



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 19 April 2017

Location: Ardersier War Memorial Hall, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
The Highland Council	Councillor Roderick Balfour (RB) Councillor Trish Robertson (TR)
The Ardersier Foundation	Abigail Reardon (AR) Lesley Smith (LS)
Ardersier Community Support Group	Mya Chemonges (MC)
Scottish Water	Brian James: Pipeline Project Manager (BJ) (Scottish Water Horizons) Graeme Campbell: Waste Water Treatment Works PM (GC) (ESD) Paul Sexton: Alliances General Manager (PS) Gavin Steel: Regional Communities Team Mgr (GSt) Trish Wilson: Communication Adviser (TW)

Apologies:

Ardersier and Petty Community Council	Shane Spence: Secretary
Ardersier Comm S'prt Group	Tricia Macpherson
The Highland Council	Councillor Kate Stephen
Scottish Water	Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr



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 all members and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted.

The actions from the meeting were reviewed.

While initial contact had been made in each case, the following actions remain ongoing:

Action 1: SW to pursue meeting with JAPES to discuss assistance with their plans for the entrance to Ardersier.

Action 2: SW to explore possibility of adding temporary slow signs on approach to narrow / downhill section of High Street.

A communications plan was tabled setting out the range of activity which Scottish Water is carrying out to inform residents and ensure they are able to raise any issues on an ongoing basis.

MC noted that there are residents in the village who do not receive information provided via social media or email. It was noted that weekly updates had also been displayed around the village, but that efforts to make information available to all remain important.



GSt confirmed that preparation of a first quarterly newsletter for proposed distribution in May was under way, but a draft was not yet complete.

RB asked whether the newsletter would be distributed to every resident. GSt confirmed that this is the intention.

Action 3: SW to circulate draft newsletter for email review by CLG members by Friday 28 April.

Ideas for projects to leave a lasting positive contribution to the village after Scottish Water's work is complete had been sought from the previous meeting of Ardersier and Petty Community Council and also via social media. (see below)

3. Scottish Water update

(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update

BJ gave an update on progress with work in Stuart Street, on the coastal path and at Ardersier Common, including continuing efforts to engage with residents and respond to issues raised.

BJ noted that the Highland Council's Principal Engineer from its Flood Risk Management Team had confirmed via email that the coastal bund in Ardersier is not a formal Flood Protection Scheme and is not recorded as such on any Scottish Government, SEPA or Highland Council database.

BJ explained the process that is being followed with respect to an area of land north of the Dolphin Bay Suites. Statutory Section 3a Notice had been displayed via three noticeboards on 6 April 2017, inviting prospective owners or occupiers to come forward and provide evidence of ownership or occupancy rights by 5 June 2017.

BJ noted that at the previous weekend (16 April), 10 weeks of the planned 15 week closure of Stuart Street had been completed. It was hoped that two further weeks beyond the current week should enable the completion of pipeline installation in Stuart Street. Tarring was planned between West End Drive and Manse Road on Saturday 22 April.

BJ said that 400 metres of twin pipeline had been laid in the 10 week period. 195 metres of twin pipeline had so far been laid in Section 1 of the coastal path which had now re-opened. A further 40 metres had been laid on Section 2, progressing towards the Public Toilets.

TR noted the importance of the dolphin statues and the planting around them and asked for reassurance that these would be protected. BJ confirmed that the site team would put measures in place to protect the planted areas during the work.



Action 4: SW to reiterate importance of appropriate measures to protect dolphin statues and planting to site team.

BJ indicated that a further 135 metres of twin pipeline had been laid at Ardersier Common and the picnic area. Reinstatement had been completed and a draft replanting plan had now been submitted to the Highland Council.

LS asked if the replanting plan for Ardersier Common could be shared with the community. BJ explained that replanting arrangements primarily had to be agreed with Highland Council in its role as landowner. BJ agreed to ask Highland Council whether it was content for proposals to be shared with the community following its initial feedback.

Action 5: SW to discuss with Highland Council whether proposed replanting plans for Ardersier Common can be shared with the community.

BJ noted that, in addition to the Section 3a process previously described, procedures continue to be followed in respect of access to private land and updates about this would be provided when appropriate.

(b) Waste Water Treatment Works update

GC provided an update on work at the Waste Water Treatment Works site. Set-up of the site compound and other enabling works were being completed. Intrusive ground investigations had also taken place to locate existing services.

GC explained that a specialist contractor had carried out excavation to address a potential contaminated land issue. The work had indicated traces of brown asbestos in soil within an area, but no more substantial contaminated material had been found. The area of soil had been excavated and removed for disposal at a licensed site.

GC noted that efforts were being made to ensure that the access gate from the B9006 to the existing track was kept closed at all times when not in use. He highlighted that the track remains open to key holders and to pedestrians, who have priority. The new access to the site was being built to avoid conflict with other users of the existing track. Permission was needed from Highland Council to put traffic lights in place for road surfacing at the new site entrance, but this should be completed quickly once able to go ahead.

GC noted that the Traffic Management Plan on the C1005 was in place. A Traffic Management Coordinator on site was in charge and ensured all HGV construction / delivery vehicles are scheduled for arrival at the



holding point, from where they are escorted in convoys. Fortnightly road inspections were being completed with Highland Council to check for any deterioration to the road.

GC noted that on a couple of occasions the hard barriers between Kirkton and the Glack road end junction had been removed and not replaced. The option of allowing access to this section of the road outside site working hours (evenings and weekends) was being considered, but confirmation was needed from Highland Council that this is acceptable.

Action 6: SW to confirm with Highland Council whether opening of road barriers on C1005 outside site working hours is acceptable.

RB asked whether GC was satisfied with the condition of the C1005. GC explained that there had been no significant concerns to date and that repairs would be made if and when required, subject to agreement with the Highland Council.

4. Discussion

(a) Feedback from members

AR indicated that she had received a complaint from residents who believed that their property had been discussed at the February meeting of the CLG. The residents concerned were unhappy that there was not a record of what had been discussed and only a note of the actions agreed.

GSt explained that the CLG had agreed at its initial meeting that notes would be limited to actions agreed. Following discussion at the March meeting, members had asked to revisit this decision and to produce Minutes in future. He also noted that references to individual residents or properties could not generally be included in Minutes. RB suggested that the matter could be minuted without including specific reference to individuals.

AR asked if those present at the February meeting would agree a recollection of what had been discussed. There was discussion about whether the property concerned had been discussed at the meeting, but there was not a clear or agreed recollection from members who had been present.

RB noted his concern and asked that Scottish Water representatives visit the residents concerned. AR wished it to be noted that the residents involved were unhappy about the situation.



KR noted that there had been complaints on facebook about paths not being fully restored, but it had been explained that this was because further excavation was due to take place.

MC said that residents had asked what blue markings along the coastal path referred to. BJ explained that they indicated the location of services / utilities.

(b) Leaving a legacy

KR reported that ideas for projects to leave a lasting positive contribution to the village after Scottish Water's work is complete had been sought at the Community Council's previous meeting and also via social media.

KR said that a number of ideas were raised including: the jetty, the slipway, benches at the slipway, toilets and showers. LS added that new picnic tables, new wildlife information boards at Ardersier Common, improvements to the road down to the beach and a bird hide at Ardersier Common had also been suggested.

RB noted that TEC Services at Highland Council had improvements to the slipway in hand. RB asked whether Scottish Water would consider a contribution to the slipway work required as this was a costly project for the council.

PS explained that, as a public company, there are some restrictions on Scottish Water's ability to make financial contributions which are unrelated to its work. He felt that the best opportunities were likely to be within the area where work was taking place.

AR asked if Scottish Water would consider gifting land that is left over at Ardersier Common to the community. PS said this could be explored alongside other suggestions.

MC noted that it would be positive to ensure everyone had the opportunity to raise ideas and was aware of the opportunity. She suggested that an item be included in the newsletter, listing a shortlist of the options put forward and inviting further ideas. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Action 7: SW to propose text on leaving a legacy in the draft newsletter which is planned for circulation in May.

PS noted that it would be important to draw conclusions from the process so that the focus could move to delivering some of the ideas in parallel with Scottish Water's main work. KR agreed to summarise the community's feedback for Scottish Water's consideration.



Action 8: KR to provide a summary of community feedback to date in advance of the May CLG meeting.

(c) Drop-in sessions

GSt explained that drop-in sessions had been held on a weekly basis during March and April. The dates advertised so far run until Wednesday 26 April.

GSt noted that attendance at the drop-in sessions had been relatively low, with some sessions not having been attended by any members of the public. The busiest sessions had been attended by 3 people.

With work progressing in the village, GSt suggested that it might be more effective for Scottish Water to visit individual residents who got in touch via phone or email to discuss their concerns. In practice, this was happening already where practical concerns were raised.

MC noted that the timing of the sessions might not be suitable for everyone and that residents might not be aware of them. It was discussed that the details of the sessions had been posted around the village and the evening sessions extended. Residents were able to contact Scottish Water at other times and to agree a convenient time to meet, if required.

KR proposed that drop-in sessions should continue until work was completed in Stuart Street. PS summed up that sessions would be continued until the end of May and the matter would be reviewed again at the next CLG meeting.

Action 9: SW to organise and advertise drop-in sessions for Wednesdays until the end of May.

(d) Newsletter

GSt gave an update on the progress of the Newsletter. It was agreed that a draft would be circulated as soon as possible and this would be distributed in May (See **Action 3**). The content would highlight the drop-in sessions during May and the options under consideration to leave a legacy from Scottish Water's work.

5. Any other business

MC noted that traffic speed in Station Road and the High Street is a cause of serious concern. She was keen for action to be taken as soon as possible. KR indicated that this was an ongoing issue which was wider than Scottish Water's work. Both short and longer term solutions were under consideration via Highland Council.



KR noted that he had received feedback from a business on the C1005 that they were content with what was happening with the road and that earlier concerns about traffic speed at this location had not been borne out. GC agreed that the arrangements and signage in place for the temporary 30mph limit on the road as part of the Traffic Management Plan seemed to be working well.

GSt explained that a short section of footpath between the picnic area and the pipeline wayleave at Ardersier Common had not been renewed as it was unaffected by the work. While it was not felt to be a major issue, if the Group felt that it would be tidier to have the same surface throughout, SW was happy to ask its contractor to renew the short section of path concerned. This work would involve some further disruption, but this should be of very brief duration.

TR asked about the planting in the vicinity of this section of path and felt that it was desirable to avoid any further removal of vegetation. This had been a factor in the identification of the final pipeline route. The consensus was that the path should be left as it is.

MC asked if the issue could be revisited at the next meeting to allow members to have a look at the area concerned and this was agreed.

Action 10: CLG members to look at the footpath through Ardersier Common in advance of the May meeting. SW to put this issue on the May agenda for final agreement.

6. Next meeting

The dates for future meetings of the CLG are:
Wednesday 17 May
Wednesday 21 June