

# NORTH KNAPDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 AT CAIRNBAAN HOTEL AT 7.45 PM

## MINUTES

**Attending:** Hugh Semple (Chairman), John Clark (Vice Chairman), Fiona MacArthur, Jilly Wilson, Tim Hedley, Donnie MacMillan (A&B Cllr) Alison Hay (A&B Cllr), Douglas Philand (A&B Cllr), and 26 members of the community.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Frances Ryan and Bennie Brigland

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting. Proposed by Fiona MacArthur, seconded by John Clark, signed by the Chairman

**3. Matters Arising**

**Dog Fouling in Tayvallich**

The Chairman met with Argyll & Bute Council (A&BC) Environmental Officer in Tayvallich. She posted additional signs, and advised that individuals may be reported to A&BC who have the power to issue a £40 "on the spot" fine. It was suggested that an additional sign be posted by NKCC at or near the shop.

**4. Correspondence**

5.

- **Scottish Landscape Forum.** Report on activities with an opportunity for feedback on local activities.
- **A&BC Licensing Board.** Consultation opportunity on draft changes to licensing policy.
- **Mid Argyll Substance Mis-use Group.** Information on the group and advice that it is based at Mid Argyll & Bute Hospital
- **A&BC Planning Department.** Following a complaint about the new parking area at Cairnbaan, and indicating that the car park required planning consent. It was agreed that NKCC should take this up with Mr Raeburn who contracted the work.
- **A&BC regarding Post Office Closures.** Indicating 7 A&B branches will close, although not which ones. It is understood that the Tayvallich PO will not be closed.

**ACTION:** NKCC to confirm situation

- **Army Headquarters 31 (Scottish Brigade).** RAF exercises will be carried out across Scotland from 12 – 22 November
- **A&BC Local Transport Strategy "Moving Forward"**
- **A&BC Modifications to Local Plan.** Modifications to renewable Energy Policies
- **Scottish Water re: Flooding.** Are we concerned about flooding in our area>

**ACTION:** NKCC to respond "YES"

## 6. Planning

The weekly planning lists for the last three months were read out with no particular comments.

## 7. Roads

### ▪ Temporary Traffic Lights at Bellanoch

Forestry Commission, British Waterways, and A&BC are investigating the possibility of moving the road away from the canal at this section although it is taking some time

### ▪ Pot Holes

A&BC have two new road mending machines (one on temporary loan). There was some dubiety about the effectiveness of these pieces of equipment. There were also reports of damage to vehicles due to the poor state of the roads

### ▪ Keills Road

It was reported that lengths of the road have been marked for repair – for the second time this year.

- [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). This website was again mentioned. To report a problem, go to the site, enter a post code, locate the problem on their map, enter the details (uploading a photo is even better). The site then sends the complaint to the local authority. Previous reports have had good success, and use of the site was encouraged.

- **Pavements at Cairnbaan.** The issue of pavements from Creag Glas and the new MacLeod houses was raised again. At previous meetings, NKCC had been advised (by Cllr Bruce Robertson – now retired) that funds had been set aside for this purpose.

**ACTION:** A&B Councillors to meet *on site* with Area Roads Manager to consider the state of local roads. Tim Hedley to liaise indicating worst stretches.

## 8. Local Issues

### Jura Ferry Trial

Deborah Bryce from the Jura Development Company gave a presentation on the background to the ferry, and the proposals for the future:

- 80% of Jura residents wanted a feasibility study into a direct link with the mainland
- Although car ferries were considered to be feasible, a passenger ferry was the preferred option
- Initially considering Crinan, Tayvallich became the favoured location due to existing infrastructure/bus links, etc
- It is acknowledged that here are car parking issues, however the trial was considered to be very successful.
- A funding application for a continuation has been submitted to HITRANS

Responses to Questions from the floor:

- Blair Fletcher, from A&BC indicated that a limited amount of work has gone into additional car parking at Tayvallich at this stage. Initial predicted levels of passengers anticipate 3 or 4 cars per journey and it is hoped that these can be accommodated by existing car parking at the shop and at the hall. The A&BC aspiration at this stage is to first establish the service with preliminary provisions
- Dick Mays, representing Jura, stated that they would like to start the service in April 2008, and would then review with Tayvallich residents in June to consider impacts.
- Blair Fletcher stated that A&BC do not have a mechanism to prevent cars being abandoned, and would resist painting lines on the road, or installing additional signs regarding parking due to the visual impact. It was suggested that the appropriate mechanism may well be the ferry operator by simply enquiring as to where passengers have parked.

- It was stated that tendering for the new season is still being discussed. It may be that the trial operator will simply be re-contracted.

### **Proposed Wood Fired Biomass Energy Project – Ach nabreck**

Fergus Tickell of Northern Energy Developments Ltd (NED LTD) gave a presentation on the proposal:

- Proposed site extends to 2 hectares, 2km NW of Lochgilphead, and a 30 yr lease has been negotiated with owners, the Forestry Commission. It is directly linked to 20000 hectares of commercial forestry through forest roads. It is designated for Industrial Development in the Local Plan
- Electricity will be exported to the grid. This is achievable because of the relatively small output which will be used locally rather than nationally, and the plant will use local timber
- It will be a combustion steam plant (widely used throughout Europe), fuelled exclusively from woodchips
- The plant will operate for a min of ,8000 hours per year, and generate c. 40,000MWh of electricity (enough to power 8 – 10,000 houses per annum)
- Total capital investment will be around £12 millions
- It is estimated that 30 direct and indirect jobs will be created

Responses to Questions from the floor:

- This development would not be affected by the “grid queue” (larger scale projects must wait until 2012 for there to be capacity in the National Grid)
- Stump recovery is an option for additional wood, and a full scale trial is planned with equipment that is already proven in Europe.
- Timescale. Hope for planning consent early 2008, opening late 2008/early 2009. The plant’s life may be perpetuity, certainly decades.
- It is unlikely that NED Ltd will operate the plant. It is not their only project and they are currently flexible about operation. It may be Scottish Woodlands, it may be NED Ltd, it may be one of the larger existing power generators.
- The site will NOT burn re-cycled timber. Although this is possible, it would turn the project into a waste incineration plant and that is not the intention
- There is waste heat from the plant, and theoretically it could be used in eg horticulture and chip drying. Therefore the plant may be a catalyst to further local development

### **Revised Proposal for Knapdale Beaver Trial**

- Previously discussed at length by NKCC (2005), and rejected by the Scottish Parliament, the new proposals do not appear to have changed in any way.
- From a stakeholders meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October it would appear that members of the public have more sympathy for the proposal than professional involved in Land Management
- A new consultation is in progress, although questions were raised about its structure and usefulness
- Voices from the floor indicated strong views both for and against the proposals and a show of hands was requested – results as follows:

-	In favour	-	4
-	Against -	-	9
-	Indifferent	-	9
-	No response	-	10

**ACTION:** NKCC to consider this response and act accordingly

## Local Issues – Achnamara

1. Kilmory resident stated that their recycle bin is now only being emptied monthly (previously fortnightly). A&BC response (in writing) is a reduction in transport costs/impact; a denial of responsibility as the pick up is carried out by an independent recycling company; an offer of two bins to fill. A&B Councillors present were unaware of this move.

**ACTION:** NKCC to pursue on receipt of a copy of A&BC letter

2. Speeding is an on-going problem

**ACTION:** Tim Hedley will pursue suggestion of “20s plenty”, or flashing “slow down” sign

## Local Issues – Bellanoch

None

## Local Issues – Cairnbaan

1. Car Parking area.

Cairnbaan residents re-stated the area is too small, and further that NKCC should “counter claim” Mr & Mrs Raeburn’s claim to the original area. Tim Hedley re-stated the history and the fact that the Raeburn’s had a legitimate claim to the land adjacent to their house (please see previous minutes).

This matter has been discussed over several NKCC meetings, and a plan of action agreed which involves NKCC gaining title to the rest of the land without title (which is far larger than the laid out car park). Once secured, NKCC will seek grant to enlarge the car park. A show of hands was requested with the following result:

Counter Claim against the Raeburns	-	3 in favour
Carry on as previously agreed	-	9 in favour

**ACTION:** NKCC will proceed with its initial remit

## Local Issues – Crinan

The request for a 30MPH speed limit is on-going

## Local Issues – Tayvallich

None

### 9. AOCB

1. Planning Application for 3 houses at Ardnafadmore (between Carsaig and Tayvallich) by “Classic Experience, Pitlochry”.

This application did not appear on the planning list. Gonghill have sold two areas of land to the company. The one above, and land at Carsaig Jetty which has been the subject of applications before and is now a protected site within the Local Plan.

The planning Department has advised that an application was received but that it cannot be processed as it is within an area with outstanding objections in the new Local plan. It has, therefore, been withdrawn to be re-lodged when the Local Plan is adopted.

### 10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at Crinan at 7.45pm