



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 25 October 2017

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Chair	Kevin Reid (KR)
The Highland Council	Councillor Roddy Balfour (RB)
Ardersier and Petty Community Council	Valery Kirby (VK)
The Ardersier Foundation	Lesley Smith (LS)
Scottish Water (SW)	Paul Morley: Customer Delivery Team Mgr (PM) Brian James: Project Manager, SW Horizons (BJ) Gavin Steel: Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)

Apologies:

Cllr Trish Robertson, 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 noted that everyone 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) *GS to pick up correspondence with LS and John Orr following previous meeting regarding Ardersier Common as a matter of priority; and to identify a date for a future meeting.*

GS confirmed that he had emailed LS and John Orr with a summary of the discussion that had taken place with John Orr earlier in the summer about ideas for the Common. A further meeting with both LS and John Orr had taken place on Friday 20th October. This had reviewed ideas submitted to date and some further suggestions which John Orr had made. The main focus was on identifying options and costs for interpretation boards.

- 2) *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.*

PM confirmed that there had been no reports of odour issues being experienced since the previous meeting.

- 3) *SW to visit coastal path at low tide following any reports received to see if the odour issue could be experienced.*



As there had been no reports, PM indicated that there had not yet been an opportunity to experience the issue described. He indicated that he was happy for the action to be kept open so that Scottish Water could investigate any issues that might be linked to its activity.

Action 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.

Action 2: SW to visit coastal path at low tide following any reports received to see if the odour issue could be experienced.

GS noted that the possibility had been raised that there was an odour issue that had previously been traced to a spring. VK confirmed that there is a sulphur spring in the woods. Residents had previously thought an odour may be linked to the WWTW, but it had been traced to the sulphur spring. PM noted that the location described seemed to be broadly consistent with the area where the issues had been reported at the previous meeting.

4) *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 letters had been sent to residents between the WC and Dolphin Bay Suites. SW intended also to write to residents facing the bund between Dolphin Bay Suites and the Pocket Garden. To date, the only feedback had been from residents of 3 adjacent properties on Stuart Street who cut the grass on the adjacent section of the bund and did not feel it would be worthwhile to plant daffodils here.

Action 3: SW to write further to residents between the Dolphin Bay Suites and the Pocket Garden to confirm whether they have any concerns about additional daffodils being planted.

5) *Action 5: SW to organise daffodil planting and pass any surplus bulbs on to TMacP for use at the monument garden.*

KR noted that this remained outstanding until planting of daffodils in the bund had taken place.

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

6) *SW to re-circulate leaving a legacy paper to CLG members via email.*



GS confirmed that this had been done. KR did not recall seeing the email and GS indicated that the paper had been included with the draft minutes of the previous meeting when they were circulated.

7) *SW to consider request for funding to equip First Responders in line with the criteria previously discussed and respond.*

GS explained that SW had assessed the request made at the previous meeting in line with the criteria it had used for the other ideas put forward by members of the community. Although the suggestion scored strongly in some areas, it scored less highly overall than the short-list of ideas that had already been identified. SW felt that it should focus on delivering the priority initiatives that it had identified via the community's input and the criteria it had previously discussed with the CLG. He hoped that there would be other sources of funding that the First Responders could draw upon.

3. Scottish Water update

(a) Scottish Water Horizons / pipeline update

BJ outlined that SWH had sent letters to residents backing on to the coastal path between the WC and Dolphin Bay Suites in order to obtain their opinion on the planting/replanting of daffodils within the bund. It was planned to send a similar letter to residents between the Dolphin Bay Suites and Pocket Garden over the coming week and arrangements for planting would then be made.

BJ explained that the programme for planting at Ardersier Common and the Picnic Area has slipped slightly; however, the process of engaging a specialist landscaping contractor was under way and planting was expected to commence once the commercial process was complete.

Since the previous meeting, BJ noted that labour and plant associated with the Scottish Water Horizons project had continued to be focused on work within Inverness Airport and the Mid Coul area. This included the completion the crossing under the main Inverness to Aberdeen railway line, which was a key milestone for the project.

Work had also taken place to provide a safe pedestrian route through the working area adjacent to the Pocket Garden prior to the school October break. BJ regretted that it had not been possible to carry out permanent reinstatements, as had been hoped, in the area immediately south of the slipway. Scottish Water Horizons continued to seek to address the issues in this area in order to complete its work and full reinstatement.



BJ explained that a fencing sub-contractor had recently started erecting fencing within farmland to the North of Ardersier in preparation for pipe-laying at this location. Mobilisation of pipe-laying in this area was expected to begin from Monday 30th October.

In order to facilitate work north of the village, HGV traffic would use the C1005 in accordance with the agreed Traffic Management Plan. As with the previous period of operation, the road closure/convoy system would only be used on days when deliveries are taking place. A letter had been sent to residents in the vicinity of the C1005 to inform them.

Questions and feedback

VK expressed concern that daffodil planting would be difficult due to much of the bund currently being overgrown with weeds. GS noted that the Highland Council's contractor did not appear to have recently carried out any grass-cutting on the bund. BJ added that he understood a previous contractor had gone out of business and this had caused disruption.

KR noted that some grass-cutting had been done near the WC and at the picnic area. LS indicated that John Orr had been intending to organise for the picnic area to be cut by a local contractor, so work done there was not likely to have been done under the council's main contract.

KR asked about the planning application that had recently been reported on in the media. LS indicated that she understood it was a screen application.

BJ confirmed that SWH had submitted a new request for a screening opinion as detailed design work had identified the need to relocate the underground break pressure chamber in farmland to the north of the village a short distance within a single field boundary. An opinion had since been received confirming that neither a planning application nor Environmental Impact Assessment are required.

VK asked how the road crossings would be approached.

BJ indicated that the road crossings were expected to be tackled at the end of the programme of the programme of work on the landward side of the B9006. Discussion with Highland Council was taking place to see if the crossings could be completed via a single night-time road closure, which would minimise disruption to the road. VK noted that the Fort would be most impacted by this and BJ confirmed plans would be discussed with them.

Action 5: SW to provide an update to the CLG on plans for the road crossings once finalised and/or at the November meeting.



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

PM explained that monitoring of effluent from the completed UV plant had been continuing. All samples taken to date had met the required standard. There was now a period where the focus of testing was on the reliability of the equipment. He expected sampling and other testing to be completed by the time of the November CLG meeting.

KR noted that the Speed Indicator Display (SID) signs that had been ordered for the village had not yet been installed by Highland Council.

PM indicated that he would chase this up with the council. At the time of the September meeting, the Purchase Order (PO) for the signs had been received by the council's Street-lighting Department. He had understood signs were in stock and should be put up within 2-3 weeks of receiving the PO, but was conscious that there had been a holiday period which might have impacted on this.

Action 6: SW to chase up Highland Council about planned installation of the 3 SID signs funded to discourage speeding at key locations in the village.

4. **Discussion / feedback from members**

Leaving a legacy

GS noted that an update on Scottish Water's progress with delivering the ideas it had identified as priorities had been provided under 2.1 (above).

It was Scottish Water's intention to continue working through the short-listed initiatives. So far, four of five new/replacement benches had already been installed and SID signs had been funded and were due to be installed by Highland Council. Work was continuing to establish options and costs for potential work at Ardersier Common.

Newsletter

GS explained that it remained SW's intention to produce a further edition of the project newsletter before the end of the year. The aim was to time this in order to give a meaningful update on progress. Further information about traffic management would be included and any other thoughts on content from CLG members would be welcome.

Questions

VK asked if there was any update about the proposed extension to the outfall, east of Fort George.



PM explained that he was not closely involved with the outfall project, but that he understood further work had been done on the proposed solution and initial costs had been higher than the original estimates. Alternative construction options were being investigated, but this meant that it may not be possible to meet the window for access to restricted military land at the outfall between January and March 2018.

RB asked how far into the Moray Firth and how deep the proposed outfall extension goes. PM apologised that he did not have this information to hand, but indicated that he would be happy to provide further details for the next meeting.

RB noted that sea conditions in the Firth could present significant challenges, although he appreciated this was mainly an issue for Scottish Water's engineers rather than the community.

VK asked if tides and currents were taken into account in the outfall's design. She noted that there could be a bore in the Firth at certain times. BJ explained that survey activity would take place to inform designs and that the outputs from this would typically be used to model a range of possible conditions.

GS suggested that SW could invite the Project Manager who was developing the outfall proposals for its alliance partner amey, Black & Veatch (aBV) to attend the November meeting and otherwise get further details from him of the latest position.

Action 7: SW to invite aBV to attend November CLG meeting to provide an update on the outfall extension; and otherwise provide further details.

VK asked if the WWTW could function until the outfall extension was complete. PM explained that the existing outfall remained in place and allowed the WWTW to operate until the extension could be delivered.

5. Any other business

There was no other business from members.

6. Future meetings

The next meeting would take place in the PACE café at 5:30pm on:
Wednesday 29 November