday morning. She noted that the route through the village was unsuitable for deliveries of this kind and had caused vibration within her home. She had contacted Scottish Water Chief Executive Douglas Millican and noted that he had responded to her.

GS apologised on behalf of Scottish Water and recognised that any breaches of the TMP were unacceptable. Its importance had been reiterated with the teams involved with both projects. GC noted that the performance of the TMP and the escort system had generally been good. He also noted that a meeting was taking place with Northern Security to review CCTV camera positions at the site, to see if one could be adjusted to give an indication of any passing traffic.

### **3. Scottish Water update**

#### **(a) Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)**

GC noted, as previously communicated to members, that there had been a discarded mortar shell discovered while clearing ground for storm tanks in mid-April.

The site team had responded well to the discovery by clearing the site and summoning specialist assistance. The object was ultimately found to be a 'dummy' shell which may have been used for exercises.

Following the discovery, a specialist company had carried out an assessment of the risk of further ordinance. This had highlighted a high level of risk which presented a continuing challenge. The remaining excavations were being closely monitored, which had slowed progress with the initial potential to extend the construction programme by around 3 months.

The site team had been exploring ways to mitigate the delay as far as possible. Since the monitoring began, lots of metal objects had been detected in the top layer, but nothing at greater depth.



GC was hopeful that the delay could be limited to around 1.5 months, with commissioning work therefore likely to start around the end of the year. The civils would take longer and were unlikely to be completed until late Autumn, but other activity originally planned to follow completion of all civil engineering activity would be brought forward to streamline the programme.

GC noted that it was positive that no-one had been injured and the right steps had been taken to protect the workforce and the public from risk.

GC suggested that a visit to the site could be organised for CLG members if this would be of interest to see the progress of work for themselves. He wondered if the afternoon of Friday 21 June would be a suitable date. Members indicated that this would be welcome.

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

#### (b) **Outfall extension**

SS noted that, although surveys and monitoring arrangements had been in place, aBV had fortunately not encountered any issues with unexploded ordinance in the course of the outfall work.

Final backfilling was taking place, most of the site cabins had been removed and the aBV project was otherwise complete. He thanked residents for their patience during this phase of work.

## **4. Discussion**

### **Questions and feedback from members**

JO asked about expected completion date for the whole project.

GC explained that the existing WWTW were able to cope with the current flows. The previous target to have the new plant fully commissioned had been April 2020 and this was now likely to be May or June 2020. The final 4 months on site would be mainly commissioning activity with minimal personnel and plant required on site.

TR asked when the requirement for tankering of sludge from the site would reduce.



GC indicated that this should happen as soon as the new Works was receiving flows, which he expected to be around February 2020. The new process would be far better in this respect, reducing the water content of the sludge further than was currently possible, with a lower volume then to be removed by road.

### **Leaving a legacy**

JO gave an update on the progress of proposed work at Ardersier Common and shared drafts of interpretation panels that had been produced following the earlier engagement walk with current and past residents. A further meeting was to be held at the PACE Café at 3pm on Wednesday 5 June to give participants an opportunity to review what had been produced and provide any final feedback. There would be a new map of the site produced and JO and Verity Walker were keen to capture the local names for routes and sites of interest.

JO explained that the panels would be mounted in a lectern style on a single aluminium post. They had been identified as a hard-wearing and weather-proof option.

VK asked where the sulphur spring is located that had been discussed at previous meetings.

JO said he believed it was somewhere close to Viewpoint Rock. There had been some discussion about putting this on interpretation panels, but JO thought it had not been possible due to lack of space. It could perhaps be indicated on the map.

JO thanked SW for funding the new interpretation panels and waymarkers which would be ordered separately. He was hopeful that Highland Council as the landowner would be able to fund a wood-carved bench for the Green Road and renewal of the picnic tables.

## **5. Any other business**

VK asked what was happening with the proposed path along the roadside from the bus turning circle to the picnic area.

JO explained that the option of a footpath along the roadside had proved to be too costly. An alternative proposal had been developed going through the adjoining land and it was hoped this would be able to proceed.



## **6. Future meetings**

Meetings would continue to be held in the PACE Café on the last Wednesday of alternate months.

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

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November