



## **Ardersier Community Liaison Group**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday 23 August 2017

**Location:** PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

**Present:**

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
The Highland Council	Councillor Roddy Balfour (RB) Councillor Trish Robertson (TR)
The Ardersier Foundation	Lesley Smith (LS)
Ardersier residents	Hilary Scholes (HS)
Scottish Water (SW)	Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr (PM) Gavin Steel: Regional Communities Team Mgr (GS)

**Apologies:**

Abigail Reardon, Brian James, 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 members and noted that everyone attending knew each other.

### **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 follow up concern raised about road drainage during wet weather at the above locations on Stuart Street (near 20 Stuart Avenue and by Corbett Gardens)*

PM indicated that the areas highlighted had been checked, but SW had not been able to identify a particular problem. From a photograph which had been supplied, it was difficult to see whether water was ponding or whether the road surface was just very wet. It was possible that the new road surface might have been initially less permeable to water and the situation may have since improved.

PM stressed that there is a 2 year agreement in place with Highland Council, through which any defects identified with the work would be addressed by Scottish Water. Given the requirement for the Council's agreement to any work on the road, the best process was for any concerns to be raised with the Council in the first instance.

PM explained the only limiting factor in road drainage was that the new surface had to tie in with the levels of the existing surface. He noted that there is an area prone to ponding close to the start of the coastal path which predated Scottish Water's work and was unaffected by it.

TR and LS indicated that they would feed back to residents who had raised this concern.

2) *SW to provide update on planned remedial work on the bund at the location described*

PM confirmed that Brian James had been seeking to make contact with the resident who had raised concern about the bund close to his property. PM had looked in the area and felt reinstatement was generally progressing well, but there were some areas where further some further soil or grass seed was required.

HS asked if it would be helpful to ask those who cut the grass on the bund to give areas of new seeding some time to become established.

PM thought that mowing was unlikely to prevent a major issue for the small areas of re-seeding, but indicated that he would confirm this with Morrison's.

3) *SW to follow up with TMacP to confirm what details are needed from the Hall Committee to make progress (with gifting of speed indicator display signs)*

PM confirmed that progress had been made and speed indicated display signs had now been ordered via Highland Council. He understood that these should be able to be installed within 2-3 weeks. The details given to Highland Council as the owner of the signs were for the PACE café.

**Action 1: SW to monitor and ensure that installation of speed indicated display signs goes ahead.**

4) *SW to get replacement benches ordered as soon as possible.*

PM confirmed that SW had been in discussion with Glasdon and Morrisons to finalise requirements and the order for 5 benches was ready to be placed.

RB asked whether the benches would sit on a concrete base. PM confirmed the intention is to install them on two small concrete feet, similar to the existing bench close to the shore at the entrance to the village from the Dalcross area.

PM indicated that progress with installation could be made, subject to confirmation of where the benches should be located. GS noted that he believed the intention had been to replace the bench that had previously been next to the slipway and the 4 old benches (still in place) along the coastal path before it reaches the Waste Water Treatment Works. PM



noted that an alternative could be to leave the existing benches in situ where they were still serviceable and add to them.

KR felt that the best option was to replace the existing on a like-for-like basis with the new, more robust benches. It was agreed that SW should proceed on this basis.

**Action 2: SW to arrange for installation of 5 new benches along coastal path – 1 at the slipway and 4 replacing existing benches along the path towards the WWTW**

- 5) *SW to arrange for Common picnic area car park entrance to be renewed with compacted / loose car park surface material at next opportunity.*

PM noted that SW had not wanted to go ahead with this work while it was occupying part of the next nearest parking area; and during the school holidays. He indicated that if there was an opportunity on a quieter day now the schools are back, SW would seek to get this done.

**Action 3: SW to arrange for Common picnic area car park entrance to be renewed with compacted / loose car park surface material at next opportunity**

- 6) *SW to formalise arrangement with Highland Council to avoid LGV construction traffic travelling inbound to the site from the Dalcross area via Stuart Street (turning left out of Stuart Street on to High Street)*

PM confirmed that he had spoken to Highland Council planning department, which had confirmed that it was comfortable for a change to be made to the existing Traffic Management Plan via letter. PM would do this and the letter would be added to the council's e-planning page for the project.

**Action 4: SW to formalise with Highland Council via letter the agreement with the CLG to avoid LGV construction traffic travelling inbound to the site from the Dalcross area via Stuart Street (turning left out of Stuart Street on to High Street)**

- 7) *SW to highlight concern about tankers using the junction of Stuart Street and High Street in both directions to the appropriate Team Leader and respond to the CLG.*

PM confirmed that he had discussed this with Scottish Water's relevant Team Leader. Scottish Water's view was that it would not be appropriate for a change to traffic arrangements to be made on grounds of safety that would apply solely to Scottish Water operational traffic and not to other vehicles of similar size. If the junction was unsuitable for large vehicles,



this should be raised with the council and measures put in place to direct all larger vehicles appropriately.

- 8) *SW to ensure that the need to notify HS in advance of plans for section of pipeline between Dolphin Bay Suites and Ship Inn Pumping Station is recorded and acted upon when timing of this work is known.*

This point had been noted and HS would be informed at the appropriate time.

- 9) *SW to confirm whether there are currently any plans to upgrade or invest in the Ship Inn Pumping Station.*

PM confirmed that he had enquired and had received confirmation that there were no plans for significant investment or change at the Pumping Station. TR queried whether any investment was planned, whether significant or not, and PM confirmed that any work would be limited to maintaining or replacing the existing equipment if this was required. This could not be ruled out, but no immediate need had been identified.

RB asked if replacement of a pump was a complex job and PM confirmed that this was relatively routine for SW operational teams.

HS and LS explained that local residents had been concerned that the site might expand. PM reminded members that the new pipes through the village completely by-pass the Pumping Station. If anything, by diverting the flows from the Airport and Castle Stuart areas, they would have the effect of reducing the load on the Pumping Station which would be solely serving the local network in Ardersier and the immediate vicinity.

- 10) *SW to complete prioritisation of legacy ideas on the basis of criteria previously discussed and circulate a prioritised list ahead of the August CLG meeting.*

GS talked through the paper which is appended to the minutes (with some typographical errors corrected following the meeting).

The criteria previously discussed and the scoring exercise that SW had carried out had identified a good short-list of ideas which SW would pursue further to see if they could be delivered.

GS noted that, although interpretational boards had been identified as the highest scoring item for Ardersier Common, it was still intended to explore ideas there with an open mind via the small Working Group which had been formed. LS reminded GS that he had been going to email some information following an initial meeting on site with John Orr.



**Action 5: GS to pick up correspondence with LS and John Orr following previous meeting; and to identify a date for a future meeting.**

RB asked if interpretational boards at Ardersier Common would be similar to ones previously in place, which made sounds.

GS explained that John Orr had agreed to look into options and potential costs. He thought there might be a trade-off between functionality of interpretational boards when installed; and considering long term functionality / any potential maintenance requirements.

### **3. Scottish Water update**

#### **(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update**

PM indicated that, while limited work was currently taking place within the village beyond ongoing occasional reinstatement activities, progress was continuing at sites at the Airport and at Mid Coul.

As soon as access to the remaining land on the coastal path was resolved, the intention was to resume work at this location in order to re-open the affected section of coastal path.

HS asked if there is a timescale for work to resume and noted that there had been some questions about whether the fencing could be removed.

PM explained that final reinstatement of the coastal path had not taken place as the surface was expected to be affected when pipes were being pulled into the remaining area. There might also be some impact from plant manoeuvring. Depending on the speed of progress, SW would keep this under consideration and be willing to discuss this further if it was causing a significant issue.

TR asked if the fenced area could be reduced a bit, especially in the Pocket Garden Car Park itself.

PM indicated that he would be happy to look into this with Morrisons.

**Action 6: SW to explore whether fenced off section of the Pocket Garden car park could be reduced while work in the area is not taking place.**

#### **(b) Waste Water Treatment Works update**

At the WWTW, PM noted that commissioning of the ultra violet treatment plant was almost complete. This was expected to become live before the end of September.



#### **4. Discussion / feedback from members**

TR requested confirmation that waste water flows from the proposed Scotia Homes development at Croy were not coming to Ardersier.

GS confirmed his understanding that all development at Croy was intended to be accommodated by Croy WWTW, where there was some capacity for growth and investment would be planned at the appropriate time if required.

TR asked if this could be confirmed as she was watching the position closely.

**Action 7: SW to confirm its position in writing with regard to flows from the proposed Scotia Homes development at Croy.**

#### **5. Any other business**

GS explained that the planned new edition of the project newsletter had been delayed but SW still intended to produce this in the autumn. RB indicated that he felt the previous newsletter had been helpful.

GS apologised on behalf of SW that the work on the coastal path was taking longer to complete due to the ongoing access issues. He noted that SW was seeking to resolve the situation and finish this section of work as quickly as possible, but he appreciated that the longer period of disruption to the coastal path was not something that anyone wished to see. He thanked members of the CLG and the wider community for their patience.

#### **6. Future meetings**

The next meeting would take place in the PACE café at 5:30pm on:  
Wednesday 27 September

## Contributing to Ardersier's future

While we are carrying out our work in the village, Scottish Water is keen to make a contribution to projects that will benefit the community in Ardersier beyond the lifetime of its current construction activity.

A wide range of ideas have been put forward and all those received before the deadline given in the Spring newsletter are included in Appendix 1. We are grateful to everyone who has responded to the request for ideas.

### 1. Prioritisation of projects

In order to make progress with the further development and delivery of projects, we have carried out an initial scoring exercise to prioritise the ideas which we think are most appropriate and achievable. We previously invited comments on 6 criteria which have been used:

**Location (1 = no link to locations of Scottish Water work; 5 = strong link to SW work):** We are keen to contribute to improvements in the areas of the village where our work is taking place and/or has had greatest impact.

**Breadth of impact (1 = narrow benefit; 5 = broad benefit to whole community):** We want to support projects which we feel offer broad benefits to the community as a whole.

**Cost / value for money (1 = very high cost compared with benefit achieved; 5 = very low cost compared with benefit achieved):** Our resources are limited, so we will prioritise projects that can deliver maximum value for money.

**Use of Scottish Water skills and resources (1 = no use of skills and equipment on site; 5 = deliverable with skills and equipment on site):** To make our resources go further, we will prioritise projects that can make use of the skills and equipment that Scottish Water already has mobilised in the area.

**Complexity (1 = very complex; 5 = straightforward):** We want to support projects that can be delivered within the lifetime of our work in the village. We will prioritise relatively simple projects over those which require complex consents; raise land ownership issues; or require additional funding which is not yet in place.

**Sustainability (1 = not sustainable / supported by a partner; 5 = strong support from a partner organisation to sustain benefits for long term):** We want to work with community organisations or other partners wherever possible so that the benefits of work delivered will be sustainable.

Projects have been prioritised on the basis of a combined score out of 30. Efforts will focus on the development and delivery of the highest scoring projects. Where possible, ideas which are not taken forward by Scottish Water will be discussed with relevant community organisations which may wish to explore alternative funding opportunities.

## **2. Initial development steps**

### *Ardersier Common*

It is clear that a significant number of ideas relate to Ardersier Common, which is owned and managed by Highland Council. Given that the landowner's agreement would be required to pursue these ideas, we are keen to engage with the council as early as possible to establish its views about the options. A small Working Group has been formed, composed of a Scottish Water representative; a CLG representative; and a Highland Council representative which will further explore ideas for Ardersier Common and report back to the CLG.

### *Early engagement with other landowners and key stakeholders*

Several ideas have an interface with other landowners and/or with key stakeholders such as Highland Council's Access Officer (particularly for work involving the coastal path). For high priority projects, we propose to make initial contact with these stakeholders to identify their views and, where specific locations are envisaged, to identify whether landowners are supportive of proposed improvements for public access / amenity.

## **Appendix 1: projects proposed to date**

### Ardersier Common

- New wildlife information boards at the Common
- Bird hide at the Common
- Gifting remaining land at the Common / picnic area back to community
- Outdoor gym equipment – suggestion that this may be possible down towards the Common

### Amenity, paths and access

- Supporting JAPES with further improvements to the entrance to the village
- New benches or picnic tables on the shoreline / near the slipway
- Improvement work to car park at Pocket Garden
- Improving disabled access across the car park at the War Memorial Hall
- Path to the Cheese Pantry from the village
- Improvements to the access road for watersports etc
- Zebra crossing across Station Road to play park

### Marine / shore facilities

- Jetty or pontoon for mooring
- Beach huts and shower/ changing room for watersports
- Boat house
- Improving the slipway (contribution to potential Highland Council work)
- Removing a set of disused drainage pipes on the beach about halfway between the WWTW and Fort George

### Community facilities

- Investment / improvements at the War Memorial Hall

### Other

- Creating and delivering a plan for a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) for Ardersier
- Funding printing / production of a leaflet to support the village history walk, in partnership with the History Group

## Appendix 2: Scoring matrix and prioritised projects

Scoring criteria	Location	Breadth of impact	Cost / value	SW skills and resources	Complexity	Sustainability	TOTAL SCORE
New wildlife information boards at Ardersier Common	4	4	5	4	4	4	25
Bird hide at common	4	3	3	3	3	3	19
Gifting remaining land at common/picnic area back to community	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Outdoor gym equipment - this may be possible down towards the Common	4	2	2	3	3	3	17
Supporting JAPES with further improvements to the entrance to the village	5	5	5	5	5	5	30
New benches or picnic tables on the shoreline / near the slipway	5	4	4	5	5	4	27
Improvement work to car park at Pocket Garden	5	4	4	5	5	4	27
Improving disabled access across the car park at the War Memorial Hall	2	2	3	4	4	5	20
Path to the Cheese Pantry from the Village	5	2	2	4	2	4	19
Improvements to the access road for the watersports etc	5	1	3	5	3	4	21
Zebra crossing on Station Road to play park	2	4	2	2	2	5	17
Jetty or pontoon for mooring	3	1	1	1	1	2	9
Beach huts and shower/ changing room for watersports	4	1	2	2	1	2	12
Boat house	4	2	1	1	1	3	12
Improving the slipway (contribution to potential Highland Council work)	4	2	3	2	2	3	16
Removing a set of disused drainage pipes on the beach about halfway between the WWTW and Fort George	2	3	3	4	2	5	19
Investment / improvements at the War Memorial Hall	2	5	3	2	3	4	19
Creating and delivering a plan for a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) for Ardersier	1	3	1	3	1	5	14
Gift speed activated road signs for future use of the community during and after project is completed	4	5	3	4	4	5	25
Funding printing / production of a leaflet to support the village history walk, in partnership with the History Group	4	4	5	4	5	4	26