



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 29 November 2017

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

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| Chair | Kevin Reid (KR) |
| The Highland Council | Councillor Trish Robertson (TR) |
| Ardersier and Petty Community Council | Valery Kirby (VK) |
| The Ardersier Foundation | Lesley Smith (LS) |
| Ardersier Support Group | Tricia MacPherson (TMacP) |
| Scottish Water (SW) | Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr (PM) Brian James: Project Manager, SW Horizons (BJ) Sam Neill: Project Manager, amey-Black & Veatch (SN) Gavin Steel: Corporate Affairs Manager (GS) |

Apologies:

Cllr Roddy Balfour, Abigail Reardon, 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 everyone to the meeting and thanked Sam Neill for attending to give an update on the status of the project to extend the outfall, as had been discussed at the previous 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) *CLG members to report any odour issues experienced as close as possible to the time by emailing ardersier@scottishwater.co.uk or calling 0800 0778 778.*
- 2) *SW to visit coastal path at low tide following any reports received to see if the odour issue could be experienced.*

It was noted that there had been no reports of odour since the last meeting. In light of discussion of possible link to a sulphur spring at previous meeting, it was agreed that these actions should be closed. However, Scottish Water will follow up any odour issues that are reported.

LS noted that there had been a report of odour in a previous month at the WWTW and PM confirmed that this had been linked to the emptying of the toilets at the temporary site compound.

- 3) *SW to contact residents of properties adjacent to the relevant sections of the bund to confirm whether they are content for additional daffodils to be planted.*

BJ confirmed that this was complete.



- 4) *SW to organise daffodil planting and pass any surplus bulbs on to TMacP for use at the monument garden.*

BJ noted it remained the intention to carry out daffodil planting before the end of the year and he would cover this in his report.

3. Scottish Water update

(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update

BJ noted that progress had been made with planning daffodil planting and residents along the bund had been consulted. There was only one short section where residents had asked for bulbs not to be planted. King Alfred daffodil bulbs had been delivered to site and were ready for planting once arrangements were in place with a landscaping contractor. Discussions were also ongoing to arrange tree planting at Ardersier Common before the end of the planting season.

BJ also informed the group that a three day visit had recently been accommodated by the British Geological Survey, which had been keen to take the opportunity to examine glacial deposits within the Site of Special Scientific Interest to the north of the village.

In terms of project progress, all required fencing was complete in the area of farmland to the north of the village. Pipelaying in this area was well advanced, with approximately 590 metres of twin rising main installed between the picnic area and a newly constructed break pressure manhole. 320 metres of twin discharge pipework has also been laid to connect the break pressure manhole with the Waste Water Treatment Works.

After discussions with Highland Council's roads department, it had been agreed that both road crossings involved in the current work could be carried out within the 30mph speed restriction, under traffic light control during the day. Both road crossings had been completed quickly and with only brief delays for traffic. (It had previously been thought that night time road closures might be needed to complete this work.)

During the work to the north of the village, HGV movements (vehicles over 3.5T) had been kept to a minimum. Those that were required had taken place via the C1005 using the agreed traffic management arrangements.

BJ indicated that pipelaying north of the village was expected to be complete within the first week of December. Reinstatement activity would follow.



Discussions remained ongoing about access to complete the remaining short sections of pipework, on either side of the Pocket Garden and it was hoped these works could be carried out in January 2018.

Questions and feedback

TR asked about the work currently taking place in the vicinity of the airport.

BJ explained that the work currently taking place was to install a new water main and that this is a separate job.

TR felt it would have been better if the excavation and traffic management for the two jobs could have been coordinated.

KR asked whether fencing and equipment would need to remain on the coastal path over the Christmas period and noted that the Loony Dook attracted a crowd to the slipway on New Year's Day.

BJ explained that unfortunately it would, although he was hopeful that all the work required in that area could take place early in the new year. He confirmed that SW had asked Morrisons to reduce the area as far as possible.

TR asked that SW does whatever it can until the final work takes place.

KR asked that the CLG be kept updated when work on the coastal path was expected to resume.

Action 1: SW to check whether anything further can be done to reduce fenced areas at the Pocket Garden car park.

Action 2: SW to update the CLG once there is greater certainty about the timing of the remaining work on the coastal path.

(b) Waste Water Treatment Works update

PM noted that the UV plant is working well. Various minor issues had been worked through and final sign-off for this element of the project was expected very soon.

Detailed design work and estimating was continuing for the growth project.

PM confirmed that the Traffic Management Plan arrangements had been amended via a letter to Highland Council, and seemed to have worked well through the course of the pipe-laying work to the north of the village. LGV traffic approaching the site from the Dalcross area would now not use Stuart Street to avoid the turn out of Stuart Street on to the High Street.



KR and TR noted there had been no feedback recently about these arrangements.

PM noted that the three Speed Indicator Display (SID) signs had now been installed by Highland Council at the three locations in the village previously discussed. These had been gifted by Scottish Water to the Hall Committee so that they would remain for use in the village after Scottish Water's work is complete.

(c) Outfall extension

SN gave an update on the work that aBV had been carrying out on Scottish Water's behalf. Earlier design work had focused on a proposed piled outfall design, but higher than anticipated costs had been received from specialist marine contractors. The opportunity was being taken to review other construction methods and it was currently believed that a trenched option may be more cost effective. This was currently the focus of further development work.

SN noted that the timing of work at the outfall is sensitive, both to avoid impact on dolphin breeding and to coordinate with MoD activity on their land. Given the further development work ongoing, the outfall project was now working toward a start on site in January 2019, with the duration of work expected to be around 3 months.

Questions and feedback

VK asked if a trenched option would go out as far as the piled option which was previously proposed. She noted that the sand and sediment in the firth moves.

SN confirmed that a trenched option would be the same length and would discharge at the same point previously proposed. The design allowed for movement of sand and sediment after installation, but further survey work would be needed to ensure there was a sufficient working area, clear of any objects which could present a hazard.

TR asked how the change in timing of the outfall extension would affect work at the WWTW.

SN confirmed that the outfall project is solely focused on the pipe from the shore to the discharge point. There was no direct link with the further work at the WWTW, but it was still expected that the outfall would be completed in advance of the 'growth' project at the WWTW.

KR asked whether a marker would be present on the outfall to inform users of the sea of its location.

SN confirmed that it was intended that the outfall would be marked via a marker pole on the beach. Consultation with marine stakeholders had suggested that it would not present a navigational hazard, so a marker on the outfall itself was not expected to be required.

VK asked about the abandoned outfall pipes that were present on the shoreline between the WWTW and the fort.

SN indicated that he did not think these were Scottish Water assets and they might be private drains. KR noted that there was only one that appeared to have a flow of water from it. TR thought the pipes were likely to be redundant.

4. Discussion

Leaving a legacy

GS noted that steady progress with the items that had been prioritised for leaving a legacy was continuing. PM had already given an update on the SID signs which were now in place and there remained one further new bench to be installed at the slipway once work in that area was complete.

Following the most recent meeting of the small working group looking at ideas for Ardersier Common, John Orr had obtained a quotation for clearance and thinning of gorse at the Commons, particularly adjacent to the Green Road (path). This would help open up the paths for users; create glades along the path edges for wild flowers and invertebrates; and support a more varied habitat. As this work needed to take place outside the bird nesting season, GS indicated that it was proposed to go ahead. Prices were still being obtained for new interpretation boards / information and the CLG would be kept updated.

Members of the CLG confirmed they were happy for the gorse clearance / thinning to go ahead.

Newsletter

GS apologised that there had been limited progress with a further edition of the newsletter. He hoped this would still be possible before the end of the year.

5. Any other business

TR raised concern that the separate work which Scottish Water was carrying out to replace a section of local sewer off Nairn Road was not progressing. No-one had been working at the site and it was in need of tidying up. She asked for an update and noted that it was important for



there to be good communication about this work to allay any concerns, especially given the other work which was ongoing.

GS committed to get an update from the Project Manager who was dealing with the work at Nairn Road.

Action 3: GS to provide TR with an update on the status and progress of the work taking place at Nairn Road.

6. Future meetings

It was agreed that there was no requirement for a December meeting of the CLG, although members asked that they should be kept updated with any significant developments in the interim period.

The next meeting would take place in the PACE café at 5:30pm on:
Wednesday 31 January 2018