



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 21 June 2017

Location: Ardersier War Memorial Hall, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
The Highland Council	Councillor Trish Robertson (TR)
The Ardersier Foundation	Abigail Reardon (AR) Lesley Smith (LS)
Ardersier Community Support Group	Mya Chemonges (MC)
Ardersier resident	Clive Meredith (CM)
Scottish Water	Brian James: Pipeline Project Manager (BJ) (Scottish Water Horizons) Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr (PM) Gavin Steel: Regional Communities Team Mgr (GS)

Apologies:

Councillor Roddy Balfour, Councillor Glynis Sinclair, Shane Spence, Trish Wilson



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 to the meeting.

Clive Meredith introduced himself. CM noted his opposition to Scottish Water's current work in Ardersier. However, he recognised that the work is under way and wished to engage with Scottish Water about this.

2. Scottish Water update

KR proposed that Scottish Water provide its update on the projects before reviewing the previous minutes.

(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update

BJ updated the group on the continuing progress of pipeline installation. Work had progressed along the coastal path from the entrance to Ardersier Common past Cromal Terrace.

BJ confirmed that Stuart Street had re-opened to through traffic on 19 May and that final inspection of the road reinstatement had taken place with Highland Council in advance of this.

TR noted that water appeared to be pooling where it did not previously in the vicinity of 20 Stuart Street and by the garage. BJ agreed to look into this.

Action 1: SW to investigate whether there has been an impact on road drainage during wet weather at the above locations on Stuart Street and follow up as required.



BJ noted that there had unfortunately been one instance of a member of the public taking unauthorised access to the work site near Cromal Terrace. Work had been stopped and the incident had been reported to Police Scotland.

BJ confirmed that reinstatement was under way and would also continue where required on the completed section south of Dolphin Bay Suites.

LS noted that she had received feedback that the ground on top of the bund feels softer under foot than it did before work took place. CM felt that the top surface of the coastal path near the public toilet is breaking up and need further work. BJ noted that some continuing reinstatement activity was expected in this area and these points could be followed up.

Action 2: SW to follow up these points with Morrisons in the course of ongoing reinstatement activity in these areas.

BJ noted that he had spoken to Highland Council about grass-cutting and maintenance which had not been carried out since the work. He had been advised that there has been an issue with the council's contractor which is expected to be resolved soon. Normal ground maintenance by the council should then resume.

(b) Waste Water Treatment Works update

PM advised that work at the WWTW associated with the UV unit is progressing well. Concrete work was now complete and internal metalwork was due to be fitted in the week ahead.

Installation of UV equipment itself would follow, before cables and commissioning work.

As previously noted the new access road has been formed. Visibility splays at the new junction have been cut further following engagement with Highland Council. The 30mph zone has been extended from the edge of the village beyond the entrance to the WWTW site.

3. Review of previous minutes and actions

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and no amendments were made.

- 1) SS to follow up contact with JAPES with a view to an initial meeting with Scottish Water to discuss plans and what assistance would be helpful.*



It was noted that dialogue has still not been established with JAPES. Shane Spence had recently confirmed he would try to assist with this.

TR noted that JAPES has moved ahead with the feature they had previously been considering. It was pointed out that there is a regular Tuesday night volunteering session at the Pocket Garden and this might be an opportunity for Scottish Water to speak to organisers.

- 2) *SW to seek to move forward with slow signs, particularly targeting the vicinity of the play park on Station Road and the foot of the hill on the High Street.*

PM updated the meeting that there had been discussion with TECS at Highland Council. SW had agreed to fund speed activated signs up to a cost of £12,000. Various options exist. THC had advised contact with John Beaton to confirm and discuss whether THC or the community would own the signs at the end of SW's work.

Action 3: SW to set up meeting involving PM, John Beaton and a representative of the community to agree next steps.

- 3) *SW to investigate whether it is practical to make progress towards a 20mph speed restriction in the longer term.*

PM advised that the council is looking at options for expanding 20mph areas, but this involved quite significant work. SW's view is that this is a bigger piece of work that it is not well placed to lead on.

- 4) *SW to provide SS with extra copies of the newsletter and/or arrange for it to be displayed at bus stops / other appropriate locations.*

GS confirmed this had been done.

- 5) *SW to agree final arrangements for removal of C1005 road closure with Highland Council and update signage as soon as possible.*

PM advised that, following further discussions with THC, we had jointly agreed that permanent removal of the road closure was not appropriate at this point.. Instead, there had been agreement to remove the road closure on days when the C1005 is not in use and outside site working hours.

TR noted that Malcolm Macleod had advised that removal of the road closure signs / driving through the closed section is an offence. TR felt it was important for people to realise that when the closure was in place it was there for good reason.



AR had received a complaint from a local farmer who had been advised not to take access to land via the C1005. PM confirmed that access for those with land would be accommodated and committed to follow this up with the farmer in question. PM noted that those taking access might need to be given some form of induction to explain the arrangements, with the emphasis being to ensure safety of all.

Action 4: SW to contact farmer to ensure suitable arrangement for accessing land on C1005 is in place. Anyone experiencing issues should contact Scottish Water directly so that they can be addressed.

- 6) *SW to hold remaining advertised drop-in sessions in May, with final session on 31 May.*

This had been done and attendance had remained very low.

- 7) *SW to produce poster advising that drop-in sessions will not continue in June, but advising residents of how to raise any issues.*

GS indicated that contact details had been included on the weekly update poster and this would continue to be the case. Details had also been included in the newsletter.

- 8) *SW to remind all drivers of importance of driving at appropriate speed on Nairn Road and throughout the village at all times.*

PM and BJ confirmed that this had been done, with Morrisons and Global. Morrisons had also carried out toolbox talks with personnel working on their site.

- 9) *SW to consider arrangements and/or signage to provide information and minimise disruption for users of the slipway during the work.*

PM confirmed that a notice will be put in place to inform users about the short period when the top of the slipway will be blocked by work. Information will also be included in the weekly update.

- 10) *SW to bring a short paper outlining its proposed approach to legacy projects to the June CLG meeting.*

GS presented a short paper outlining SW's proposed approach to the prioritisation of the ideas that had been put forward.

TR noted that the bench at the slipway has completely collapsed and that it would be helpful to progress replacement as quickly as possible. GS noted that Shane Spence had identified suitable benches and agreed to follow up with him.

Action 5: SW to speak to Shane Spence to see if replacement benches can be supported on a fast-tracked basis.

Members agreed the formation of a sub-group to look at option for Ardersier Common in conjunction with Highland Council. Lesley Smith agreed to represent the CLG in this group.

Action 6: SW to approach Highland Council and share the ideas that have been raised for the Common and seek feedback / engagement via the sub-group.

- 11) *SW to look at entrance to Ardersier Common picnic area car park and confirm whether the dip at the entrance can be addressed.*

BJ explained that the dip appeared to result from the area at the junction where vehicles leaving the car park accelerated, resulting in heavier 'wear and tear'. BJ advised that the only way to provide a lasting solution would be to upgrade the access strip to a tarmac surface. BJ suggested that this upgrade could be included in the 'leaving a legacy' list for consideration.

TR indicated that she felt use of gravel / existing surface material would be preferable and this was agreed.

Action 7: SW to arrange for Common picnic area car park entrance to be renewed with compacted / loose car park surface material at next opportunity.

CM indicated that he felt the new section of path at Ardersier Common looked good. He queried whether a short section of path that had not been affected could be upgraded to the same standard.

PM noted that this work had been discussed at previous CLGs and members had indicated that they preferred this short section of path to be left undisturbed to avoid potential impact on plants in the vicinity. (See April and May minutes)

BJ noted that planting arrangements for the Common included bare root trees which he understood were best planted between November and March. Bushes and shrubs will go ahead sooner in consultation with THC. All planting at the Common was expected to be complete by the end of the year.

4. Discussion / feedback from members

- (a) Site security



AR asked what had been done following the incident reported of unauthorised access to the site.

BJ confirmed that additional herras fencing had been installed where possible, although the uneven ground at some locations presented a challenge.

AR asked whether SW felt the site was secure. PM confirmed that any excavations are secured by fencing at night, that the boundaries of the working area are clearly marked and that staff on site would challenge members of the public entering and stop work if necessary to ensure safety.

CM asked for concerns about the security of the site to be referred to Morrison's Health and Safety Coordinator / Scottish Water's Health and Safety specialists and it was agreed to do this.

Action 8: SW to refer concerns raised about site boundary security to Health and Safety team and report back.

(b) Excavator impacting on bund

CM indicated that he had seen an image of an excavator sitting on the bund.

BJ confirmed that he had seen the same image but clarified that the excavator was mounted on a temporary spoil platform located on the coastal side of the bund. BJ acknowledged that, given the similar elevations, this could give the appearance of the excavator being on top of the bund.

5. Any other business

(a) Future planned work

AR asked about future planned work at the WWTW

PM confirmed, as outlined, that the UV plant was progressing well. The Growth project would follow on. Some design work was taking place to take account of expected flows from the Whiteness development. In light of this, the exact timescale for construction was still to be confirmed.

BJ indicated that pipeline work was currently in the vicinity of Cromal Terrace, progressing south. About 200 metres remains to be completed on the coastal path section. Progress would be guided by ongoing engagement about the outstanding land matters. There was also some work taking place at Dalcross.

(b) Newsletter and traffic management plan

CM raised concerns about the Traffic Management Plan and the information which had been included on this in the Spring project newsletter. CM



expressed particular unhappiness with the final TMP allowing use of the route through the village for Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs). He felt the newsletter had placed too much emphasis on the use of the C1005 road by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).

PM explained that specific / separate public consultation on a Traffic Management Plan was not a general requirement, but had been requested in this case by Highland Council as part of the Planning Conditions. Scottish Water had therefore carried out the consultation and there had been opportunity for residents in the village and on the C1005 / back road to comment. The plan had been revised in response to feedback from stakeholders to divide traffic by using the back road for HGVs and routes through the village for LGVs.

TR agreed there had been insufficient focus on arrangements for LGVs.

MC and LS felt SW should have come back to the community to consult further after the original proposed plan was revised.

CM noted that the original plan only referred to construction traffic and the distinction between HGVs and LGVs was introduced later.

PM explained that specific consultation on the TMP had been an additional step carried out by SW. He noted the feedback, but SW had followed the process which was asked for. He also noted that consultation could not continue indefinitely.

A query was raised about whether LGV traffic was permitted to use Stuart Street. PM agreed to check, but believed that there was no specific restriction on routes within the village. TR expressed particular concern about LGV traffic using Stuart Street due to the difficult junction where the inbound route to the site meets the High Street.

PM agreed to explore whether inbound traffic should be asked to go via Nairn Road, Station Road and the High Street to avoid the junction concerned. He noted that this issue would not affect outbound traffic from the site.

Action 9: SW to confirm Traffic Management Plan arrangements for LGVs, consider the issue raised about the junction of Stuart Street and High Street and report back to the next CLG meeting.

CM asked for a further article on the traffic management arrangements, including reference to the different HGV and LGV traffic routes, to be included in the next project newsletter. It was agreed that this would be done.

Action 10: SW to include further article on the Traffic Management Plan in the next project newsletter, due for distribution in August.



(c) Croy Wastewater Treatment Works

TR noted that there was concern about the capacity of the WWTW in Croy to support proposed development of the village. GS noted that information had been requested by Croy Community Council and agreed to pass this on.

Action 11: SW to send on information on Croy WWTW capacity to TR when available.

6. Future meetings

It was agreed that the meetings should continue monthly and that the next meetings would take place at 5:30pm on:

Wednesday 26 July

Wednesday 23 August

Wednesday 27 September

Action 12: SW to seek to book either the Hall or the PACE café for these dates, dependent on availability.