

Oban Community Council

Minutes of Zoom meeting on 31st August 2020

1. Members present: Marri Malloy (convenor); Duncan Martin (vice-convenor), Stewart Maciver, Keith Miller, Laura Corbe, Jessie Macfarlane, Cynthia McKeown

Councillors: Elaine Robertson, Roddy MacCuish, Jim Lynch, Kieron Green, Andrew Vennard

Public: Colin Cooper, Alison Chadwick, Kathie Griffith

Apologies: Sandra Russell, Mary-Jean Devon, Jamie McGregor, Maurice Wilkins

Marri welcomed everyone.

2. Declarations of interest – none

3. Police report: Police not present. A report was submitted by email and will be added to this minute.

4. Minutes of last meeting were checked for accuracy and approved. Proposed DM Seconded JM

5. Matters arising: all on the agenda.

6. Ganavan: MM said that Ganavan had been completely disgusting, with the area behind the toilets and the food van having to be cleared of human waste each morning by amenity services. She asked the Councillors what they planned to do.

ER accepted that the situation was unacceptable and that we needed to put plans in place for next year. The position was that vehicles could be parked overnight, but people couldn't stay in them, but there was even information on the web saying that it was open and free. The Council were sending staff out early to ticket offenders.

The situation was widespread throughout Argyll and the Highlands. It will not be this year only, we need to provide facilities for water and disposal and be able to better manage the situation next year. There was a motion coming to the next Area Committee.

KG pointed out that much of the problem came from tents which were more difficult to manage under Right to Roam – the caravans and motorhomes had onboard facilities. We also had to be careful not to displace the activity on to roadside verges.

CC asked KG about the rules about tents, which do not apply to motorised vehicles. Only in parts of the National Park has it been possible to control camping. And there are advantages and disadvantages in being within an NP.

RM said that he has always been in favour of a barrier, at least until more permanent arrangements can be put in place. ER said that officials advised that the rules around barriers made this very difficult since it was public ground.

LC was not in favour of restricting camping but instead making it easier for people to camp responsibly. She would like to see basic facilities provided.

SM, speaking as a caravanner, said that this was a UK-wide problem. There were websites listing free sites, and Ganavan was listed. It was exacerbated by the fact that the local official sites were either

full or not accepting tourers. There needs to be basic disposal facilities. But it was unfair to blame just the caravans.

MM said that there was a basic conflict between Ganavan as an asset for the people of Oban to use, and its use by caravans parking for several days. It was pointed out that it used to be both a caravan and camp site, but unfortunately the caravan area was sold off for housing.

KM asked what was the nature of the antisocial behaviour which led to the toilets being closed overnight. RM said that they had been severely vandalised as soon as they were opened, but there had been no further damage.

DM recalled that when he came Oban there were tents behind the car park. We must remember that people who come camping may return in later life when they can afford to move upmarket. Welcoming them the first time is an investment for the future. There's no doubt that it's been made much worse by the closure of all the local touring sites, and the much better than average weather. It's always been a place for both locals and visitors, but he agreed we have to find some way of limiting the number of caravans to leave space for day visitors.

RM wanted to record that he thought we needed some short-term barrier. He was worried that the October holiday period would be just as bad. He believed that many of the vans arrived late at night and left early; the barrier was only needed overnight and only until we proper arrangements were in place. There is a health issue. SM said it was only a small minority who were responsible for the problem.

ER said that one of the issues was that there was nowhere for the disposal of waste water anywhere in Oban.

Action: OCC (DM) to write to Kirsty Flanagan, Jim Smith and Fergus Murray to highlight the issue.

KG: Must consider impact on surrounding areas if limited number people could camp there. Could keep track of vehicles with CCTV

ER: Mobile CCTV has been requested but it's likely to be in the future.

Problem is there is no disposal facility.

Ask Scottish water about fresh water top up at Ganavan, place it near a trouble hot-spot to deter dumpers!

AC: Friends of Ganavan update. Draw attention to recent survey particularly for housing development. Believe it would be very detrimental to the people of Oban. Objection to LDP2 were made but now start survey 1809 responses of surveys in a month. Vast majority of responses want to keep that area as a green open space, a very small minority believe housing will be a benefit. It's a very special & heavily used area not just by local community but also by visitors. It's a real asset and has been used more this year than ever. The vast majority of people are against development there & believe there is a need for housing but not in this area. The feeling that this is the only beach that is available for Oban & much be saved for the use of the people.

Action: AC to send DM results of their survey. This will be shared within & by OCC.

ER: This highlights how important Ganavan is to the people Oban. Economically & for the wellbeing of residents & visitors. Support it continuing as an area of great beauty & for the people.

MM: Support the stance of Friends of Ganavan, once it's gone it's gone & we can't ever get it back. Urge others to get online & support FoG & the survey.

KM: This is part of LDP2 Local Plan which is now with reporter for consideration. It went to the reporter as the council settled view. It'll be very hard at this late stage to get the reporter to strike out sections of LDP2 as the community become aware of it.

ER: Has spoken to strategic planners. This should have been picked up at last plan but this has not yet gone to council, it will be going in Dec/Jan. The survey can be presented to the council when LDP2 comes up for endorsement before it is sent to the reporter.

RM: The survey must be go to council ASAP.

AC: Most people have no idea that this was going to happen. Despite the consultation people are completely unaware of intentions.

LC: Alison raises a very valid point. The community has no idea what is in the development plan. The consultation did not demonstrate the areas, scale or stages of the already approved & proposed developments. Even with prior reading it was extremely difficult to get an overall picture & also to understand what individuals can do to either object or support developments. The objection process by individual areas is beyond the technical abilities of most community members. How can the system be changed?

RM: People must look more closely at the Local Development Plans, it's one of the most important documents council produce. But how to engage with the community?

LC: The documents are too confusing, the designations are not easily followed, maps don't line up. This should be made a lot clearer. How can it be made more accessible?

Agreement from ER, RM, MM

ER: Previously consultations were in person & with a presentation,. This process is now mostly on-line. There is not sufficient personnel for this any more. Must take back to the dept that this is an issue.

RM: Suggest best way to simplify is that for the most contentious local parts, a strategic planner should meet with councillors & local community.

Could OCC ask for exactly this? & invite developer to describe exactly what is planned.

DM: This was included in the master plan some years ago but the information presented only in Dunbeg.

RM: It's much easier to deviate from a Master Plan than from Local Development Plan.

Zoom break & thanks to Marri & Alexa for turning everyone's lights on :)

8 Covid update:

KG: No significant covid update. Public Health following up on the Gelatoburger case. A lot of demand for testing since school went back. Army testing will convert to ambulance testing & 2 day roster will continue throughout Argyll & Bute. Number's not rising, but still sporadic cases.

DM: Concerns that as winter approaching more people are meeting in houses rather than outdoors.

KG: Parties occurring with many people, should be limiting the number of people in a household. People forgetting limits.

RMcC: No social distancing in town, especially outside pubs. Must not be complacent. Good up-take of masks in supermarkets. Signage is there & have to keep the message going.

KG: Individuals should take it upon themselves to educate others. Note outbreak in Hawick, a town with very similar demographics to Oban.

MM: Train's do not have social distancing enforced. Can't book seats so can't know passenger numbers. Seating is open so no distancing. Why?

KG: School trains have restrictions but public transport does not. It's not easy to wait for the next train from Oban if one is busy. OCC should raise this as a concern to ScotRail.

LC: How is Oban as a town going to cope with an outbreak in the schools? What is the recent update on the sustains survey re covid after measures in town?

ER: Further "spaces for people" meeting was held & although plans are not finalised they are in the pipeline. Sustrans has allowed an extra budget for A&B to improve access to school. There is now a plan for the Glencruitten route to the high school

Action: ER to send plan to DM

RMcC: The plan will only work if people follow the rules. Has to be a town effort, complacency is a problem. Challenge people who are risking safety but be mindful of people with special requirements.

9 Councillors update:

ER: have heard most of my update already.

RMcC: Defer headlines to Jim. Working more on local issues due to covid. First site visit (Helensburgh). Council will have to make decisions about the way work will continue moving forward, especially over the winter. Attended A83 task force meeting... what is the permanent solution? Consultation until December & review in March but no fixed timelines.

KG: Covid major concern for HSCP. Focus on how to get other services back to normal safely & avoid waiting lists building up. How can people access the services over the coming months with risk of another outbreak. Lots of issues re Ganavan.

JL: Lots of Rockfield Rd issues. Soroba Rd cash barrier finally installed this month. McColl Terrace water pipes plan will be issued but there will be temporary problems there, possible yellow box there. Catalina play park with people parking making blind spot, need barriers. Drumore Rd road is overgrown from Network rail area. Youngsters meeting under bridge there, noise & criminal damage complaints. Mill Park overgrown with weeds & trees... determining who owns the ground. How to open the cinema safely, more regular cleaning. BT reviewing phone boxes, if there are any that people want to be kept they must get in touch. If people travel overseas & need to quarantine they're not entitled to statutory sick pay or help from place of work. This is a reserved matter. LC: what are the plans for Rockfield Rd specifically... it was the most complained about road in traffic survey & nothing has improved. The crash barrier is still in place since car drove through wall last year. JL will push hard for permanent solutions, need a council site visit. RMcC: One solution could be to have resident only parking... the wall probably belongs to Rockfield Centre. **Action: RMcC to find out who the wall belongs to.**

Planning

SMcI: No new plans. Still waiting on Dunollie plans. Application for 2 houses to the south of Eldeslie on boundary of Soroba House has been refused. (RMcC: there must be a structural engineers report on bridge which applicant was reluctant to do). SEPA has put in objection due to movement of watercourse for application for houses at end of McCaig Road. No update on Lonan Drive.

RMcC: Do we get consulted on alcohol licensing? There are many new applications.

DM: We used to, not recently.

KG: One application near Corran Halls attracting attention, local residents unhappy but nothing raised with OCC.

Action: RMcC will ensure applications are sent to OCC (DM) also.

Police Report:

Report provided by email.

Questions from public:

CC: Reaffirm that finding information on council webpages is extremely difficult, should not really be considered publicly available information.

AOB:

RMcC: Councillors election in 22 months.

DM: Rockfield Rd & Dungallan Rd seems to be worse than ever since lockdown eased. Need to restart engaging with council officers over parking.

ER: Review of TRO is complete so now need to get moving again since covid.

Action: Traffic to be included on next agenda

28th September for next meeting



OBAN LORN AND THE ISLES COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Name of Community Council:- Oban Community

Date of Report:- 31/08/2020

Name of officer submitting:- PC L448 Andrew Simpson –

Crimes/Offences that have occurred in community area since last meeting

For period:
Crimes / Incidents of note: beats –LB 23

I have had a look through the incidents of Note reported to police since 27th July 2020 for Oban.

At 18:10hrs on 27/7/20 on Albany street a 36 yr old male was found in possession of a quantity of Cannabis. He was reported accordingly.

At 16:05 hrs on 3/8/20 on Hill street a 39 year old male was arrested and reported for assaulting a 32 year old female.

At 01:55hrs on 6/8/20 on Corran Esplanade Oban a 38 year old was arrested for drink driving.

At 09:50 on 5/8/20 on Soroba road 61 year old male was charged with careless driving.

On 11/8/20 on Sinclair Drive a 39 year old male was found in possession of a quantity of Cannabis and reported accordingly.
On 15/8/20 at 23:00hrs a 33 year old male was arrested and reported for assaulting a 38 year old male on Stevenson street.

At 13:18hrs on 26/8/20 on Albany street a 33 yr old female was arrested and charged in the concern and supply of drugs.

At 23:30 hrs on 29/8/20 on the railway pier a 33 year old male was arrested and reported after assaulting a 23 year old male

Updates on any actions from previous meetings	Nothing noted.
Incidents of note or crime trends	. Divisional priorities remain as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Public Protection- Serious Crime & Terrorism- Violence, Disorder & Antisocial behaviour- Road Policing
Forthcoming events	None at present awaiting further guidance from Government re COVID 19 developments.