

ARROCHAR, TARBET & ARDLUI COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA FORUM

3V Hall, Arrochar on 9th January 2017 @ 10am

Present: Jackie Baillie **(JB)**, MSP
Cllr Maurice Corry **(MC)**, MSP
Stuart Mearns **(SM)**, Head of Planning and Rural Development, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park **(LL&TNP)**
Cllr Robert MacIntyre **(CRM)**
Iain Wilkinson **(IW)**, Luss Estates **(LE)**
Ronald Ross **(RR)**, Convener, AT&A Community Council **(CC)**
Ronnie MacDonald **(RM)**, Vice Convener, Community Council **(CC)**
Mary Haggarty **(MH)**, Secretary, AT&A Community Council **(CC)**
Anne Urquhart **(AU)**, Friends of Loch Lomond **(FLL)**, Three Lochs Way **(TLW)**
Dawn Gourlay **(DG)**, AT&A Projects, Community Council **(CC)** **Minutes**
Bill Lowe **(BL)**, AT&A Community Council **(CC)**
Mhairi Gardner **(MG)**, Development Officer for Helensburgh and Lomond
Mark Steward **(MS)**, Marine and Coastal Manager, A&BC

Apologies: Fergus Murray, Fred Moore, David McKenzie , Cllr Freeman.

1. Introductions – Jackie welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them all a Happy New Year. She asked them all to introduce themselves.
2. **a) Ben Arthur's Resort** – SM gave an overview of the situation.

The LL&TNP, aided by A&BC had a meeting with public bodies regarding the issues with the BAR Site and any actions that could be taken. Public Health, Environmental Health and SEPA have visited the site. Asbestos has been found, fly tipping is evident and there seems to be an amount of copper wiring workings being carried out.

The Amenity Notice has not been complied with despite the owners being reminded of their responsibilities. There was hope that the road closure would have been established to prevent further tipping – as advised by agents for the owner. SM thought this was going to be done in December and the road blocks would be made with hinged plyboards 2.4m high. There remains no confirmed timeline for this block to be in place. RR asked if it was possible for this envisaged blockage to be put in place long term and CRM said he would speak to Campbell Divertie. It was implied that the Council will block the road. SM clarified that the NPA could undertake this under the terms of the Notice.

RM mentioned that there has been a lot of activity on the site this last month with lots of fires taking place and wonders what it will be like in summer if it is being used a lot now!

SM mentioned that the developers still have an aspiration for the site and he has advised them on the planning renewal procedure. He also mentioned that he would like to try to

encourage the owners to adhere to the amenity order rather than LL&TNP having to do the work.

JB concluded that blocking the access would be helpful. She understood where SM was coming from in wanting to encourage the owners to clear up the site but time is slipping and she feels that the LL&TNP needs to enforce the Amenity Notice and have a timescale in line for doing this.

SM is expecting an update this week from the party acting for the owners and will give the forum an update on the issues by the end of January.

b) Head of Loch Long Litter – MG took the lead with this. She mentioned that she had set up a Litter Working Group which includes landowners to discuss long term and short term issues. In the short term she will aim to co-ordinate beach cleanings that are carried out by Luss Estates, National Park and others. The Working Group meets again in February. IW added it was disappointing the low attendance at the first working group meeting.

Mhairi also spoke again about the **Feasibility Study for the Head of Loch Long Litter problem** – A&B Council are happy to work collaboratively with the Community Council to support the preparation of a funding application which will need to be signed by the Community Council as the applicant. This will enable the community to access a greater range of funding sources. MG has identified potential funding streams and prepared text which can be used to form the basis of funding applications. If a funding bid is successful it will be for the Community Council as the applicant to oversee and progress the works.

The immediate time period is more of a problem as the CC have not had their grant renewed although they have been gifted enough money for one more mechanical clean which needs to take place before the end of March 17. **Everyone present believed that this was the only real way at present of cleaning the beach.** MH mentioned that she had carried out some rough and ready costings and feels comfortable that £8K per annum would keep the beach clean – this would pay for mechanical clean-ups twice a year and cover the cost of skips that would take the collections to landfill. It was thought that perhaps the Council, Crown Estates, Luss Estates and the LL&TNP could absorb the cost of the beach cleans between them annually until a long-term solution was found. IW from LE said they would support this if it was deemed the way forward. MH will provide more detailed costings to the Litter Working Group before their next meeting.

MS said it is a **long term problem and it is unlikely to change** and because the litter is intertwined with seaweed this increases the tonnage of what needs to be removed. There is no easy solution to this. He mentioned that the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership would be producing a regional marine plan for the Clyde this year which might identify opportunities for funding and the Clyde 2020 Project – a government research into improving the marine environment – has a focus on fisheries but it could include a focus on marine litter.

MH mentioned that the Marine Conservation Society has been collecting data for years and MS said that whilst this was worthwhile data it shows a very small picture – approximately

8% of activity that is actually going on. He mentioned that there has been a definite reduction in plastic bags but plastic itself is still increasing.

MC said that we need an immediate plan for this twice yearly clear up. He will talk to Audrey Baird and see if this can be funded. He said that we need a more sustainable system for Arrochar and Garelohead; authorities need to do something about this immediate need for funding. He mentioned that he is in talks with the base as well.

AU mentioned that FLL had carried out a small survey to do with Arrochar, Garelohead and Lochgoilhead; they had spoken to the Coast and Countryside Trust to see if they could help MS said the majority of Trust members were concerned about stepping on the toes of existing organisations undertaking work on marine litter and would want to speak to those organisations before getting involved. The Trust Manager is planning to attend the next Argyll and Bute Beach Forum (annual get together of beach cleaning organisations) to ask if the Trust can help in any way. The next meeting will be held in Feb. AU mentioned that when visiting Lochgoilhead that the beach had been scraped but the pile was just left to one side and looked unsightly.

AU went on to mention that the FLL were happy to continue to be involved in volunteer tasks and could put a small amount towards the annual cost of the mechanical clean up. She mentioned that FLL received contributions from the business community and the money FLL would contribute would come from this fund.

SM said that we need to get exact costs and circulate these to the appropriate agencies and the Litter Working Group. He also mentioned that he thought the CC should be represented on the Litter Working Group.

RR spoke about the Scottish Government's seaweed consultation regarding the greater use of seaweed around Scotland perhaps for biofuel but the type we have here is not conducive to good biofuel. He will continue to explore other avenues.

AU wondered if the separation of litter from the seaweed could be a funded job as it would need to be done by hand. She also wondered if community service people could be tasked with this.

SM mentioned that Scottish Water were upgrading some of their own systems and this might help with the raw sewage problem. JB whilst welcoming this said this was marginal considering the scale of the problem.

JB concluded that MH submit accurate costs to the Litter Working Group prior to their February meeting. She asked MS to draft a letter regarding the Head of the Loch and what would need to be done – Jackie and Maurice would then bring the issue up in Parliament. **JB also mentioned that the community were within their rights to walk away from the problems.** CRM has been tasked with looking at landfill costs.

c) Viewing Platform

CRM has spoken to Transport Scotland about the infill that may be available from the Strone Point work and if the contractor appointed is happy to let us have it then there is not a problem. The work at Strone Point on the A83 is being carried out in the next few months.

CRM said that he had spoken to Fergus Murray and he thinks that Fergus said that the council will fund a feasibility study for this regeneration project. CRM will clarify his understanding with Fergus.

SM said that he had had discussions with Audrey Baird and Fergus regarding the proposal for a Viewing platform and sitting area at the A83 / A814 Junction and where support could be found for same. He mentioned that he has received a quote from architects to come and meet with the CC and wondered if this would be helpful. The architects in question have been involved previously in the Charette planning. The CC welcomed this and said it would be extremely useful.

RR asked IW if he would need discussion with Luss Estates before infill was deposited and IW confirmed that he would need to establish who owns what and that there would be a cost to this. CRM will clarify whether the Council will pay for the Feasibility Study for this regeneration work.

SM will follow up with Fergus and Mhairi regarding the architects. It may be that Transport Scotland will also need to be consulted as there are barriers along the top side of the land in question.

MH pointed out that there are **three phases** to this project and the CC realise that phase 2 and 3 are larger and will require a much greater amount of planning and funding but they are very keen to see Phase 1, which will enhance the middle of the village, completed as soon as possible.

d) War Memorial Extension

MH gave an overview of where we are with this project. We are struggling to get contractors to come and quote for the work and we need to have the project completed by the end of February otherwise we need to repay a grant of £1800 back to the LL&TNP.

MC mentioned that he knows of many improvements that have recently been done to War Memorials themselves and also to their sites. He will speak to Alan McDonald A&BC. He asked the CC to look at the site with himself after the meeting as he feels confident he can do something to help the Community get this project completed.

e) Pontoon

DG outlined where we are at. We have applied for a Moving Forward Grant from the LL&TNP and whilst it looks reasonably favourable it will not fund the type of things we were looking for funding for. It would however, if successful, fund an Otter Survey which needs to

have taken place before applying for planning permission. It would also fund a feasibility study but it is not clear if a study is needed as this is not being viewed as a commercial enterprise. SM advised DG to talk with the development officer from LL&TNP.

JB thought strongly that we should try getting funding from HIE and that it would probably be better to include a commercial element.

SM also mentioned that LEADER had funded a pontoon at Balmaha. DG mentioned that she is about to submit an EOI to LEADER.

AOCB

MC asked if we had submitted our application for the Helensburgh and Lomond Regeneration Fund and if not to do so quickly. MH mentioned that she had done this after a meeting RMD and herself had with Cllr Ellen Morton and CRM in September last year where they looked at Phase 1 of the the Arrochar regeneration project site and asked if the viewpoint could be carried out through this method. The CC have received no update on this issue, which is disappointing.

DG asked MC if there was a formal application process and to whom it should be sent. MC said there was no application form and to send details of our projects to Fergus Murray.

DG became confused at this point in that Fergus Murray is already considering the Viewing Platform site and if he then receives an application for the same thing being sent to him for the same regeneration funding then surely at that point he would stop considering this for the present time.

JB has tasked MG to clarify things with Fergus. MG will get back to the CC with details of what funding opportunities are available, how they apply for them in regards to this H&L Regeneration Fund and what we should include for consideration.

Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed.