

Arran Community Council

Meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2017 at 6pm at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick

Present: Bill Calderwood (Chair), Chris Attkins (Secretary), Neil Arthur, John Lamont, Jim Henderson, Peter McMullen, Peter Randell, Ricky McMaster, Julie Graham, Cllr Timothy Billings, Sergeant Allen Gow and Constable Jim Baird.

1. Welcome / Apologies

Apologies received from Liz Evans, Marilyn Woods, Barry Mochan & Gus MacLeod.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 25th April 2017

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Peter Randell and seconded by Julie Graham.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Brodick Taxi Bays: With regard to redeployment of the existing three taxi bays to Loading Bays/Disabled Bays/ Parking Bays once the new pier is operational, Bill Calderwood reported that the CC's views would be invited by NAC Roads dept., for consideration alongside those of the Police and adjoining commercial operators. Neil Arthur suggested an enforceable ten-minute loading bay with unanimous approval. Bill Calderwood felt one bay should become a short-term disabled parking space. This too was agreed. **Action:** await confirmation of procedures on formal transfer to new terminal and request change to current locations.

3.2 Roads Maintenance

Bill Calderwood reported good progress and Julie Graham praised the job done at the north end of the island. General appreciation was expressed for the work done. Neil Arthur and Bill Calderwood identified further short sections as priorities for future upgrading, including untreated parts of the String and at Corriegills.

Action: Each member to consult and submit note of areas to be considered if funding were to be available to Bill ASAP.

3.3 Future Relationship of the Community Council with NAC

Audrey Sutton has proposed to visit on 28th June to discuss our concerns. Awaiting confirmation of arrangements.

3.4 School Speed Restriction Signs

Gus McLeod had informed the Chair that a technician and contractor would visit the island today (30th May) to inspect and assess the reinstatement and repair of all broken signs. Sergeant Gow pointed out that while his officers continued to advise motorists, they were unable to enforce the 20mph limit while the signs were not functioning. Ricky McMaster suggested spares be kept to reduce the time taken to repair them in future.

3.5 Appealing to Young People

Bill Calderwood and Chris Attkins had been invited to attend a meeting of the High School Student Council at which they outlined the purpose of the CC and encouraged their participation. Constructive ideas had been discussed.

Action: Follow up regards Logo design.

3.6 Closure of Toilets

Earlier today Arran representatives had made a presentation to the Council's Audit & Scrutiny Committee. Hilary Paton, the instigator of the petition, had submitted further signatures, now totalling 3,000 against the closures. Jane Howe from the PHT had spoken of the problems experienced by businesses. Bill Calderwood had provided a general overview, highlighting the inconsistency of the Council's handling of the closures throughout North Ayrshire. He had explained that with NAC support there

were several more groups willing to consider taking on their facilities. Cllr Billings had highlighted aspects with reference to the Local Plan. The Council had agreed to reconsider their decision at a further meeting on 20th June.

Cllr Billings offered to ascertain whether or not a further submission could be made. Julie Graham wondered how it might affect those in the process of adopting their local facilities if the Council changes its policy. Bill Calderwood explained that those attending had suggested that NAC make funding available towards providing this basic requirement, leaving it up to local communities how best to make use of whatever funds are available. NAC were being pressed to bring the facilities up to an operational standard and then work with a community partnership, agreeing a basic budget to maintain the service. Bill Calderwood proposed that if NAC agree to funding that the CC write to NAC requesting that Kildonan be provided with initial supplies, in line with the same support that had been provided to the other villages.

4. Police Report

Sergeant Gow explained that with the arrival of four additional officers for the summer, double patrols are now possible, together with evening cover. Incidents of speeding had declined following further police warnings. Increased phone calls from the public were having a positive impact on reducing drink-driving. John Lamont raised the issue of people defecating in public since the closure of the toilets. Sgt Gow acknowledged this might become a problem his officers would have to deal with.

5. Correspondence

5.1 National Speed Limits

Mark Ruskell MSP was seeking feedback on his Private Members' Bill to reduce the default speed limit from 30 to 20mph. Chris Atkins had posted this proposal on the Community Forum and would submit a summary of comments received.

5.2 Proposed Telecommunication Mast at Whiting Bay

Five residents had registered complaints and several had contacted the CC seeking reassurance and assistance. Our response covered their concerns.

5.3 Hedge Trimming

A Lamlash resident had requested that a hedge be cut to maintain line of sight. Local NAC officers were dealing with the request.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees

6.1 Elderly Forum:

Peter Randell reported that following publicity, the most recent meeting had attracted a record number of attendees.

6.2 Environmental Group:

Ricky McMaster's report had been circulated.

6.3 Forestry:

Andy Walker had advised that the harvesting of Glenashdale Falls had been postponed, probably until next year.

6.4 Ferries:

Bill Calderwood explained that a detailed project plan for the proposed upgrade to the Ardrossan port was still to be developed. Concerns had been expressed about some of the proposed alterations and detailed plans would be essential to ensure maintenance of service, since the logistics were potentially problematic.

With regard to the Summer schedule for 2018 a full two-boat summer service between Ardrossan and Brodick had again been requested, with extensions to the Claonaig – Lochranza summer service and an earlier Sunday departure from Lochranza. John Lamont pointed out that the 10:18 train from Glasgow Central reaches Ardrossan at 11:04 — too late for the 11:05 ferry departure. When he had queried this with CalMac he had been advised that, where possible, the ferry waited

for this train. It was agreed to submit a request to tweak the timetable to integrate the services.

6.5 Non-digital Communications

Peter Randell and Marilyn Woods' notes had been circulated. Peter asked whether the lack of response to a recent article in the Banner was due to lack of community interest or lack of knowledge. Ricky McMaster suggested that public complacency arose from a general contentment and that people would readily approach the CC whenever they had concerns.

He cited the example of the proposed slipway at Machrie, which had led to many contacting their local representatives. He suggested that raising the CC profile with NAC was a priority.

Jim Henderson agreed, but nevertheless thought that ignorance prevailed. The discussion led seamlessly to the next item on the agenda...

7. Future Role of Community Councils in NAC

Ricky McMaster expressed concern that raising public expectations of the CC without NAC's collaboration would be pointless. John Lamont agreed, opining that NAC were paying only lip service to CCs. Bill Calderwood reminded everyone that the primary purpose of the CC was to reflect the concerns and views of the community to the local authority and other relevant bodies. He spoke of general, island-wide complacency, as evidenced at village association meetings. John Lamont wondered whether the forthcoming Islands Bill presented an opportunity for change. He asked, "Could we create an Arran Alliance to have greater influence within the Council?" Neil Arthur asked whether there were too many groups with too much overlap. Bill Calderwood expressed the view that without better NAC recognition, any initiatives to raise the profile of the CC could be setting ourselves up to fail. Peter McMullen pointed out that the work of the CC was very issue driven and it was important to be in a position to respond to these as an island, rather than disparate smaller groups. The Chairman agreed, pointing out that Arran's CC agenda items were often quite different from other CCs. Chris Attkins asked how we might best help our new Councillors to help us forge better relationships with NAC. Cllr Billings expressed enthusiasm to play his part in this. Bill Calderwood proposed that a letter be sent to NAC pointing out that we do not think it appropriate to spend time and money on self-promotion to the wider community ahead of more dialogue and better definition of how the CCs and NAC interface. This was agreed unanimously.

8. NAC Councillors' Report

Cllr Billings mentioned that his regular updates posted to the Community Forum had generally been well received and appreciated. He explained that he was now part of the Joint Integration Board and vice chair of the Planning group, of which Cllr Ellen McMaster was also a member.

9. AOCB

Bill Calderwood sought approval for himself and Jim Henderson to continue representing the CC on the Ferry Committee. This was unanimously endorsed. John Lamont reported that Eco Savvy had received a grant for a project manager. Nine hubs would now be viable. Kilmory Hall would be opening on 14th June. Further details were available from Barbara l'Anson on 700411.

10. Proposed Date of Next Meeting — 27th June 2017