

ARROCHAR, TARBET & ARDLUI COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA FORUM

3V Hall, Arrochar on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 @ 10am

Present: Jackie Baillie **(JB)**, MSP  
Stuart Mearns **(SM)**, Head of Planning and Rural Development, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park **(LL&TNP)**  
Cllr Robert MacIntyre **(CRM)**  
Cllr George Freeman **(CGF)**  
Iain Wilkinson **(IW)**, Luss Estates **(LE)**  
Lorna Pearce **(LP)**, Argyll & Bute Council **(A&BC)**  
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)**  
David McKenzie **(DM)**, Board member, LL&T National Park.  
Fred Moore **(FM)**, Cruise Loch Lomond **(CLL)**  
John Urquhart **(AU)**, Friends of Loch Lomond **(FLL)**, Three Lochs Way **(TLW)**  
Dawn Gourlay **(DG)**, AT&A Community Council **(CC)** minutes  
Keith Murray **(KM)**, Transport Scotland  
Vairi Gardner **(VG)**, Development Officer for Helensburgh and Lomond  
Sarah Brown **(SB)**, Clyde Marine Planning Partnership

Apologies: None.

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

The consent for planning has now lapsed. The owners were served with an Amenity Notice asking them to remove the fly tipping material, crush down the rubble remaining from the properties being demolished and close the road to a standard consistent with a council closure. This Notice was served at the end of August and the owners were given four weeks to do the tasks outlined. Nothing has happened and there has been no response or appeal from the owners.

The LL&TNP can take on these tasks and recover the costs back from the owners. However the Park has now had discussions with SEPA regarding the waste. SEPA intend to carry out a waste audit to identify what is contained within the waste – i.e. is there asbestos? It was thought that there was asbestos from some of the buildings and also may be contained in the fly tipping.

The road closure is still a problem – it is not clear that the road closure is still current or has lapsed. Campbell Divertie of A&BC is apparently working on this. CRM mentioned that Campbell had said that there is a cost implication in obtaining road closures.

SM has arranged to meet with the owner next week.

It was agreed that the state of the area was getting worse and with the foliage about to recede this situation will be even more visible to the large volume of traffic on the A83 of which a large percentage are visitors to the area. A car has been burnt out at the site as well as evidence of metal being processed on the site.

JB thanked SM for taking forward the actions from the last meeting and looks forward to a future report regarding his liaison with the other agencies regarding road closure and permanent barriers, SEPA and environmental issues, economic development agencies and the owner.

**b) Head of Loch Long Litter** – LP took the lead. She introduced VG who has done some work on this. It was mentioned that this was a 'Scotland' wide problem and that other agencies are working on finding solutions to marine litter.

It was thought that the best way forward, keeping in focus our particular 'Head of Loch Long' problem that LP would identify funding streams for a feasibility study using Arrochar as a pilot and the results from this study could be fed back to the relevant agencies involved in a wider marine litter project.

SB from the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership thinks it would be worth VG getting in touch with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Marine Conservation Society for their data and knowledge about beach cleaning operations, and the GRAB Trust. SB will also send the draft report that she has prepared to VG.

DM said that a percentage of the rubbish was sewage waste and felt strongly that Scottish Water (**SW**) should be contributing to the clear up costs but also dealing with the untreated sewage from houses on Loch Long. There are plans to put tanks in to serve the villages of Strone and Kilmun but there are no plans to do the same for Blairmore on Loch Long. SW wanted to put their tanks under the road for Strone and Kilmun but the council have refused them permission to do this and said they should be on the foreshore. A meeting is planned shortly between SW and the Council to see if a solution can be found. DM is planning to have a further meeting with SW and SEPA with involvement from the Scottish Government to see if a solution for Loch Long properties can be found.

Currently the CC receives a grant from an Environmental Charity to clean the foreshore but this grant does not cover the cost to take the waste to landfill so the waste is currently buried/impacted on the muddy / sandy shore of Loch Long. The Council currently pays for the landfills costs of the other litter that is collected and did put a couple of skips in place before to take the waste away during the spring clean-up. CGF has said that the council will provide skips to remove the waste to landfill.

It was pointed out that the council is responsible for the car park litter but that landowners are responsible for the shore line. Crown Estates and Luss Estates are both owners of the fore shore in question. It was decided that Crown Estates should be invited to the next meeting.

FM reiterated that action needs to be put in place soon as we have a huge numbers of visitors to the area who are not aware that we have not created the problem. The BAR site and the Head of Loch Long are impacting on the tourist trade in the village of Arrochar in a big way. We need help to solve the problem.

SM said this is a grey area but someone has to take the lead and the NP share the concerns and that the short term issue and the medium to longer term both need to have solutions. To this end the NP is happy to play a key role to raise the profile and try to access funding. IW also said that LE would be happy to play their role and FLL would also like to get involved. It was thought that a smaller group should take this forward and the council should take the lead in it.

RR wondered if there might be a small business enterprise to be started – filtering the seaweed and using the seaweed from it for industrial use.

### **c) Viewing Platform**

MH, RMD & CRM met with Cllr Ellen Morton regarding this possibility. CRM said that Fergus Murray is looking into the feasibility of this. He also mentioned that there was some money available that had not been used for the Hermitage Park Project and wondered if this might be able to be used. CRM will look into this.

CRM also talked about some rock that has been removed from somewhere and he wondered if it could perhaps be used at this site. He also mentioned whether waste from road works could go here and asked KM about this. KM said that he could mention it to contractors and if they were willing to take it here then there would not be a problem. CGF mentioned that you would probably have to get permission from SEPA to dump the material. (This material if available would be for the second phase of the regeneration of the 1. Viewing Platform 2. Car Parking 3. Loch Access project).

RR asked SM if the sketch drawings held by the CC would be sufficient or would formal planning permission and architect plans be needed for the viewing platform. SM thought formal planning would be required. RR pointed out that the viewing platform could be done in isolation to the other works. JB asked CRM to gently encourage Fergus Murray to speak to planners, SEPA etc. and said that Fergus Murray should be invited to the next meeting.

MH mentioned that it was essential that we did not lose sight of the local issues and A&BC could start tidying the site up the site of the A814 / A83 junction and re-establishing the old walkway.

**d) AOCB** - SM showed interest in the pontoon project at Tighness and was informed that it was at the preplanning advice stage and we were awaiting comments from Roads. It was also mentioned that an application to the CCF had been made but that we weren't hopeful as this was more for job creation in the longer term.

JB said she had been instrumental in getting pontoons at Leven though SE. She thought it might be worth an approach to SE/HIE as the precedence has been created.

## **Date of Next Meeting : 10th January 2017**

### **Summary**

#### **BAR Site**

SM to liaise with the owners, SEPA, Roads Department, Economic Development Agencies and to consider what will happen next – i.e. will the NP go in and clear the site? He will keep the CC informed of his progress.

#### **Head of Loch Long – Tide & Wind borne Litter**

Need confirmation from A&BC that they will take the lead in this and form a small group to take this problem forward. Funding needs found for a feasibility study into the medium long term problem. Confirmation is needed from the Council that they will supply skips and meet the cost of landfill so that the waste collected by the mechanical digger can be removed from site when required.

#### **Viewing Platform**

We need an update from Fergus Murray as to whether A&BC will fund Stage 1 of this regeneration project. At the very least we need the area of land at the A83 / A814 junction cleared and the walkway re-established in the short term.