

Isle of Arran Community Council  
Minutes  
Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Those present: Ricky McMaster (Chair), Bill Calderwood (Vice Chair), Jim Henderson, Neil Arthur, Hazel Gardiner, Marilyn Woods, John Lamont, Liz Evans, Daniel Bowles, Colin McKenzie, Barry Mochan, Cllr John Bruce and G McLeod (NAC Local officer).

Also present were Hugh Boag (Arran Banner) and Sgt Dodds.

**1. Welcome / Apologies**

Apologies: Peter McMullen, Jim Nichols.

**2. Minutes from Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Proposed, Colin McKenzie, seconded, Liz Evans.

**3. Matters Arising:**

• **Public Toilet:** Facilities on Arran

No further costing information has been received and Gus McL. advised that NAC were looking at making some funds available to communities who were interested in taking over the facilities. G McL. to confirm details of meeting with NAC rep to discuss further. It is still anticipated that a paper will be prepared for the council consideration on their return from summer recess in late Aug.

• **Locality Planning:**

Invitations to interested members had been issued by NAC and meeting arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> June. All were reminded that RSVP was requested for attendees. Discussion focussed on proposed structure, relevance to other groups and potential impact to CC's.

**4. Police Report**

• Sgt Dodds confirmed the presence of our 4 summer officers who were familiarising themselves with the island. He also indicated that whilst visitor and vehicle numbers had increased with RET they had noted no significant increase in traffic incidents but reports of civil disobedience were slightly up.

Cyclist numbers were also challenging as the numbers were often not forecast and the "road manners" for some groups is being monitored. Work was ongoing to "educate" cyclists of the road conditions etc.

• Speed of road vehicles was also being monitored and an additional speed camera is to be provided. A question was asked if further deployment of the covert cameras was being followed up and Gus McL will look at this but the systems are already fully utilised on the mainland and it is a shared resource.

• Questions were also asked regarding overnighting for camper vans and the volume on the road. Several car parks on the island are already identified for no overnight parking and it was confirmed that a review of all parking areas was being undertaken to confirm which parks and what conditions this can be applied to. Examples were provided of several locations where the numbers were giving concern for residents and businesses. It was reported that the "official" sites were being well utilised but there still appears to be a need for further review of the facilities. This also linked to the decision to close public conveniences which was felt to be a backward step by the council in accommodating visitors. Question was asked if the old travellers' site on the NTS land could be utilised. This has been suggested several times and it will be followed up again

- A request was made for further signage to be erected highlighting “No overnighting” when the survey had been completed and this was agreed by the local officer. It was also confirmed that the police will have powers to enforce the signs.

## **5. ArranMan Event.**

Sgt Dodds had contacted the CC to gather local views on the plans for the event as they impacted Lamlash and potential parking restrictions. The responses had been collected and forwarded to all prior to the meeting. General view was that the event would bring visitors to the island but the organiser needed to recognise the impact to the residents and traffic management etc should be handled by a professional organisation. Although it appears that the event organisation was being handled better than 2015 it was requested that the arrangements should be finalised much earlier and residents notified much further in advance for future events. Further meeting between local authority emergency services and organiser scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> June to confirm arrangements.

## **6. Correspondence**

Messages received via “Contactus”

- Message from resident complaining that the grass verges were being cut at a time when wild flowers were still evident. Gus McL explained that this service was carried out by a contractor on behalf of the council. Unfortunately the work was being carried out to a different schedule than prescribed. It was emphasised that the council’s priority was first for the safety of all users. Site lines were also important. A review of the process is being undertaken.
- The CC were invited to indicate support for a seedcorn funding application to carry out feasibility to establish Arran as a BIDs location. It was agreed to support this initial application without any commitment beyond that.

## **7. Reports**

### **Ferry Committee**

- Ferry Committee met on the 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Minutes from public meeting were now available on website. The committee received an overview of the design for the new boats being constructed. At this stage it was limited to the car deck area with requests for views on the proposal. It is proposed to have mezzanine floors which are more flexible than the existing vessel. Questions regarding medical facilities were recorded and it was agreed that the hospital manager will provide a list of the medical needs.

There has been no date set for the group who reviewed the tender process to get together again and the FC have requested a date and suggested that this be linked to the start of discussions with the operator regards improved user consultation.

- Campervan capacity and the example of these vehicles displacing cars on the Lochranza route with adverse financial impact were highlighted. The capacity allocated to cycles was also raised and this will be taken up to the FC.

### **Connect Arran**

NA provided update on broadband alternative pilot at Machrie which is progressing well and residents await further information.

Still aware of ongoing issues with the BT roll-out. Examples of potential customers not being accommodated for the superfast service. This is adversely impacting business premises. Request for review of cabinets around the island still being pursued.

BC reported 4G pilot is progressing slower than anticipated. Discussions continue with potential operators and until this is agreed the planning applications may be premature.

### **Dog Fouling**

VisitArran had provided an alternative design which they have prepared. General view was that this did not deliver the message intended from the CC version. It was agreed that the work group would review and discuss with VA.

Approx. 50 signs have been provided by NAC and a list of locations was to be provided to the local officer by each village.

### **Forestry**

Concerns had been raised regards the perceived adverse impact of the move to standing sales. This could potentially impact local supplies and also transport arrangements. Discussion to be arranged with forestry to understand the situation.

## **8. Councillor's report:**

Cllr Bruce updated the meeting on several points.

- Handed out copies of "Getting it RIGHT for you" explaining the NAC Children's Services Strategic Partnerships aims to give the best start in life.
- Update on parking restrictions for overnighting
- New Facebook site launched related to missing dogs.
- Covered the forthcoming locality planning meeting scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- Boundaries commission announcement will need to be verified by Holyrood before it is introduced.
- Apologies registered in advance for the next meeting due to personal arrangements..

## **9. AOB.**

NA voiced appreciation on behalf of the west coast communities for the work carried out on the string road. He complimented the quality of the work and the limited inconvenience to residents and other users.

G McL. advised of surface dressing work scheduled to be carried out 1<sup>st</sup> week of Aug. at Lamlash, Kildonan and Pirmill.

**10. Date of the next meeting** 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016 @ 6.00pm.