



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 noted that he had received apologies from councillors who were committed to meetings connected to Highland Council's budget process.

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 check whether anything further can be done to reduce fenced areas at the Pocket Garden car park.*
- 2) *SW to update the CLG once there is greater certainty about the timing of the remaining work on the coastal path.*

It was noted that this had been done and that the work on the coastal path had now been completed, with the exception of final reinstatement of grassed areas. PM reiterated Scottish Water's apology for the length of time that the coastal path had been disrupted by this work.

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

GS confirmed that this had been done. He understood that the work on a localised section of sewer in Nairn Road had been completed just before Christmas, but the road surface had been temporarily reinstated due to weather conditions not being suitable for permanent reinstatement. Final reinstatement of the road surface was due to take place as soon as possible.



3. Scottish Water update

(a) Waste Water Treatment Works update

PM confirmed that regulatory sign-off had now been received from SEPA for the UV treatment that had been installed at the works.

PM noted that there was a small area of gorse to be cleared within the WWTW site, on the left-hand-side after turning into the new site entrance. This was due to take place ahead of the bird nesting season and would precede the start of other work related to the Growth Project.

(b) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update

PM noted that pipe-laying work to the north of the village had been completed, including the connection of the pipelines into the Waste Water Treatment Works.

Just before Christmas, a significant quantity of daffodils had been planted in the bund and it was hoped these would replace any that were lost during the process of pipeline installation earlier in 2017. As agreed, some surplus bulbs were available for the community and these were passed on to the Hall Committee for planting elsewhere in the village.

PM explained that over the last 2-3 weeks, the final sections of pipeline along the coastal path, one close to the Dolphin Bay suites and one north of the Pocket Garden, had been completed. The pipes had also been pressure tested successfully. Initial reinstatement of the coastal path and the ground in this area had been completed, but grassed areas would be seeded once the growing season began.

PM noted that a short section of coastal path north of the work, close to Cromal Terrace, had also been resurfaced. This section of path had not been disturbed by the pipe-laying, but a request had been made to extend the renewed surface to a natural finishing point at the 'kissing gate' beyond Cromal Terrace.

The final bench which had been purchased as part of Scottish Water's commitment to make a lasting contribution to the area beyond its immediate work had been installed next to the slipway.

PM explained that it had been hoped that it would be possible to renew the surface of the car park next to the Pocket Garden at the conclusion of pipe-laying, using the machinery which had been on site. This had been identified as an area where Scottish Water's work could deliver



improvement. Unfortunately, very wet ground conditions had meant that this was not possible at the conclusion of the work.

PM outlined two potential options to address the Pocket Garden car park:

1. Scottish Water was willing to arrange the renewal of the surface of the car park, as originally promised, although there was likely to be additional cost associated with re-mobilising its contractor to this area of the village to do this.
2. Alternatively, Scottish Water was willing to provide equivalent funding to the Community Council or another community body of its choosing in order to enable this work to be taken forward with a local contractor. PM noted that it had been suggested that improvements to drainage of the area might also then be possible with the funding available and this could deliver a longer term improvement to the car park's surface. There had also been a suggestion that a short section of new footpath could be added to provide improved access to the new bench beside the slipway.

KR agreed to discuss the options further with the Community Council and other community representatives and confirm what would be preferred.

Action 1: KR to confirm community's preferred option to bring about improvement to the Pocket Garden car park.

PM noted his and Scottish Water's appreciation to the site team from Morrison's who had worked particularly hard in challenging conditions to complete the final sections of pipe-laying.

PM informed CLG members that there had been some complaints made to the planning department at Highland Council during January about weekend working hours on the site. This had come about as a result of efforts made in good faith to complete the required work quickly. After it was highlighted that a commitment to restrict working hours for the pipe-laying activity, as well as the WWTW projects, had been made in Scottish Water's Traffic Management Plan, working outside of these hours had been stopped. PM apologised for what had been a genuine oversight.

He noted that there had also been complaint about contractors involved with the pipeline works accessing the temporary welfare facilities at the WWTW site. PM explained that the intent of this arrangement had been to reduce traffic through the village when pipeline activity had been focused at the northern end of the community, close to the Works.

PM confirmed there would be some ongoing reinstatement activity in the spring and that planting was also due to take place at Ardersier Common in line with the agreed plan.



PM stated that the completion of the twin pipeline was a big milestone for the work. He thanked the CLG for its part in keeping residents informed through this phase of work and the wider community for its patience. Although there was still significant work to be done, he hoped that the impact of this on the village would be less.

Questions and feedback

VK asked if the pipes were now ready to be used.

PM confirmed that the pipes were complete and pressure testing had been successful. There were still some stages of the commissioning process to be completed before the smaller of the two pipes would come into use.

VK asked if there would be more tankers through the village once the pipelines were commissioned.

PM indicated that tankers currently attend the site to remove sludge between 2 and 3 times a week. It was not expected that this would be significantly increased as a result of additional flows via the pipeline. Once the further work at the WWTW was complete, it was expected that the improved treatment process would be able to remove more water from the sludge and that tanker frequency should therefore be reduced. As the population connected to the WWTW rose towards its design capacity, this would rise to be similar to the current level.

KR asked when work at the WWTW would be starting again.

PM indicated that he thought that the start of work on the WWTW Growth Project was likely to be a few months away. Detailed design development and commercial processes were ongoing. The start of this work would involve a period of active use of the Traffic Management Plan, including HGV deliveries via the C1009 back road, and appropriate communications would take place to inform residents nearer the time.

4. Discussion

Leaving a legacy

GS indicated that, in addition to the items already discussed, he would seek an update on progress with the work that had been discussed by the sub-group that had been looking at ideas for Ardersier Common. The decision to go ahead with gorse thinning work, in order to open up footpaths and improve habitat for wildlife, had been passed on to John Orr, who had been seeking to engage a contractor to get this done. This would need to take place before the bird nesting season, or otherwise was unlikely to be possible until later in the year.



Action 2: GS to check on progress with arranging proposed gorse thinning work and keep CLG members informed if/when this was expected to go ahead.

Newsletter

GS noted that it had not been possible to produce a further edition of the project newsletter before the end of the year. It was intended to get a further issue distributed early in 2018.

Odours

VK noted that she remained concerned about the issue of odours being experienced along the coastal path.

KR indicated that previous investigation had suggested that most likely cause was a sulphur spring nearby. PM reiterated that if there was any concern that an odour was sewage-related, this should be reported to Scottish Water as soon as possible with information on the location, and it would be investigated.

5. Any other business

It was agreed that surplus daffodil bulbs should be left in the PACE café for Tricia Macpherson to collect.

6. Future meetings

KR proposed that, following completion of the pipe-laying work, and with the reduced level of project activity within the village, it would be appropriate for the CLG to meet every other month. There would therefore not be a February meeting.

In view of the school Easter holidays, it was suggested that the March meeting should be brought forward by a week to Wednesday 21 March.

The next meeting would therefore take place in the PACE café at 5:30pm on:
Wednesday 21 March 2018

Subject to agreement at future meetings, the remaining 2018 dates would be:
Wednesday 30 May 2018
Wednesday 25 July 2018
Wednesday 26 September 2018
Wednesday 28 November 2018

Action 3: Meeting schedule for the year to be discussed and agreed at next meeting.