



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 30 May 2018

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
Highland Council	Cllr Trish Robertson (TR) Cllr Roddy Balfour (RB)
Ardersier and Petty Community Council	Valery Kirby (VK) Christine Wood (CW)
Scottish Water (SW)	Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr (PM) Gavin Steel: Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)



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.

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) *SW to keep CLG members informed of planned reinstatement of grassed areas affected by pipeline installation in January.*

It was noted that reinstatement work had now taken place. VK expressed concern that the ground in the areas where pipework had been stored was still very rough and uneven. Some of the grass seed had not taken well and further raking / stone-picking / seeding was needed.

PM acknowledged that further reinstatement work was required and confirmed that this would be carried out.

Action 1: SW to carry out further reinstatement work where required to improve grassed areas in the vicinity of the Pocket Garden / car park.

3. Scottish Water update

(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update

PM reminded members that commissioning of the pipeline had been on hold, awaiting dates for power connection to the new pumping stations from SSEN following disruption caused to their planned work programme by winter storms.



Dates had now been confirmed for all electricity connections, with one already completed and one currently underway. The third connection was due to be made next week.

In the interim, it had been possible to proceed with commissioning the pumping stations using temporary generators. This had been completed successfully and flows had been passing through the new pipeline for several weeks, bypassing the pre-existing network serving the village.

Planting previously carried out in the vicinity of Geordie's Path had been reviewed and approved by John Orr from the Highlife Highland Ranger Service. There had been positive feedback from members of the community about this and the other recent work which had been carried out at Ardersier Common.

The remaining permanent power connections, together with final reinstatement works, would complete the pipeline project.

VK asked whether the connection of the new pipeline would result in extra tankers through the village.

PM explained that there would be minimal, if any, increase. The great majority of flows through the new pipe at this stage came from properties which had previously been connected to the Works via the pre-existing network. Once the growth project was delivered, it was expected that there would be a small decrease in the requirement for tankering. This would return to around current levels as development in the area continued.

(b) Waste Water Treatment Works

PM confirmed that the governance process for the growth project was now essentially complete. It was hoped that work would be able to start on site in late June or early July.

PM noted that the Traffic Management Plan would be put back into operation and that SW would write to C1005 residents to remind them of the arrangements. The plan would reflect the revisions previously discussed with the CLG, so that light vehicles travelling inbound to the site from Dalcross would use the Stuart Street / High Street junction. The road closure on the C1005 would be in place whenever the TMP was operating, but the barriers would be opened when deliveries were not taking place. PM also noted that the TMP had been updated to reflect the completion of the Scottish Water Horizons work and feedback on the requirements of the work at the WWTW outfall, where the nature of tidal working and the time window available meant site working times would need to be flexible.



Action 2: SW to circulate updated copy of Traffic Management Plan for CLG members to review.

Action 3: SW to write to C1005 residents advising them of the arrangements before operation of the Traffic Management Plan resumes.

PM advised that there were two small reinstatement jobs to be carried out on the C1005 before deliveries resume. Once the TMP was operational, fortnightly checks would resume to address any deterioration. PM noted that Highland Council's roads engineers had regularly attended these checks and were actively engaged.

PM noted that, when work resumes, the 30mph limit will be extended again to operate between the edge of the village and the WWTW site entrance. SW understood the council was considering extending this limit permanently and SW had offered to install permanent 30mph signage if the council was ready to proceed with this. TR indicated that she would make enquiries about this with the council.

(c) **Outfall**

PM reminded members that the outfall work was due to be delivered in a window from January to March 2019. A new Marine Construction Licence had recently been applied for and advertised, reflecting the change to the proposed construction method which had previously been discussed. Sam Neill of amey-Black & Veatch was taking the project through Scottish Water's governance process and would keep the CLG informed of any significant developments.

TR asked if the outfall work would be completed in the 3 month window allowed.

PM indicated that this was what the MoD required in order to allow access through, and work near, the firing range. The programme was challenging but indications were that it could be achieved.

4. Discussion

Leaving a legacy

GS advised that the work completed around Ardersier Common so far seemed to have been well received. John Orr was continuing to investigate options for new interpretation boards.

PM noted that the Speed Indicator Display (SID) signs had been the highest value item delivered so far, but most positive feedback had been received about the work at the Common. KR and other members



expressed the strong view that the SID signs had made a significant positive difference to traffic speeds and they felt they were very valuable.

CW indicated that the History Group would contact SW about plans to reprint its local heritage walk leaflet.

KR asked what was planned in relation to the proposed work at the Pocket Garden car park.

PM explained that this work had been under active consideration and there was concern that it could be challenging to deliver. SW was exploring whether there was a way to do the work, while taking account of concerns that had been raised about use of heavy machinery in this area. The alternative would be to use the funding available to boost other work which had been identified, such as the improvements around Ardersier Common.

VK asked if it would be possible to carry out work without making use of machinery. PM explained that some 'type 1' could be used to fill pot holes by hand, and that SW would be happy to consider doing this, but that machinery would be needed to achieve a good surface across the whole area that would last for a reasonable period of time.

Members noted that there had been previous discussions about the longstanding drainage issues affecting the area and how these could be addressed.

TR felt that the consensus was that pursuing other options to deliver benefit to the community would be better. She noted that there were some repairs and tidying up needed in the Pocket Garden which would benefit from some assistance.

Action 4: TR to discuss with JAPES potential jobs Scottish Water could assist with at the Pocket Garden.

Newsletter

GS indicated that SW was in the process of preparing a newsletter for circulation in order to inform the wider community of progress and arrangements for the work due to resume at the WWTW.

The proposed newsletter would be circulated to CLG members in advance of distribution and any feedback would be appreciated.

Action 5: GS to finalise project update newsletter and circulate to CLG members ahead of distribution.



5. Any other business

PM and GS highlighted that Scottish Water is currently carrying out a major consultation on its plans for its next investment period, running from 2021 to 2027. The perspective of CLG members and others in the community would be very welcome as part of this, spanning all aspects of Scottish Water's work. The consultation was available to read and respond to online at www.yourwater.scot.

TR noted that if and when any development was needed to accommodate potential growth at Croy, she would hope to see lessons learnt from SW's experience with Ardersier. GS indicated that he would feed this back, but noted that there is currently significant capacity to accommodate growth at Croy WWTW. TR noted that there was continuing activity in the area from developers.

KR noted that a pipe, which he thought was likely to be Scottish Water's, had become exposed on the Lower Carse Road, off the C1005, following ditch work which seemed to have caused part of the road edge to collapse. He provided details of the location and PM indicated that he would have a look following the meeting.

Action 6: SW to follow up and take appropriate action.

6. Future meetings

The next meeting would therefore take place in the PACE café at 5:30pm on:
Wednesday 25 July 2018

PM gave his apologies for the next meeting, but advised that Graeme Campbell, ESD's project manager for the work at the WWTW would attend and play an active part in the Group's future meetings.

VK also noted that she would be away for the July meeting and gave apologies.

Subject to final agreement at future meetings, the remaining 2018 dates would be:

Wednesday 26 September 2018
Wednesday 28 November 2018