



## **Ardersier Community Liaison Group**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 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)
- Councillor Trish Robertson (TR)
- Councillor Glynis Sinclair (GS)

Scottish Water (SW) and ESD

- Graeme Campbell, Project Manager, ESD (GC)
- Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GSt)

**Apologies:**



## 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

As CW was having difficulties with Teams, GSt opened the meeting and welcomed Cllr Morven Reid following her election to Highland Council earlier in the month. Members of the CLG present introduced themselves.

### 2. Review of previous minutes and actions

GSt noted that JM was the only community member who had been present at the previous meeting. JM confirmed that she was content with the minutes.

Actions were reviewed as follows:

*Action 1: CW to take over as Chair of the CLG from the next meeting.*

GSt confirmed this was the intention, although CW had not yet been able to join the meeting.

*Action 2: Scottish Water to follow up with representatives of Ardersier & Petty Community Council about future engagement.*

GSt noted that JM had invited Scottish Water to attend the Community Council's meeting in September and he thought this should be possible.

JM explained that September was the best timing to allow for the Community Council's AGM to be held. She was keen for Scottish Water to come with an overview of what had been happening, what the current situation is and what it will be in the future, reflecting that Community Council members did not feel they had been kept updated. She stressed that there remained a lot of negative feeling and felt it



was important for Scottish Water to be as open and transparent as possible; and to seek to build bridges.

JM also noted that the Community Council was keen for Scottish Water to cover:

- Future traffic through village - quantity, size of vehicles etc
- Odour management plan
- Environmental plan

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

CW joined the meeting and took over chairing. CW confirmed that she was happy to approve the draft minutes.

*Action 3: GC to raise PFT handrail with the commissioning team and explore whether anything could be done to minimise times when the handrail was left in its upright position during this process.*

GC confirmed that the final wiring connections had been completed as a priority after the March CLG meeting to allow the handrails to be lowered. The handrails had been up and down on a few occasions since, but were being kept down except when access was needed to the roof-mounted motor of the Picket Fence Thickener.

*Action 4: Ardersier & Petty Community Council to discuss the best timing for the site visit and future CLG meetings; and feed back to GSt.*

JM noted that Ardersier is a commuter village and that many people don't get home until 6pm or 7pm. She felt 7:30pm would be best.

CW agreed and noted that earlier meetings were often joined late by people who hadn't been able to get away from work earlier.

JM felt that Scottish Water had tended to hold meetings and events during working hours and that this was a factor in low levels of engagement.

GSt said he understood 5:30pm had originally been agreed by the CLG before he became involved and he was not sure of the reasons. He and GC were happy to change the time to 7:30pm for future meetings. GSt noted that information events in the past had generally been run on into the evening in an effort to accommodate people returning from work.

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



*Action 5: GSt to follow up with CW about support for the Gala.*

GSt confirmed that Scottish Water could supply some water and sought guidance on approximate quantity needed. He noted that this couldn't be done normally, but some surplus stock had been identified.

**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.

Cllr Glynis Sinclair joined the meeting and apologised for being late due to an earlier meeting which she hadn't been able to get away from.

### **3. ESD project progress update**

GC explained that there had been ongoing commissioning activities, primarily focused on ensuring that all of the software that manages the equipment on site was working together. There had been some continuing challenges with absence of key personnel due to Covid.

He anticipated that around 3 weeks of testing remained to be done in order to ensure that all remaining glitches were ironed out.

GC apologised that the delay in completing the work had resulted in a delay to the proposed site visit, which would be rearranged after the summer, once the site is operational.

GC noted that the traffic management system remained in place, although it was only now needed for the final elements of the work. The main parts of this were the removal of the site cabins and the final landscaping which could take place once that had happened. Two additional, smaller cabins would be brought to site which would accommodate a process scientist and their on site laboratory over the period of initial operation.

### **4. Feedback and discussion**

- **Questions**

CW asked if there was any proposed timescale for the remaining work and the new equipment being made operational.

GC explained that the key remaining work was really limited to the software issues within the site. The next step was to test the telemetry which allows the site to communicate with Scottish Water's central



Intelligent Control Centre. He was advised by the software engineers that this might take just over a month in total.

GS asked for clarification on what telemetry testing was.

GC explained that telemetry was the system through which the equipment on site communicated with Scottish Water's central control centre. For example, if a fault occurred with any of the equipment, it would generate an alarm to a central Scottish Water team that monitor sites all over the country on a 24 hour basis. They would assess the issue and take appropriate action, dispatching an operator to attend the site if required.

GS asked if telemetry was also used at Allanfearn and at other Scottish Water sites.

GC confirmed that it was used extensively to monitor critical equipment at most Scottish Water sites, including WWTWs, Water Treatment Works and pumping stations. Each piece of equipment would have an alarm and a level of priority assigned to it, reflecting the urgency of a response.

GS noted that suddenly the project seemed to be in its final stages.

CW asked what happened at the end of the process and whether Highland Council would have to come out to sign the site off.

GS explained that she understood that there was a process that Scottish Water and the council had to go through. She noted that Scottish Water and SEPA were responsible for monitoring the performance of the site in treating waste water, but others such as the Environmental Health team would also have a remit.

GSt noted that Kirsty McLaughlan, Scottish Water's Waste Water Operations Manager for the north would attend the site visit or a future meeting to talk about the role of her team in operating the site on an ongoing basis. In many respects, this was a continuation of the work previously carried out within the old WWTW and the focus would be to operate the new plant safely and to a high standard.

GS said she believed there was a desire from the community to keep the CLG going and asked if JM and CW agreed.

JM said that she thought it was essential for dialogue between the community and Scottish Water to continue. She thought it might not be in the format of the CLG, but could be via a regular input to the Community Council. She felt that if greater confidence wasn't established, it would cause more problems in the future.



GSt suggested that periodic direct updates to the Community Council might help avoid a sense that information from the CLG wasn't being passed through to members.

## 5. Any other business

- GSt reminded members that, although not part of the CLG's remit, there was a small project currently being prepared which was concerned with renewing 'pitch fibre' sewer pipes which currently serve some of the houses at the corner of Station Road and Nairn Road. The pipes were deteriorating and were impacting upon service to some customers so needed to be replaced.

A team from Morrison Construction were preparing to carry out the work, hoping to start on site later in the year. Further information on the work and the arrangements would be made available to the residents and the wider community before work began.

GS welcomed that this work was coming as she was aware that an adjoining area had been done previously and that the pipes had been quite badly squashed.

- GS raised an issue at Fulmar Crescent which she understood had been the subject of dispute between Scottish Water and Highland Council's roads team. The road had been resurfaced some years ago, perhaps around 2017. Scottish Water had been in since to carry out some work and the surface of the road wasn't in good condition. She asked GSt to follow up and ask for the matter to be resolved between the teams involved at both organisations.

**Action 4:** GSt said he would look into this and find out who had been involved and what needed to be done.

## 6. Future meetings

Options for future meeting dates and site visit dates were discussed, reflecting expectation that the site would become operational by July. GSt noted that he would be on holiday on the planned date of the next meeting in late July, but could arrange for a colleague to represent him if required.

JM suggested that a date for the next CLG should be scheduled in August; and that a date for the site visit could be finalised then, once the holiday period was out of the way and the site was operational.

GSt proposed skipping the site visit and holding the next CLG meeting via Teams on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7:30pm**. This was agreed.



GSt noted that it would be worth bearing in mind daylight in considering the timing of a site visit – so it might be sensible for this to take place earlier in the day than the CLG meetings.

GC reminded members that he would need to ensure he had boot sizes and jacket sizes for anyone attending who would need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

CW noted that she was aware of three or four people who weren't able to engage with the online meetings but would be keen to attend the site visit. GSt didn't anticipate this would be a problem so long as they confirmed and provided details of the PPE they would need.

CW thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.