



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 17 May 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)
Ardersier and Petty Community Council	Shane Spence (SS)
The Ardersier Foundation	Lesley Smith (LS) Hilary Scholes (HS)
Ardersier Community Support Group	Tricia Macpherson (TM)
Scottish Water	Brian James: Pipeline Project Manager (BJ) (Scottish Water Horizons) Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr (PM) Paul Sexton: Alliances General Manager (PS) Gavin Steel: Regional Communities Team Mgr (GS) Trish Wilson: Communication Adviser (TW)

Apologies:

The Ardersier Foundation	Abigail Reardon (AR)
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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.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

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

The actions from the meeting were reviewed.

On previous Action 1, it was noted that Scottish Water was having continuing difficulty establishing discussion with JAPES about assistance with plans for the entrance to the village. Members noted that the organiser of the JAPES group was very busy. SS agreed to contact her to see if progress could be made.

Action 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.

On previous Action 2, PM had received an email from Highland Council (THC) confirming that there is a temporary measure in place, which may be renewed, enabling enforceable 20mph on A, B and C class roads within Highland. Establishing a 20mph area was complicated by requirements to have signage at all entry and exit points and Scottish Water would need THC survey / guidance on this. PM noted that SW wondered whether speed activated signs might be a better way to achieve quick action.

SS noted that Station Road and the High Street should be the priority areas, reflecting Traffic Management Plan arrangements for light vehicles. He



wondered whether use of temporary 'slow' signs (or similar) might be easier. PM noted that Highland Council had not directly responded to this idea.

Members noted that it would be desirable for action to be taken before the next period of anticipated increased activity at the Waste Water Treatment Works, which SW expected to be late summer or autumn.

Action 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.

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

On Previous Action 3, GS confirmed that the newsletter was due to be distributed in week commencing 22 May and should be sent via post to all houses in Ardersier and around the C1005.

Action 4: GS to provide SS with extra copies of the newsletter and/or arrange for it to be displayed at bus stops / other appropriate locations.

On Previous Action 6, PM updated the Group on discussions about the operation of the Traffic Management Plan. It had been felt that retaining the road closure during site working hours might cause additional confusion. Discussions had therefore focused on whether it could be removed altogether and the convoy system used to manage any conflicts with construction traffic on this stretch of road. Highland Council were minded to accept this, subject to some final points, if the Community Liaison Group agreed. The closure would be retained as an option if it was felt by SW, THC or the CLG that it was needed in the future.

SS noted that the key issue is safety. He felt the convoy system described sounded safe, so long as kept under regular review.

PM noted that relatively little feedback had been received, but there was some evidence of confusion and that road users did not understand the need for the closure.

The Group agreed that the road closure should be lifted. PM confirmed that signage would be updated and that Highland Council was keen to have signs which sought to inform road users and minimise use of C1005 by unrelated through-traffic.

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



On Previous Action 8, it was noted that further ideas for legacy projects might be generated by the newsletter. To date, an additional suggestion had been received that the bund could be extended to the entrance to Geordie's Path (accessing the picnic area from the coastal path). Some members felt that this area was more sheltered and available resources might be better used in other ways. It had also been suggested that signage identifying Geordie's Path could be considered.

On Previous Action 9, TW confirmed that May drop-in sessions to date had continued to attract very low attendance, with no-one attending the previous week's session. PM proposed that drop-in sessions should not continue after 31 May, but Scottish Water would continue to highlight contact details and would visit residents who raised issues to address them.

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

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

On Previous Action 10, members of the Group agreed that the linking section of footpath by the picnic area should be left as it is in order to avoid any potential impact on nearby plants which had been retained when the work at this location took place.

3. Scottish Water update

(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update

BJ updated the Group on progress of the SW Horizons pipeline.

Pipeline installation in Stuart Street had been completed on Tuesday 2nd May and the final section of tarring had taken place on Saturday 6th May. Following successful pressure testing of this section and final road reinstatement work, Stuart Street was due to re-open to through traffic at 5pm on Friday 19th May.

Initial reinstatement activity had taken place to enable the first section of coastal path to re-open. Further work was currently under way in this area to prepare the bund for re-seeding and maintenance would continue as required.

The replanting plan for Ardersier Common had been agreed with Highland Council and issued to the Community Liaison Group for information with the council's agreement.



Work on pipeline installation was due to resume from week commencing 22nd May on the coastal path, starting by the boardwalk entrance to Ardersier Common and working back towards the village. This stage of the work would not require closure of the coastal path until it progressed beyond Cromal Terrace.

TR noted that the tidying up of the bund had only so far taken place at the southern end of the completed section and asked for confirmation that this would continue. BJ confirmed that this would continue along the whole of the affected section of bund.

Members requested confirmation that daffodils would be planted to replace those disturbed. BJ confirmed that the contractor had attempted to replace daffodils where possible, but confirmed that more would be planted at the appropriate time. BJ noted that some residents did not want daffodils planted on sections of the bund that they maintain by mowing and SW would seek to respect this.

HS noted that she felt the face of the bund was now steeper than before the work took place. BJ explained that Morrisons had used a template to match the profile of the bund as closely as possible, but would ask that this be re-checking in the course of further reinstatement and maintenance activity.

TR asked how plant would access the new section of work on the coastal path. BJ indicated that this would be via Cromal Terrace and that SW had called on residents there to speak to them about this. KR noted that the fence and gate on the coastal path would need to be removed on a temporary basis. BJ believed this was correct.

(b) Waste Water Treatment Works update

PM provided an update on the progress of work at the WWTW site. Excavations had now been completed for the UV treatment plant. The concrete base for the UV plant had been cast and walls were due to be cast in week commencing 22nd May.

The new access road to the site had been formed and visibility splays had recently been cut back to reflect the requirements of the planning consent. This work had been briefly held up to allow an SW ecologist to carry out checks before cutting back of gorse. Once a gate was in place, all construction traffic will use the new access. SW operational traffic will continue to use the existing access during construction but will use the newly created access once the project is complete.

There had been relatively low levels of traffic operating via the Traffic Management Plan delivery route – mainly some metalwork and concrete deliveries. No major issues had been encountered to date.



SS asked about signage at the new site entrance, noting the high speed of some traffic between the edge of the village and the fort. PM confirmed that 'construction traffic turning' signs were proposed. He also noted that he had heard the council was considering a 30mph limit right along the road to the fort. SS thought it was more likely that this would be considered only as far as the entrance to the Ardersier Common picnic area and car park.

TR requested that all SW drivers be reminded about appropriate speed in the vicinity of the village, particularly noting the speed of some traffic on Nairn Road.

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

4. Discussion

(a) Feedback from members

KR asked how pedestrian access along the coastal path would be maintained after work progressed south of Cromal Terrace. BJ confirmed that a sign-posted diversion would be in place.

KR asked about the potential use of the Pocket Garden car park as a storage area. SS asked if the whole of the car park area would be required. BJ confirmed that the whole of the area should not be needed and that SW was still in discussions with Highland Council about the potential use of this area.

HS asked if pipeline installation and/or use of the Pocket Garden car park would obstruct access to the slipway for the launch of boats. BJ noted that work would need to cross the slipway but this should be for a brief period. PM agreed that care should be taken to provide space in the car park for vehicles accessing the slipway to manoeuvre.

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

(b) Leaving a legacy

KR had provided a summary of all suggestions submitted to the Community Council and via social media in advance of the meeting. LS and GS had added ideas raised with the Ardersier Foundation or with Scottish Water directly. The newsletter would include a list of some of the



ideas under consideration and seek further feedback from the wider community.

GS noted that Moray Estates had advised Scottish Water that it had an area of land available near Easterton which it could offer to the community for use as allotments, subject to formation of a committee etc. If this was of interest, it had been suggested that SW contractors might be able to help with a parking area and paths within the area. TR and SS indicated that they did not think the suggestion of establishing allotments at this location was currently progressing. Several members of the CLG felt that the area was too distant from the village and that a site within walking distance would be more likely to succeed.

TR sought clarification on how decisions would be taken on projects to be taken forward. PS confirmed that Scottish Water would review ideas from the community and take decisions on what it could support. PM noted that Scottish Water was keen to make progress while contractors and equipment were on site. GS proposed that Scottish Water would consider all feedback to date and bring a proposal to the June CLG meeting.

Action 10: SW to bring a short paper outlining its proposed approach to legacy projects to the June CLG meeting.

(c) Drop-in sessions

It had been agreed that regular drop-in sessions would cease at the end of May and the situation could be kept under review. Scottish Water would continue to advertise its contact details and respond to all issues, meeting residents on site where required. (See **Actions 6 and 7**)

(d) Newsletter

GS confirmed that the first edition of the newsletter was ready to be printed and was expected to be distributed to all residents during week commencing 22nd May. Noted that feedback and ideas for future editions would be welcome - and thanked members for their input to date.

5. Any other business

LS raised concern about a dip at the entrance to the picnic area car park at Ardersier Common which has been there for some time but has worsened as a result of the works vehicles using it. She felt that the contractors had made a good job of reinstating the car park itself and it was a shame to leave this big dip, which fills with water and becomes difficult to see. Asked if this could be revisited with a view to repair work being carried out. BJ and PM agreed to have a look at this and see if remedial work was required.



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

KR noted that he had received a letter from a business acting on behalf of residents in the village, relating to discussions which took place and were minuted at the previous meeting. KR had acknowledged the letter and a copy was made available to CLG members for their awareness.

6. Next meeting

The date for the next meetings of the CLG is:
Wednesday 21st June at 5:30pm