

Uig Harbour Redevelopment - COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Minutes for liaison Meeting held on **Thursday 12th May 2022 at 1900Hrs**
 Meeting held in the Uig Community Hall.

1	Introductions
	<p>Councillor Munro thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p> <p>Callum Munro (CM) – Councillor – The Highland Council (Chair) Andrew MacIver (AM) – Principal Engineer – The Highland Council Iain MacLennan (IM) – Project Manager – The Highland Council (THC) Steve Scott (SS) – Project Manager – RJ McLeod (RJM) Sean Melville (SM) – Sub Agent – RJ McLeod Duncan MacDonald (DM) – Sub Agent – RJ McLeod Martin Madigan (MM) – Local Campsite Owner Angus Ross (AR) - Local Resident Margaret Freestone (MF) – Local Resident Andrew Norman (AR) – Local Resident</p>
2	Apologies
	<p>John Finlayson – The Highland Council Garry Smith – The Highland Council Billy Harley – Local Hotel Owner</p>
3	Review of Previous Meeting's Minutes
	<p>Previous meeting minutes accepted. Responses to several items from previous minutes below:</p> <p>CM requests update on the speed limit through Uig village.</p> <p>AM explains that the Active Travel report conducted by HITRANS has now been passed to Transport Scotland (TS) for review. Recently Transport Scotland have been focusing their efforts on completing the TTRO required for the redevelopment works and shall now review the proposal for the speed limit through the village to become 30mph throughout. A consideration shall be given to establishing a 20mph speed limit in the village but this process can take over 12 months and should hopefully be in place by the completion of the construction works.</p> <p>MM queries why the process was a lot shorter for the speed limit reduction in Portree.</p> <p>AM responds explaining that TS look at each proposal on a case by case basis but cannot see why the speed limit reduction in Uig would not be granted.</p> <p>CM agrees with AM that the reduction in Uig should be granted.</p>

	<p>CM requests update on the planning permission for the croft land in Uig that was purchased by The Highland Council (THC).</p> <p>AM provides update explaining that the planning permission was related to the new terminal building works. The terminal building works have gone to tender and only one price was received. TS have requested that a value engineering exercise is undertaken and the project is to go back out for tender once this exercise is complete – this is expected to be around October / November with works due to commence early 2023. As croft land was due to be used for material storage for the terminal building works, THC are to assess the future use of this land and also to discuss with RJM. AM would also like to confirm that Mrs Freestone shall be informed of any progress on this matter.</p> <p>CM asks if there has been an update on the CalMac service plans for during the outage period</p> <p>AM explains that CalMac’s consultation process has taken place with community engagement across Lochmaddy, Tarbert and Uig and they are currently reviewing the feedback. Some more information should be provided in the next 3-4 weeks.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Progress</p>
	<p>SS gives update on the project and shows presentation on the current and upcoming works. Presentation added to THC website</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Community Liaison</p>
	<p>AR would like to discuss the community benefit for the project. Previously from other projects on Skye such as windfarms and fish farm works there has been a sum of money used for community benefit, however, from the presentation it does not seem like that is the case on this project?</p> <p>SS explains that on the windfarm and fish farm project this fund is set up through the developer of the project as opposed to the contractor. Unfortunately on this project a fund such as the one discussed is not available, however, RJM will endeavour to support the community through charity events, employing local labour and school visits. If any of the community do have any ideas on how else the community could be supported please let RJM know.</p>

CM adds that the windfarm and fish farm projects do create revenue and this is where the community benefit fund is created however this project will not. Following on from Billy Harley's proposal to set up a community benefit meeting, CM confirms he is happy to chair this meeting.

AR adds that in the initial consultation it appeared that a certain amount of commitment had been promised to the local community and this appears to have been forgotten. A meeting should be held to discuss the options to benefit the community i.e the demolition of the existing CalMac building

CM agrees that there are over five years interpretation of what community benefit will be in place during the project and that it would be worthwhile to reconvene to discuss the current plans for the village.

AN added that dredging for example was a concern raised a number of years ago and recently in the CLG meetings. While recognising the prime reason for the pier is the ferry, the usability of the pier for fishing boats, tourist boats and aquaculture is of concern. THC stated that a like for like principal with regards to the berthing space on the upgraded pier. This like for like principle is consistent with the Port Marine Safety Code which THC has the duty to adopt including the Open Port Duty which covers the duty to maintain a safe port for its users. Currently the like for like principle does not appear to be reflected in the current plans, the pier is being widened by 6m narrowing the existing deep water channel which shall cause safety implications for boats leaving their moorings. This should be examined further in the community trust group and extending the dredging to the end of the approachway should be considered.

CM agrees that this should be considered and possibly a separate meeting should take place to do so, CM invites comments from AM on the matter

AM explains that the like for like principal should be adopted and has passed on comments to AECOM on the matter. AM agrees that a meeting between all parties on the matter would be beneficial. With regards to the demolition of the existing terminal building, it is explained that the building is owned by CMAL. There has been a development brief for the area produced after consultation with the planning service which was approved by councillors a number of years ago. On completion of the terminal building CalMac will vacate the building and the property will be advertised on the open market. At the time of consultation there was a strong interest from the Skye Brewery to purchase the building. Ultimately it would be to CMAL to decide the fate of the building. Any concerns on the matter can be passed on to CMAL.

AR raises concerns on the future of the building and fears if the building is sold privately then the demolition will never take place due to the cost involved. AR voices opinion that this is a government money saving exercise not to demolish the building and queries why was this not part of the terminal building contract

AM replies that the intention was for the building to be demolished however this portion of the project was removed from THC's scope and will be dealt with by CMAL. The latest plans are for the building will be advertised for sale.

AN raises that the proposal to demolish the building was made by the Scottish Ministers

	<p>AR questions why the planning application for the terminal building does not include the demolition of the existing building.</p> <p>CM agrees that it would be beneficial for the original planning application to be looked at and also for CMAL to be represented to answer further questions at the next meeting.</p> <p>AR asks if the piling operations are currently in the 'quiet stages' or is no more noise expected as the current piling operations appear to be quieter than expected.</p> <p>SS explains that the piling operations are currently close to the shore and residents however the noise level will change during the project due to a number of factors including the type of piles being driven and the wind direction during the piling operation. It is explained that a fixed and a mobile noise monitoring station is on site and if there are any concerns to please let RJM know.</p> <p>AN asks if working hours have been extended and if weekend works will be going ahead.</p> <p>SS confirms that working hours have now been extended. A consultation was had with local residents prior to the last community liason meeting in March following a letter drop to the community several weeks prior. The feedback from this consultation was discussed in meeting was held between RJM, THC and environmental health In which extended working hours of 7-7 Monday to Sunday were granted. It has been agreed that Sunday working will be kept to quieter works such as maintenance and proprietary works where possible.</p> <p>AN requests more detail on the construction of the new bankseat</p> <p>SS confirms that the new bankseat is a solid sheet piled structure. During the design process a tubular piled alternative solution had been looked at however the solid structure was used in the final design.</p>
7	AOCB
	<p>AR enquires if there has been any further update with regards to compensation for local businesses due to lack of traffic during the closure period</p> <p>AM responds explaining the issue was raised at the CalMac consultations. There are currently no statutory payments unless land was to be used during the construction process. The feedback has been passed to TS for review and are yet to confirm any further plans for compensation.</p> <p>CM thanks all for attending.</p> <p>The next meeting shall be held on 23rd June at 7:00pm and the Uig community Hall.</p>

