

CORRAN FERRY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

DRAFT Minutes for Community Liaison Meeting No. 1

held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 19:00 hrs

Meeting held in Ardgour Village Hall



	Item	Action
1	Introductions/Apologies	
	<p>Garry Smith, Service Lead for Project Management, Design and Construction with The Highland Council delivered a short overview of the proposed works and outlined the purpose of the Community Liaison meetings.</p> <p>The Community Liaison Meetings are an opportunity for the community to liaise with the project delivery team and receive information on works progress and works that are planned. It also allows for community feedback on project related issues or any impact from the ongoing works. This meeting is not the forum for wider ferry related issues.</p> <p>Project delivery team members were then invited to introduce themselves and define their roles in the delivery of the infrastructure improvement works, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garry Smith (GS) – Service Lead – THC • Andrew MacIver (AM) – Principal Engineer/Project Sponsor – THC • Murray Bain (MB) – Vessel Procurement Project Manager – THC • Gary Kennedy (GK) – Project Manager’s Representative – THC • Ryan Lavery (RL) – Project Manager – Charles Brand Group Ltd • Andy Bate (AB) – Community Liaison Officer – Charles Brand Group Ltd • Mark Montgomery (MM) – Senior Project Engineer – Charles Brand Group Ltd 	
2	Review of previous minutes	
	n/a	
3	Contractor Update	
3.1	<p>RL of Charles Brand Group Ltd confirmed that works had commenced on 16/02/2026 and provided an update of works that were ongoing, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of compound and site accommodation at Corran 2. Deployment of daytime traffic management on the A82 at Corran 3. Tree and vegetation clearance for new A82 junction at Corran 4. New junction construction works at new A82 junction at Corran 5. Tree and vegetation clearance at Ardgour 	Note
3.2	<p>RL then presented an overview of planned works for the coming period, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuation of daytime traffic management on the A82 at Corran, with a 2-week break from the 5th March. 2. Continuation tree and vegetation clearance for new A82 junction at Corran 3. Continuation of junction construction works at new A82 junction at Corran 	Note
3.3	<p>A query was raised regarding timings for works on the Ardgour side. RL confirmed that works would not be commencing on the Ardgour side of the scheme until late March/Early April 2026. Further details of works planned will be shared in advance of next community liaison meeting.</p>	THC/ CBGL
3.4	<p>A query was raised regarding Traffic Management for the Ardgour works. RL/GK confirmed that there were plans for initial traffic light deployment, however this would be reviewed once hoarding/site protection fencing had been erected and would only be deployed if necessary. RL stated that any traffic management would be manned and</p>	Note

	would be reactive to the volume of traffic and crossing demand likely to be experienced over the coming months.	
3.5	<p>A query was raised regarding permitted working hours. The contract contains a scheme constraint H6, which reads as follows:</p> <p>H6. Limitations on Normal Working Hours</p> <p>None of the work shall be executed outside the hours of 07:00 to 19:00, Monday to Friday. On Saturday none of the work shall be executed outside of the hours 07:00 to 13:00.</p>	Note
3.6	<p>The contractor has requested an extension of working hours to suit crew working patterns and tidal condition to extend the working hours to include the potential for Sunday working to shorten the works programme. As stated by GK, there is an ongoing discussion with the local Environmental Health Officer regarding periods of 7 day working to maximise working time in relation to tides, etc. This is initially for piling activities planned for April to July 2026, however, extends to other works later in the year. THC/CBGL to share provisional information on 7 day working aspirations with affected stakeholders prior to next community liaison meeting. THC/CBGL will liaise with piling subcontractor regarding 'soft;' start to reduce disruption to residents and hotel guests. Mitigation measures will be developed through further consultation will be communicated to affected stakeholders.</p>	THC/ CBGL
3.7	<p>A query was raised regarding location of and access/egress to contractors' compound on the Ardgour side of the works. RL confirmed the location opposite the lighthouse, previously occupied by SSEN, was the identified location. Concerns were raised regarding the access and speeding traffic as it enters the village. RL confirmed that works access and enhanced speed restriction signing would be erected to inform road users of construction activity.</p>	Note
3.8	<p>A query was raised regarding the type of protective fencing likely to surround works on the Ardgour side of the scheme. RL confirmed that proposed fence was a 1.8m high hoarding fence, instead of HERAS panels.</p>	Note
3.9	<p>A query was raised regarding storage of plant and equipment out with working hours. RL confirmed that plant and equipment would be returned to the Ardgour side compound when not in use, where reasonably practicable.</p>	Note
3.10	<p>A query was raised about the impact of traffic light control and subsequent queueing on the A82, adjacent to the existing Corran Ferry junction. Right turn from A82 into Corran Ferry occasionally blocked by queueing traffic. THC/CBGL to erect 'Keep Junction Clear' signing to inform queueing traffic of right turn manoeuvre requirements.</p>	THC/ CBGL
4	AOCB	
4.1	<p>A query was raised regarding the possibility of suspending the ferry charge for foot passengers for the duration of the works. GS stated that passenger charges were controlled by council policy but committed to investigate for next meeting. <i>Note:- Following the meeting the Assistant Chief Executive of the Council, Malcolm Macleod, confirmed that foot passenger fares would not be suspended during the works.</i></p>	THC
4.2	<p>A query was raised regarding the possibility of erecting signing at Nether Lochaber notifying visitors that Ardgour is still 'Open for Business'. THC amenable to this proposal. THC/CBGL and Ardgour Community Council to liaise regarding options for signing.</p>	THC
4.3	<p>A query was raised regarding displaced parking at the foreshore during the works. GK confirmed that the area adjacent to the lighthouse would be utilised. Appropriate signing would be erected informing users. The proposed parking provision, and associated signing layout, will be shared prior to next community liaison meeting.</p>	Note

4.4	<p>A query was raised regarding the change to parking proposed for the new scheme on the Ardgour side of the works. GS explained that the change to the parking was applied as a condition to the planning permission for the scheme. The planning condition for the parking can be examined in the decision notice at: - 25/00769/FUL Formation of 2no. slipways and access, overnight berthing area, breakwater and alignment structure, marshalling areas, parking, bicycle and pedestrian shelters, toilet block, junction and localised road improvements, EV charging infrastructure, purser's kiosk, services (power lighting, water and drainage), electrical infrastructure, temporary diesel infrastructure, extensions to shared use paths and associated construction compounds Corran Ferry Corran Jetty Fort William</p> <p>The Council have, in order to purify this planning condition, lodged an alternative proposal to increase the capacity from 8 spaces to 18 spaces. The project team will continue to work with the community to accommodate the parking needs. There is concern amongst some of the local community about future prospect of parking charges. Any objections to the revised proposals should be raised with your local member/councillor. A link to contact details for members/councillors is included below: https://www.highland.gov.uk/councillors?ward=21&party=&filterList=Apply+filter</p>	All
4.5	<p>A query was raised regarding the previously requested flood gates at the top of the new slip to protect Ardgour from Flood Events. GS confirmed that a Flood Risk Assessment was commissioned as part of the scheme design works. The study concluded that there was no change of flood risk as a result of the consented scheme. Residents confirmed that overtopping of the current slipway occurred rarely, with only three occurrences in more than 20 years. GK confirmed that there was no flood gates specified for the new slipway, or requirement to consider any future inclusion.</p>	Note
4.6	<p>A query was raised regarding the planned pathway down to the shore included in previous designs. GS confirmed that this path had now been removed from the design.</p>	Note
4.7	<p>A query was raised regarding the possibility of including a tide height marker post within both the temporary and permanent works on the Ardgour side of the scheme. At present, residents gauge loch levels on the crew transfer structure adjacent to the current slipway, however this is due to be demolished to accommodate the new works. GK agreed to investigate options and potential locations for both temporary and permanent tide height marker provision. Further details will be shared in advance of next community liaison meeting.</p>	THC
4.8	<p>A query was raised regarding proposals for managing the detrimental effects of the construction works on the Ardgour community. Working hours have been confirmed above, as has the intention to share information on plans for extended working hours. Site housekeeping and waste management is detailed in the Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP), a pre-start planning requirement which has been satisfied by the contractor. THC site staff monitor and manage compliance with this approved plan, throughout the delivery of the works. Management of litter within the Works Area is a contractor liability for the duration of the works and is also monitored by THC.</p>	Note
4.9	<p>A query was raised regarding the availability of compensation to residents and businesses because of expected scheme disruption. GK/GS confirmed that compensation was not available for the scheme, however through effective consultation and communication, the extents of disruption could be mitigated and detriment reduced.</p>	Note
5	Date of Next Meeting	
	Wednesday 18 th March 2026 at 19:00 Hrs at Ardgour Hall.	