

Dores & Essich Community Council

Dores Parish Hall at 1930 hrs

1.Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Angus MacLaren (Vice-Chair), , Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Duncan Manson, A, Colin MacPherson

2nd Dec 7:30 CC meeting minutes

Apologies

Cllr M Davidson

Jeanette Murray

Iain Cameron

John Martin

Alistair Thompson

In attendance Members of the Community and Representatives from Scottish Water
Graham Ambrose ,Lochness 360 Event Director

EM opened the meeting and welcomed all attending gave the apologies and asked for a proposer and second for the minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from last meeting
proposer Colin Macpherson
seconded Angus MacLaren

EM First full meeting since the election with the first meeting with Cllr M Davidson chairing to elect office bearers

EM Scottish Water Community liaison Officer Gavin Steele and others in attendance
They've been in the hall since 4pm with information event for community in hall

Gavin Steele- Referring to leaflet gave overview of Scottish Water explaining they are a public owned regulated utility. and the regulators that have oversight. (see attached leaflet)

Talked about the proposed scheme for Dores for domestic and non domestic supply for the area. Explained the two lochs used for water supply have a limited capacity and growth of population area addresses long term strategic water supply. Basic outline is Pump water from Loch Ness to the treatment works via Loch Ashie. It is a significant project and will go to the planning process next year and will give further detail on mitigating factors during the construction process.

Talked about upgrading the drinking water supply for the village from Aldourie and the power supply that is needed for the pumping station. Road impact would be managed. Upgrade of water supply for village would allow further development in the future for the village which is at capacity just now.

There has been a change in the initial plan regarding the biological and ecological species and isolating transfer to Loch Ashie.

Some work has been done on the design work to remedy this along with water going directly into the treatment works as opposed to going directly into the loch Ashie.

Scale of Project is significant for the North of Scotland and before committal to the project they will make sure the project is fit for purpose and value for money along with the carbon implications being carbon neutral by 2040.

Described pumping station site near hall. The information shown at hall today will be put on their website. Landscape and visual impact design is still to be finalised and are open to comments from the community. The point of today's visit is to seek feedback and to see if the project proceeds in the near term or further into the future. Proposes to keep channels open on progress and points out his contact details email phone number.

Member of Community asked if pipeline crosses core path what will be done to mitigate this ?

SW -Corepath will be kept open by putting in diversion

Member of Community asked if any concern of project being close to fish farm ?

SW substantial testing done on quality of water and are acceptable prior to going into the treatment works

Member of Community asked if any prospect that the design may change ?

SW not likely given size of project.

Member of Community raised issue of traffic calming would they consider costs of traffic calming that the Village has plans for in the future ?

SW Thinks there may have been initial discussing and planning process may make temp provision but plan is still at a very early stage but point out they want to show consideration to area but that costs would ultimately be levied on SW customers and this would be considered with the business case for the project and that it is economically regulated.

Member of Community pointed out that maximum capacity for village will there be no more houses in the village until this project goes ahead ?

SW Water main from Aldourie to village is approx 2" and would need to be upgraded for any further water supply capacity to be provided without jeopardizing existing service. IF the treatment plant isn't big enough that's down to SW if water needed that would fall on a developer. This project lets them meet both that isn't the norm.

Member of Community asked if the RedJohn Plan goes ahead two lots of projects being pumped up hill could this be combined ?

SW- Challenge to this is uncertainty as to whether either project goes ahead at the same time and doesn't think the conversation has been had with the developer and if it could be a feasible plan. There's nowhere else in the UK this has been done and would be unknown territory, if it did go ahead they realise if done at the same time planning would need to be done.

Member of Community asked Any visual impact along the shore next to Loch.?

SW yes some tree clearance some replanting once construction completed

All pipes below ground and submerged where it is in the Loch

AM asked You say power supply and water upgraded where does it come from?

SW water come from Aldourie, power will come from Inverness cable 12km to substation

AM Asked if its been surveyed with a view to the road disruption given past construction road

SW the power cable 80 %underground 20 %above regarding the disruption on the road to Inverness given recent historical disruption. Noise impact assessment willow barrier placed would this still be done

Member of Community asked in normal operation how long will it operate ?

SW -approx 2 hours per day normally if its really dry summer then it could change to 24

EM regarding the upgrade of the water supply asking if that is one of the first things that could happen given the plan has been ongoing for sometime and stifling development in the community and that developers won't be on hand to supply this as any development will be by small developers.

SW -Noise assessment refreshed and concluded 3m high muffle barrier from emitting into the village from the pumping station and noise reducing measures from the pumps themselves.

Ella- asking about creating an access from the site to the hall to allow for future housing and car parking at the hall as this had been agreed before including a footpath

SW -This was news to the SW representatives and they will have to follow up on this

EM pointed out she has now dealt with 5 liaison officers from Scottish Water

EM road safety through the village was discussed previously with SW and that representations made to HC by the CC the traffic calming would need to be addressed and that it would be top of the list during planning submission

SW This would be discussed with management

Member of Community asked regarding Loch Ness 360 had to apply for planning for the footpath and one missing link of 200yds could this be made available along with the project?

SW have taken onboard the points raised and will take them to the decision makers who balance the project with the cost to carry out the project it may risk the items raised being done along with further discussions with all interested parties.

SW discussed if the best way forward was to raise issues now or leave for planning process. Pointed out the planning authority would have final say on how the project would proceed .

EM thanked Scottish Water for their attendance and time.

EM update on affordable housing, we've heard about the water and negotiations continue with the Church of Scotland about land near church and should know by the end of year should and update at the next Community Council meeting where the roads dept will be on hand at that meeting regarding traffic planning.

EM Letter from the IMFD we had asked for a site to be identified for a car park for approx 40 cars

EM Cycle path awaiting a reply from Aldourie estate

EM Road safety Scaniport and Cycle path maintenance

CM- Drew Hendry MP sent a letter to CM to say he was seeking solutions with the maintenance due to the lack of funds for its maintenance but matter was on hold due to UK elections

Member of Community asked if on the cycle path would it be possible for better signage

CM- the CC has no recourse over sustrans and HC to do this and it's hard to make the cyclists use the cycle path.

We can try to make it safer to use and the signage point has been made already and to reinforce the signage .

EM Invites Graham from LochNess 360 to discuss the event

GA Introduced himself as event director and he was here to give an update on the event. 29th 30th 31st of May 2020 sponsored by SSE renewables

Event is on to promote people staying longer and for sustainable tourism in the area.

Generating revenue invested in South Loch Ness trail and is the fundamental reason behind this.

Key events ultra marathon bike challenge and 3 marathons, start and finish in field in Dores. Follows the South Loch Ness trail on this side of the loch.

1st of 3 marathons starts in dores round loch and third marathon ends in dores

Launched in Sept

bike challenge full 100 (no intention to raise nos)

ultra 107 entrants so far signed up capped at 200

3 marathon event capped at 100 slowest sign up so far

Signage marshalling aid stations and further detail being worked on

Looking for more sponsorship and volunteers to be marshalls and will send us info pack for those interested , on last day plan to make an event of the finish.

all events finish within approx 2 hours so vendors local business can have stalls in place.

Member of Community asked will photos be taken on the pinch points so as any damage done can be rectified as work has already been carried out by LNAG ?

G A yes photos will be taken and assigned rectification in key areas

Member of Community Will Dores be the host this year is it likely it will move elsewhere in future if it was successful ?

GA No Dores will be the venue / FAQ on their website and more than happy to come back and give update in Feb once plan further on

Member of Community will camping be done in field ?

GA no this initially thought about it by wary about other facilities that would need to be provided

EM thanked Grahame from Lochness 360 for his attendance

EM road safety Scaniport some information the HC and Police we are trying to get them together to address issues raised Scaniport -Ballindarroch scrub clearing on the overgrown existing path. Could it be addressed ? beneficial for walkers and residents no suggestion for cyclists as this would require further work.

Could letter be sent to Scaniport est from CC suggesting this be done

Simon to send a Letter to Scaniport Est from Community to Alisdair Davidson Bowls James Baillie estate owner.

Member of Community asked would it be for Scaniport Community or people who drive out and walk

CM more for local people but would keep walkers off the dangerous road side to village and mentioned it would be a good route for walkers coming from the town.

It was noted it would be an informal path

LNAG would be happy to manage project if landowner was agreeable.

EM Dest Route 78- will follow up at the next meeting when JM in attendance
Grass cutting awaiting pricing

ILI - they had an open day in the hall with a good turnout goes to planning on Wednesday 4th December
Dores Inn regarding insurance for the play park and AD from Dores Inn has confirmed he has insurance for the playpark.
As toilets are closed for the close season it was discussed if a key will be left out for disabled users, yes this would be arranged but noted disabled users carry keys.

Police report from FT Aug one report of no MOT

EM Planning one proposed additional garage and convert existing garage standalone residence . CM mentioned its his neighbours and a straightforward plan no issue for CC and similar to other schemes.

Treasurer's Report - EM on behalf of IC pointed out the few items of expenditure mainly web hosting

discussion about revamp of community website could young members in community be involved on sub group to discuss how best to proceed with input. Agreed to gather the options and look into this

AOCB

EM Christmas Tree £150 for lights from HC on tree, Duncan Gavin and Derek got tree and lights to be installed by HC by the end of the week. If council were to supply tree it would have cost over £200

Discussed if a tree be put into seed next to old petrol station so it could be used for a number of years ?

Will be discussed at the next meeting. Further lights may be put up as you come into the village, this is being looked into regarding cost.

EM was at AGM of Development Trust it was suggested a Dores Community bulletin could be done on behalf of other groups in the area and Fiona has offered to pull it together to judge feedback from community.

CC agreed to printing costs of of first edition

EM thanks all for their attendance and closed the meeting