

OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ZOOM MEETING 25th January 2021 at 7pm.

1. Welcome

PRESENT: Marri Malloy (MM), Duncan Martin (DM), Keith Miller (KM), Cynthia McKeown (CMcK), Jessie MacFarlane (JMacF), Stewart McIver (SMcI), Sue Barnard (SB), Laura Corbe (LC), Grant Nicholson (GN), Frank Roberts (FR), Dougie Graham (DG)

COUNCILLORS: Kieron Green (KG), Jim Lynch (JL), Elaine Robertson (ER), Roddy McCuish (RMcC), Andrew Vennard (AV), Mary-Jean Devon (M-JD)

PUBLIC: Andrew Spence (AS), Andrew Holder, David Logan, Ellis Butcher (Oban Times), Rita Campbell (Press & Journal), Naoko Mabon, Seonaidh MacKenzie, Mairi Bryce (MB), Alison McNab, Beatrice, Billy, Archie Clarke, Duncan Rooray, Gavin MacLean, Georgina Reid, William McClymont, Jane Terris, John Watson, John Harrower, Mrk Batten, Ronnie, Neil Mackay

APOLOGIES: Maurice Wilkins, Colin Cooper, Michelle Gallagher, Sandra Russel, Neil McIntyre (NMcI)

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Police Report

None.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

Meeting of 26th October 2020 proposed as accurate by DM & seconded by GN

5. Matters Arising

Update on Ganavan toilets. BID to facilitate running of toilets despite being outwith BID remit area. Dougie Graham unable to support at this time. Needs someone to open & clean toilets, funding available. Seasonal Ganavan toilets are busier than permanent toilets on the pier.

Action point: LC to liaise with AS to post toilet requirements in search for staff.

6. Update from BID

Campervan parking - Andy to initiate discussions re camper parking over summer

BID awarded funds (10k) for waste disposal facilities, still looking for a site after several failed attempts. Looking for guidance from CC. Andy will speak to Scottish Water. M-JD suggested speaking to Craignure campground re waste disposal which has done the same recently

Christmas Lights need to be funded for next year. Tree lights are new, replaced this year. Existing lights are not fit for purpose & must be replaced. Approx 20k will need to be raised & BID are willing to work with community group to achieve this funding. BID are willing to pay 8k for installation & taking down.

7. Ganavan

ER: Council's stated case is the road to P4023 will be through Dunbeg corridor. She is against any road through Ganavan.

Councillors were asked for their positions re Ganavan.

KG Council has a settled position. He is on the planning committee & is unable to voice an opinion.

RMcC: Also sits on planning committee. He will be guided by constituents, if people are 100% against this then he will stand down from committee on this decision to represent the people.

M-JD: Also on committee however she will be listening & take the general consensus of what the community want

ER: Position is well known, working with community groups & it's clear the people don't want this development.

JL: Has had many representations and happy to say that he does not support development at Ganavan.

AV: Feedback is that Ganavan is a recreational area & must be preserved that way.

RMcC suggested community & OCC ask developer to make a site visit & establish exactly where development is planned.

LC community is vehemently against development at Ganavan & will not accept any degree of housing there. People don't want the feel of the area compromised by bringing a road from Ganavan or halfway house & the Ganavan road is unsuitable for increased traffic.

Gavin MacClean insists public consultation was inadequate & not well publicised.

FR also agrees consultation was inadequate. Is there a strategy to increase jobs for 2000 adults in the new houses?

ER is talking with strategic planners on this.

SMcI Council devolved powers to chief exec so many decision are out of hands of councillors. If 11+ complaints are received re a development then it should go to committee however it has been the case of 50-60 objections being received & applications are still passed. Councillors that vote on it have nothing to do with Oban.

The development Rd from Sewage works over the hill was for housing on either side so why is this area not taking precedence?

FR who are the strategic planners? What are the guidelines to which they must work & what input do they have from the local community?

RMcC suggests to liaise with Dunbeg CC regarding road.

Action point: MM to speak to Dunbeg CC

8. Scottish Water

Representatives from Scottish Water & Caledonia Water apologised for the lack of consultation with the Community Council.

The work has just finished outside the school & is now heading up to the junction with the 186.

The pipe was laid in the 40's, has had lots of temporary fixes but needed to be replaced & rerouted not least because it could undermine the integrity of the flats if there was a burst there. They are not aware of any links to any proposed developments. They are working to their 25 year strategic plan which also takes sewerage into account. The line will go very deeply under the train track, alongside the footpath & tie into the mains at the playing fields before crossing the road to tie in with the main pipe there.

9. Mural at Ganavan

Jane Terris talked about the proposal for a World War 2 mural on the end of the utility block at Ganavan to commemorate Oban's involvement. Social media & Councillors have been supportive. She was encouraged to go ahead with her plans & would have the support of local people.

Adventure Oban also have plans for the development of outdoor activities although still at initial stages. They plan more activities for local people & visitors.

Planning permission was given to the Council some years ago for a structure to be built at Ganavan but despite expressions of interest was not followed up on. This could be looked at again.

10. Councillor Reports

Andrew Vennard

Reported main activity had been on the Budget & COVID-19

Kieron Green

KG spoke of the HSPC consultation which was launched today and urged people to respond. The Consultation can be found on Information Oban as well as on the Council website.

Mary Jean Devon

Congratulated the Oban Gaelic Choir on their new track. There had been meetings about the water issues on Coll and with the Inshore Fishing Group about the severe difficulties they are facing since Brexit.

The chair of Mull And Iona Ferry Group told how they are looking to influence the purchase of a catamaran(rather than the 125 car capacity ferry propose by the Scottish Government) to give Mull a longer day service. For 3 days a week in winter the last ferry to Mull is at 3.55pm. A catamaran would be cheaper to buy and run . The smaller vessel could be used more frequently and for a longer time. It would also help to relieve traffic in Oban when so many cars are queuing to get to the pier at the same time.

Jim Lynch

Very interesting meeting with the Time for Change group. The Festivals group are looking to pull events together. Funding has been found to tar the forestry road on Kererra. The trees on Gallanach road which have not been inspected for many years are now being looked at by a local contractor. Still working on the signage problem.

Roddy McC

RMC disappointed that the Council had refused the offer of help from ACHA to grit the pavements.

Elaine Robertson

The Community Play Park has new office bearers and works with the Council to keep the park open. Lots of work to be done on the ferry issue. Report coming on Tweedale car park. Licensing for B&B's, self catering and hostels is going to have a real impact.

11. Planning

Update from SMcl - Specialist demolition team in at Kilbowie. Planning permission for the lodge only at this stage.

12. AOCB

Maurice Wilkins has decided to resign, the Chair expressed her thanks for his input and gratitude for his involvement.

Woodland Trust reported upgrades to paths are going ahead.

Next meeting- Monday 22nd. February at 7pm via Zoom.

13. Date of next meeting 22nd February 2021

Action point: LC to liaise with AS to advertise toilet requirements in search for staff.

Action point: MM to speak to Dunbeg CC