



Ardersier Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 27th November 2019

Location: PACE Café, Station Road, Ardersier

Present:

Highland Council

- Cllr Trish Robertson (TR)

Ardersier and Petty Community Council

- Kevin Reid (KR)
- Christine Wood (CW)

ESD (WWTW Project)

- Graeme Campbell, Project Manager (GC)

Scottish Water (SW)

- Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (GS)

Apologies:

Roddy Balfour (RB)



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

KR and welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies from RB.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Actions were reviewed as follows:

Action 1: ESD/SW to arrange a site visit for the CLG in Spring 2020.

It was agreed that it would be best to look at suitable dates at the first CLG meeting of the new year.

3. Scottish Water update

Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)

GC circulated pictures showing the latest progress on site.

He explained that there had been a peak in activity over the last 2 months and this was expected to continue over the remaining weeks before the festive period.

The focus of activity was the Final Settlement Tanks (FSTs), Return of Activated Sludge (RAS) and Surplus Activated Sludge (SAS) pumps, as well as excavations for ducting to be installed in between.

Across the site, the remaining concrete structures were progressing well.



The aeration lanes were complete, as at the time of the site visit. The concrete slab had been poured and the kiosk to house the MCC (Motor Control Centre) had been erected.

3 small green boxes had been installed to house blowers for the aeration lanes. These were acoustic shelters to eliminate the bulk of operational noise from this equipment.

Blinding concrete had been poured, ahead of the slab for the sludge holding tank and for the inlet works. A concrete had also been created for pumps which would empty the storm tanks when required.

The next substantial piece of work was the base for the sludge holding tank. The tank itself would follow and would be a 5 metre high dark green structure. This was expected to be seen from the road initially, but less so as screening planting matures.

GC noted that the 30mph zone between the village and Fort George, which had been in place on a temporary basis as part of the traffic management arrangements for the site, was being made permanent by Highland Council.

Looking at deliveries over the coming period, GC noted there were a number of pump skids being pre-fabricated off site at AJ Engineering in Forres and these would be delivered.

A number of pre-fabricated circular tanks were expected to be delivered in sections in January. The bulk of deliveries were expected to be complete by the end of February, with the exception of the half-bridge scrapers which had been discussed previously – deliveries of these were currently expected to run through until April.

GC noted that a single delivery had been detected since the Group's last meeting which had come through the village. Investigation had identified that the driver had not read the instructions issued. This has been followed up with the company involved who had apologised.

KR asked if a complaint had been received. GC confirmed that there had been no contact from residents, but the mistake had been identified on arrival at the site and followed up via the process in place. He confirmed that this was the first instance that had been identified of a delivery to the WWTW site not following the correct route, although he acknowledged there had been cases earlier in the year connected with the outfall site. Remaining deliveries to the site were from suppliers who had been to the site before without issues; and efforts were being made to ensure there were no further lapses. KR and members present confirmed that they had not been aware of any reports or complaints in this period.



GS reiterated apologies on Scottish Water's behalf for the lapses that had taken place in the operation of the Traffic Management Plan. The detection of this recent lapse reflected that the monitoring arrangements in place at the WWTW were robust, but every reasonable effort was being made to avoid recurrence.

4. Discussion

Questions and feedback from members

KR asked about the use of lights at the site.

GC explained that working under floodlights had been necessary on occasion to allow concrete to be polished.

TR asked what the current expectation was for the project's completion.

GC confirmed that the current end date for commissioning was autumn 2020. He expected the final work on site to be in the spring, with wagons attending to carry out surfacing work on the roadways within the site. There was a preference to do this in warmer weather. He was also awaiting confirmation of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks' plans to upgrade the power cable into the site. This would involve a road crossing, but he understood they would do half of the road at a time and use traffic lights.

CW asked if the quantity of rainfall over the summer and autumn had caused problems.

GC explained that the geology of the raised beach generally helped drainage and he didn't think the wet weather had caused any significant issues.

KR asked if any vehicles attending the site had hit a muntjac deer, the carcass of which he had seen on the verge of the lower Carse.

GC hadn't heard of any reports and noted that there was a 10mph limit that applied to site traffic. He noted that there had been dialogue with Highland Council roads about some verge damage on the C1005. The council was satisfied that this had not been caused by site vehicles and was following this up with a third party.

Leaving a legacy



GS confirmed that he understood planning consent had been resolved and the installation of a 4th interpretation board near to the Fort George car park was due to go ahead. KR indicated that he had not seen this yet.

There was also work still to take place to add waymarkers and John Orr had hoped he would be able to find funding for a new bench and renewal of the picnic tables. Consideration would be given to a community event to celebrate completion of the work in better weather.

GC noted that there was also still work to take place to improve the track down beyond the old entrance to the WWTW site, which was used for access by kite surfers.

5. Any other business

GS noted his thanks on behalf of Scottish Water to CW for opening up the PACE Café for the meetings and for the catering provided

6. Future meetings

It was agreed that, as discussed at the previous meeting, 2020 meetings would move to a quarterly basis, keeping to the existing slot on the last Wednesday of the relevant month. The provisional dates for these would therefore be:

Wednesday 26th February
Wednesday 27th May
Wednesday 26th August
Wednesday 25th November

As previously, meetings will take place at the PACE Café, starting from 5:30pm unless otherwise advertised.