

Scottish Water Gairloch Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday 27 May 2019

Location: Celt Room, Gairloch Community Centre

Present:

Gairloch Community Representatives	Alex Gray (AG) Ian McWhinney (IM)
SEPA	Dr Paul Griffiths (PG)
Scottish Water	Kevin Clifton (KC) Iain Jones (IJ) Gavin Steel (GS) James Wiseman (JW)

Apologies:

Karen Buchanan, John Port, Alan Thomson

Minutes

1. Welcome

Gavin Steel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Introductions and apologies

Attendees introduced themselves. GS noted the apologies that had been received.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 10th December 2018

GS noted that the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated by email and asked if there were any further comments or amendments. The members present indicated they were content with the minutes.

4. Matters arising

AG asked what the status was of the application to Marine Scotland for the Licence required to construct the proposed outfall extension.

JW explained that Marine Scotland's process was awaiting the outcome of the application for an amendment to Scottish Water's CAR Licence at Gairloch. The Marine Licence application had been discussed with them and they would process it once the SEPA process was resolved.

AG asked if September tides were now being targeted for this work.

JW explained that tides were a consideration, but also weather. He was working with Ross-shire Engineering to enable the outfall extension work to take place at the earliest suitable date once the relevant consents were in place.

5. SEPA Update

PG presented charts reflecting the sampling results for Gairloch and Sand beaches over the winter months. These reflected that bathing water quality had been consistently excellent. The only minor peak had occurred in late summer and had remained below the level for excellent status.

AG asked what the quality standards were for inland waters.

PG explained that the standards for inland waters differed to those for coastal waters. For inland waters, 'excellent' was below 200 colony-forming units per 100ml for Intestinal enterococci (IE) and below 500 cfu/100m; for Escherichia coli (E. coli). 'Good' was below 400 for IE and below 1000 for E. coli.

PG gave an update on the consideration of Scottish Water's new application to amend the CAR Licence for Gairloch WWTW. This was in the final stage of internal peer review. 2 representations had been received in relation to the new application.

PG explained that 21 day notices would be issued to relevant parties, including those who had made representations. He expected that this was likely to happen next week. SEPA had taken time to satisfy themselves that the standards they are setting are correct to safeguard the quality of the bathing waters.

AG asked what the timescale would be if a request for 'call in' by Scottish Ministers was not made.

PG indicated that the amended Licence would then be issued in around a month's time.

JW asked PG is construction of the outfall extension would be acceptable in principle during the bathing season.

PG thought this was unlikely to present any issue in relation to bathing water quality so long as the operational WWTW was working as it should.

6. Scottish Water project update

JW circulated photos showing the septic tanks in situ, as well as the newly constructed return chamber for the pumping station.

The site team was currently waiting for a weather window to enable further concrete pours to take place. The key mechanical and electrical equipment was on order.

JW also noted that preparatory work had begun at Lonemore for the new pumps to be installed there. He noted that reinstatement work would be carried out at the end of the job to restore the site as quickly as possible to tidy state.

7. Questions, feedback and next steps

IMcW asked what the latest budget was for all the work.

JW advised that the current estimate was approximately £3.8million. Early November was being targeted to complete construction work.

GS asked whether members were aware of any issues with traffic during the civil engineering work.

Members indicated that they were not aware of any particular problems. JW noted that some stone material was being crushed down and there may be some still to be removed from the site.

AG asked about the bunding and landscaping around the site and noted that this was not enough to use the material from the excavation.

JW confirmed this was correct and that it was hoped that the suitable material from the excavation could be re-used locally.

GS noted that the septic tank deliveries had gone ahead smoothly just after the Easter holidays.

JW explained that the disk filter for the site would be coming from Italy and the Ultra Violet disinfection equipment from the USA.

8. Any other business

KC noted that some separate work was being planned to replace the radio telemetry equipment on the existing pumping stations, which was coming to the end of its serviceable life.

KC also informed the group that a dig would be taking place on the ramps next to Pier Pumping Station. A source of saline ingress had been identified here and it was hoped to address this within the next 2-3 weeks to minimise potential for this to impact on the WWTW.

AG asked if the work would block the slipway and KC confirmed that it wouldn't.

9. Date of next meeting

GS suggested that a site visit could be organised to precede the next meeting to allow members to see the progress of work. There was interest in this idea.

After exploration of dates, it was agreed that further meetings would be scheduled for:

- Wednesday 4 September, 7pm – to be preceded by a late afternoon site visit at the WWTW
- Tuesday 10 December, 7pm

Scottish Water thanked members for attending and the meeting was closed.