



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 31st August 2022

Location: Meeting held via Microsoft Teams video conference

Present:

- Christine Wood - Chair (CW)

Ardersier and Petty Community Council

- Jenn Maylin (JM)

Highland Council – Culloden & Ardersier Ward Members

- Councillor Morven Reid (MR)

Scottish Water (SW) and ESD

- Kevin Farquharson, Project Manager, ESD (KF)
- Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GSt)

Apologies: Councillor Trish Robertson, Councillor Glynis Sinclair



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

CW opened the meeting and welcomed members.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions

Members present confirmed they were content with the minutes circulated from the meeting on 25th May.

Actions were reviewed as follows:

Action 1: Scottish Water to confirm that it can attend the Community Council meeting in September.

GSt noted that the Community Council meeting on 7th September was in the diary and that Scottish Water's Waste Water Operations Manager for the north, Kirsty McLaughlan, would also attend to talk about the upgraded WWTW's transition into operation by her team. JM confirmed that the CC remained keen for Scottish Water to attend and provide an update on the issues previously highlighted.

Action 2: Future CLG meetings to be moved to 7:30pm start.

GSt noted this had been done for the current meeting and would be continued unless members agreed otherwise.

Action 3: GSt to arrange delivery of some cases of bottled water to CW / or the gala site. CW to let GSt know if any other support was needed.

GSt noted that his colleague Stevie Webster had delivered bottled water on the eve of the gala. CW confirmed that the bottled water had been received and thanked Scottish Water for providing this.

Action 4: GSt said he would look into [road reinstatement issue at Fulmar Crescent following burst water main] and find out who had been involved and what needed to be done.

GSt confirmed that he had looked into this and been supplied with photographs showing the reinstatement work carried out at Fulmar Crescent after a burst water main occurred. He understood there had been a more recent meeting on site with members of the roads team to review this. He wasn't able to represent the roads team's view, but his Scottish Water colleagues' view was that the underlying condition of the road was poor before the burst occurred, although surface dressing had been carried out. They did not feel the burst water main was responsible for the road's deterioration beyond the localised area of excavation which had been reinstated to the required standard.

MR indicated that she was not aware of the detail of this issue, but that she would follow it up further within the council.

3. ESD project progress update

KF shared a recent photo showing much of the WWTW site.

He confirmed that 'turn of flows' had taken place in early July and since then the pre-existing WWTW had no longer been operating and the new site was now treating flows from the sewer network. There was an ongoing process to monitor and check performance over an initial period of operation, during which any adjustments and minor snagging work would be carried out.

KF noted that the main site cabins had now been removed from the site and landscaping work had been carried out on the ground that they previously occupied. Planting was expected to be carried out in this area early in the winter 2022/23 bare root tree planting season. Two smaller cabins had been brought to the site to provide accommodation and laboratory facilities for the initial period of performance testing.

KF explained that following the removal of the main site cabins by HGV, traffic management signage had been removed from the C1005 at the start of August. This would be set up again for a short period which was expected to be around mid-October for the removal of the 2 remaining site cabins.

4. Feedback and discussion

- **Questions**



JM asked about the condition of trees on the landscaped bunds, as she had received reports that some of these were in poor condition.

KF indicated that 2022 had been a good year for the establishment of the vegetation on the landscaped bunds generally. He indicated that he would check to see if there were any particular areas where landscape planting needed to be revisited – and confirmed that a mixture of trees and shrubs were due to be planted on the most recent landscaped mounds at the front of the site. He expected this work would be carried out before the end of the year.

Action 1: KF to review condition of trees planted on bunds and confirm whether any areas need to be revisited when remaining tree-planting is carried out.

JM asked is a map could be provided showing the extent of Scottish Water's land ownership at the WWTW end of the village, as there was continuing confusion / concern about this.

GSt indicated that he had a plan associated with the most recent planning application which would have been published as part of the submission, although the underlying map was not ideal in the detail shown. He reiterated that there had been some confusion, but that Highland Council had concluded in 2017 that it owns the larger area of Ardersier Common. The area Scottish Water owns is centred on the WWTW, although it includes the track on the Fort George side, a section of the coastal path and a relatively modest area on the side of the site nearest the village. He noted that Scottish Water had no intention of developing land outside the established perimeter fence of the WWTW site and the landscaping that surrounds it.

Action 2: Scottish Water to supply a plan showing the full extent of its land ownership at Ardersier WWTW.

5. Any other business

- JM noted that since the very beginning of Scottish Water's work in Ardersier 6 years ago, senior managers had talked about leaving a legacy for the village over the course of the project's delivery. She asked if the presentation to the CC could include an update on what had happened with this.

GSt confirmed that he would be happy to include this in the update for the CC. He noted that this had been discussed regularly with the CLG in earlier meetings – and that criteria had been agreed and ideas requested from the wider community via a newsletter in 2017. A shortlist of projects had been identified and delivered. The most significant had been



improvements to Ardersier Common, with cutting back of gorse along the Green Road, the new map at the picnic area and 4 new interpretation panels. The most recently completed work had been the improvement of the access track down the side of the WWTW to the coastal path. He noted this had been overshadowed by concern about the boulders which had been placed as part of this work, but these had been removed at the Community Council's request.

- GSt noted that engagement activity was still expected to take place before the end of the year, ahead of work to renew the local sewer serving houses near the corner of Nairn Road and Station Road. This work was not formally part of the CLG's remit, but he would ensure members and the Community Council were kept informed. As he had noted previously, the sewer currently serving the houses was in deteriorating condition and needed to be replaced to prevent customers from experiencing increasing problems with blockages.

6. Future meetings

GSt noted that the Community Council meeting and the planned site visit were planned to take place in the month ahead.

Members agreed to revert to 2-monthly meetings, with the next meeting therefore on **Wednesday 26th October at 7:30pm.**

GSt noted that a decision could be taken at the October meeting on the best timing for the following meeting, as he anticipated that members might not wish to meet on the last Wednesday in December.

CW thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.