

**Uig Harbour Redevelopment  
COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP**

Minutes taken on [Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024](#)

1	<b>Present</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	Michelle Hinch (RJM), Emily Currie (RJM), Michael Osborne (RJM), Martin Madigan (Local), Callum Munro (Cllr THC), Donald Beaton (Calmac), Andrew Maciver (THC), Ewan MacLeod (THC), Margaet Freestone (Local), John M MacLeod (RJM), Duncan MacDonald (RJM), Jamie Fraser (RJM), Vicki MacLean (Local), Sandy MacLean (Local)	
2	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Garry Smith (THC), Iain MacLennan (THC), Cllr Millar (THC), Cllr Finlayson (THC), Ian Stewart (Local), Senga Currie (Local), Ronnie Currie (Local), Angus Ross (Local)	
3	<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	
	Margaret Freestone Martin Madigan	
4	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	<p><b>Cllr Munro</b>- has anybody got any questions or points in terms of accuracy regarding the November minutes?</p> <p><b>MM</b>-myself and Margaret were walking back, and we forgot to ask about the building, I don't know if that should be included or not.</p> <p><b>Cllr Munro</b>- We will cover that tonight.</p> <p><b>MF</b>- There is one thing that I would like to change. That is the second to last sentence when I said regarding the ramp on the road to my driveway getting fixed, I would like it to read, Regarding the ramp on the road and my driveway.</p> <p><b>JM</b>- Yes ok well that is all getting sorted.</p> <p><b>Cllr Munro</b> – Does anybody else have anything to add?</p>	
5	<b>Presentation &amp; Open Forum</b>	
	<p><b>Cllr Munro</b> – Over to John for the presentation.</p> <p><b>JM</b>- I will run through the works since the last meeting. (Shows slideshow presentation)</p> <p><b>MM</b>-Question about the new deck that will be on the Approachway that JM showing on presentation – Is it going to be tarmacked?</p> <p><b>JM</b>- No concrete</p> <p><b>MM</b>- If you lay the concrete down next week are you going to drive straight over it? Will you have to stop the ferry again?</p> <p><b>JM</b>-No we won't, JM shows where the ferry will be docking while this is happening.</p> <p><b>JM</b>-Returns to presentation.</p> <p><b>EC</b> – Regarding the local benefits – We have also contributed to a school trip for the high school and there will be another site visit with Portree High School.</p> <p><b>JM</b>- We have also agreed to another site visit for the high school.</p>	

**JM** -Does anyone have any questions?

**MF**- There seem to be some silver bits put up at the pier recently, what are they?

**JM**-That is the formwork (Shuttering) for the concrete works. That is temporary. Behind that steel wall there is a concrete wave wall getting poured in.

**DMD**- Shows on the presentation where the formwork is and what is being done.

**MF**- Do you have a photo of the shore by the pottery? There have been mountains of seaweed in the last few weeks and is quite high. I was wondering if is because the pier is blocked off so the seaweed can't be sent under.

**JM**- Possible as the wave climate has changed.

**MM**- People suggested that at the time that that's what would happen. I think Stevie brought it up because where his pub is on the corner, he found a lot of seaweed gathering around there.

**MF**- the seaweed is high and its full of flies and they are getting into my building.

**Cllr Munro**- Any questions for John, Andrew, or Ewan?

**Cllr Munro**- I have a question for John regarding the waiting shelter. Is that RJ McLeods?

**JM**- Shows on presentation and confirms RJ McLeod will build the Waiting shelter but not the new terminal building.

**Cllr Munro**- Andrew what is the latest on the terminal building?

**AM**- We are hoping to get confirmation from TS between mid to end of February, then we can award straight away and then the works will commence on site and continue until March next year.

**MM**- So it hasn't been awarded yet. Because at the last meeting in November you said that it would be started by January.

**AM**- Yes that is right. There has been a delay as TS have to obtain approval from their Investment and Decision Making board.

**MM**-Is that because the cost has gone up?

**AM**-The budget has risen slightly.

**Cllr Munro**- Any other questions?

**SMcL**- I know the lighting was talked about at the last meeting and they are on now, has anybody else got anything to say about that?

**MM**-I saw this morning that Margaret's house was beautiful, it was well lit up.

**MF**- It is completely flood lit and in fact I sent Duncan some pictures to put up. Sorry, what were you going to say?

**SMcL**-I was going to say that the height of them (Lights) doesn't help and even at the top of the hill you're seeing the glare of the floodlight. Its natural because it appears at a 45-degree angle, I guess. Can you not put a shroud around it? I know the wind can affect that, but it can be done.

**AM-** Yes, so Margaret and Angus Ross have both raised the issue and we are looking at the angle of the lanterns and RJ's are going to check that. the lantern angles have been set correctly. Once we do that we will check that the lighting levels according with the design. Margaret has sent us some photos today and it is clear that there is an issue with light spill. Once we review and check the angles and lighting levels, we can look at other options to improve the situation.

**MF-** You have already done some work on the lights.

**AM-** Yes RJ's have installed the lanterns.

**MF-** It's just the height of them (MF referring to pictures that are on the screen which shows the effects of the lights shining on her house) you just can't get away from them. Surely there is an opportunity to put them on a timer in the darkest hours. I know you said that you had to go to CalMac and they said for health and safety in the marshalling area and there is no marshalling, CalMac don't allow it until 90 minutes before the Ferry.

**AM-** Yes, we need to look at options Margaret and we will speak to CalMac and see if there is an option to switch some off during the night. We will need to understand what the health and safety issues are for passengers and vehicles arriving.

**MF-** But if they aren't allowed in, there is nothing happening in the marshalling area. That's one of my points.

**SMcL-** I guess it will be an issue in the future, well out of hours.

**MF-** Are you allowing them in out of hours?

**DB-** Well the marshalling area guys will once it is finished, define traffic lanes, and make it easier for people and the lights can be limited if that's what the council want to do. Currently the amount of traffic we use, and the lines aren't exactly finished. The traffic is low, and you might get a truck coming in a bit early.

**MF-** Well I should think that truck drivers would be angry if they are trying to sleep and with all that light, they will never get any sleep. There are other matters too. Light pollution and cost, we are all paying for this and there is also wildlife as well.

**AM-** Obviously it has been designed to a standard and there are guidelines to comply with. I do know that the initial proposal was 40 lux and THC lighting engineer asked for it to be reduced to 20lux for the marshalling area and the approachway is 5 lux lighting level. There is a design and we need to check the lighting levels with a light meter, and we do need to comply with these guidelines. THC have replaced the old lanterns with new LEDs over the last 10 years and the energy costs have reduced down by approximately 50%.

**MF-** I was in Oban at the weekend and they have a much larger marshalling area, and the lighting is so soft, it's not this glaring light and there are 3 big ones around the marshalling area and its not intrusive. Why do they have to be so high?

**AM-** It's because of the extensive area the new lights are covering on the marshalling area. If the lighting columns were lower, it would need a larger number of lighting columns with closer spacing to achieve the correct lumination.

**MF-** If you took out the first 5 the rest would illuminate the whole area.

**SMcL-** The number of truck park seems excessive.

**MM-** Is there more to go up? I see in your yard about half a dozen laying down waiting to be attached.

**AM**-There are more to be installed at the old marshalling area which will be the new car parking area.

**JM**- The additional ones are only 8m high so the ones that are going into the existing marshalling area at the top, there's about 35 and they are only 8m high.

**MM**-What's the other ones?

**JM**-15m there's a lot more to go up there and they are only 8m.

**MM**-Why are they only 8m?

**JM**- You would have to ask the design. I think if you look at them, they are quite close together (the density for the spacing) Whereas there, there is quite a long gap in between.

**Cllr Munro**-The question I have is about that first 5 are so close.

**MF**- The light spillage goes so far.

**JM**- Since we done the changeover with CalMac in January they have to be on all night.

**Cllr Munro**- All night?

**JM**-At the moment that is what we've to do.

**MF**-But why?

**JM**-Purely because of traffic and people do turn up early. I know they shouldn't, but they do.

**MF**- There are certain hours in the night when they could be off.

**Cllr Munro**- Or less light.

**JM**- We can do that.

**SMcL**- It's good that you can review it. Bear in mind when you are at the top of a hill it can be quite bright.

**MF**- Adrian in Earlish was saying that he is affected by the lights.

**Cllr Munro**- Going forward the next meeting is in March and Andrew you will be in touch with Margaret.

Is there anything else on the lights?

**DMD**- I have a couple of comments here.

**From Senga Currie** – Concerning the lights and questioning whether they would be turned off after the last ferry?

Nothing else from lights.

**MF**- One more thing. At present there isn't much in the way for the truck driver's area or in the marshalling area so why is it so intrusive now?

**JM**- We have to build what we are told. It has to go back to the council for review. The question was the original lighting wasn't bright enough in the first place.

**AM-** The lighting would have been installed back in 1986 so the standards have changed since then. So, you would expect some improvements of the lighting in terms of illumination.

**MM-**The illumination is ok it's just the amount of them. Its less bright than what it was in 1976. There were just white lights and glare all the time.  
Cllr Munro- Anything else?

**MF-** For RJ's. The work that was done on the drain by my house has resulted in the complete blockage of the drainage of the croft. Now there is a pond and it used to be constantly flowing all the time as it comes down onto the croft and is also where my septic tank is and where it drains into and now, I am having problems with it.

**JM-** I didn't know that. There is a section we need to finish in there and I didn't realise there was a problem.

**MF-** It's just starting now.

**JM-** We will look at that. There is a manhole up from your drive which needs a pipe which we haven't done yet. It diverts the water into it.

**MF-** Ronnie said that he noticed it in his ditch at his house too.

**JM-**Explains what is going to be done to the manhole.

**MF-** Referring to the pictures on the screen – how would that croft drain if it were going to the right?

**DMD-**We would create a fall to allow the water to flow but this would be governed by the physical ground conditions.

**MF-** It would have to be a long pipe to let the water flow all the way along.

**JM-** We could do an open ditch. I didn't realise it was causing you problems with your septic tank.

**DMD-** It should be a quick attendance on that.

**MF-** I phoned Scottish water today to see if they would come and empty the septic tank but they can't come until March.

**JM-**We can get that done soon.

**MF-**Sooner the better. The whole croft needs to drain in there.

**JM-**We will see if we can do something temporary tomorrow.

**Cllr Munro-** Duncan you have some correspondence.

**DMD -**Yes, firstly to share apologies from Ian Stewart. He has also sent some queries through that he wishes to raise on the fishermen's behalf. He has questioned whether a further 7 bollards have been provided by the Council as per discussions and agreements on site. 3 Additional bollards have been installed on the approachway, 2 on the fisherman's compound and there is 1 left to install. Can you confirm that, Andrew?

**AM-**We spoke to the fishermen a few months ago and they had requested an extra 3 bollards. I think that the ladders were repositioned as well so that was agreed with them when we had the discussion. They may be requesting more. An extra 3 bollards have been provided and its seems that the boats have been berthing there over the last few weeks during the bad storms with no reported issues.

	<p><b>DMD-</b> Ian’s second question relates to the position of the permanent ladders, and the detail of when they would be expected to be in service.</p> <p>At the moment I can confirm three temporary ladders have been installed to tide us over to when the permanent ones would be manufactured and delivered to site. The permanent ladders were delivered today and will be going in for installation next week.</p> <p>Ian’s third question – The harbour users have asked whether handrails would be fitted to the inside line of the fishermans steps (at the moment the inner face is open and hazardous).</p> <p><b>JM-to EM</b> I don’t believe RJM have got that detail yet, Can you confirm?</p> <p><b>DMD-</b> Many Thanks, I will pass the feedback on to Ian.</p> <p><b>Cllr Munro-</b> Correspondence from Andi Dunkel -In terms of the steps being part of that.</p> <p><b>AM-</b> Yes, during the consultation stage the tour boat operators had concerns about the distance from the steps to their boat. We agreed to change the design where the fenders would be against the steps and not on the landing which would improve access from the landing onto the boats. We said that we would look at reassessing the fenders, but ACCOM weren’t able to do that as part of their design because the fenders are located in the area of the steps. The step from the landing onto the boat, the gap is going to be 305mm, which is an improvement. I will respond to Andy on that.</p> <p><b>Cllr Munro</b> -On the safety – on the edge of the steps, will there be less of a gap on each step?</p> <p><b>AM-</b> Yes that is something we can look at.</p> <p><b>Cllr Munro-</b> Any other matters to discuss?</p> <p>The next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> March, and I don’t see the need to set anymore dates.</p>	
6.	<b>AOCB</b>	
7.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	<b>21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 @6.30pm at Uig Community Hall</b>	