

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 04/05/2021, h. 07:30pm, Zoom meeting

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (Chair); Marco Piva (minutes taker); Alan Holden; David Nairn; Karla Tully

NAC: Cllr. Tom Marshall; Cllr. Alan Hill; Cllr. Ian Murdoch

Press: Calum Corral (Largs & Millport News)

5 MoP

Apologies: David Telford, Ian Hunter (FCC)

Approval of April minutes: proposed by KT, seconded by AHo

1. A78

Concerning the new pedestrian crossing, KT contacted Bill Smith concerning letters to be put through doors as announced, as she had no updates on the topic; Mr. Smith apologised: everything has been delayed due to the emergency roadworks in Largs due to the burst sewer pipes. He'll let KT know as soon as a date is chosen. Only the people in the immediate vicinity of the crossing will be receiving letters, KT to distribute them.

2. Network Rail / Southannan

Network Rail have applied to NAC for ownership of hillside East of tracks, as it will need constant monitoring to keep erosion under control; no updates on this yet

The compound beside the houses at Southannan, used for the works, was temporary.

IM: the destination of the land on which that compound was is in the hands of the developers

3. Coastal path

The works on the stretch North of Ferry Row haven't been completed yet (but will be soon)

The rest of the path will be completed when (and if) money is available

AHi: there are active discussions looking for further funding, but it is not known when or even if they will be found

SusTrans seems to be interested

MoP (Ferry Row resident): at the South end of the village there are signs indicating the presence of the cycle path, which is not there (yet); shouldn't they be removed?

KT suggests signs to direct people from the end of the new path to Main

AHi As Ferry Row is a public right of way, Council can't instruct people where to go or not to go; offers Ailsa Henderson and other Ferry Row residents to set up a meeting with Claire Fitzsimmons to discuss this

IM: the coastal path is a pedestrian right of way that bicycles are allowed to use

MoP: the number of cyclists along Ferry Row is growing.

4. Hunterston nuclear SSG

Next SSG first Thursday in June

The spent fuel rod is in Vault 3; allegedly, part of another has been found and it also is in Vault 3. ONR are monitoring; they will be there until a plan to move them is made

HuntB: Reactor 3 is back on line. Kathy Clarke has reported that it will come offline in October; Reactor 4 will also do a 6 months run and come offline in Nov or Dec

No updated re REPPiR; RH was told that Fairlie would have a say in the emergency plan, and didn't

5. **Hunterston Parc liaison group / drillships**

RH submitted 22 questions before the meeting, they weren't answered in advance; during meeting, most answers were simply negative, while others weren't answered as they dealt with commercially sensitive topics.

The conveyor belt over the A78 should be removed in June

If work is done at the marine yard, an EIA will be done

DN a professor who was involved in the early discussions re destination of the land had suggested developments to do with the seagrass, was rejected both by PeelPorts and by NAC

RH Jim McSparran of Peel said they are liaising with Strathclyde University

DN only with engineering dept though

IM there seems to be the intention to expand the oysters project (commercial, which is always on the site, not wild). Suggested an independent chair to liaison committee.

Committee should be more proactive (and it should have a change to *be* proactive).

RH it seems clear that the committee is in place only because NAC made its presence a condition.

Beekeeping has been mentioned as a possible green project

IM re drillships incident; was told that "they were never adrift as one was never off its anchor, one never left the jetty"; argues that, if they hadn't been adrift, there wouldn't have been the need for the tugboats to work for days on end to bring them back to the jetty.

Meanwhile, the drillships' diesel engines are still on most of the time

MoP: the engines are on right now, can see them from window, and they are any time there is a little wind, which is pretty much 24/7. NAC declared a climate emergencies, it's unacceptable to have those huge diesel engines burning continuously; they have recently been refuelled.

TM Building applications for Hunterston have been announced. One is for a second compensator, the others are yet unknown

AHo Compensators are to replace the Hunterston generators in keeping the grid supply regular

MoP: have they given up on oil rig decommissioning?

TM No, but it seems unlikely that they will get permission. There are many decommissioning sites on the North coast. Of course there *will* be developments; they need to be guided in a direction that is environmentally friendly and advantageous for the local community.

MoP: Why no pressure is made for Peel to clear the site from the coal deposits?

TM My understanding is that, when they will develop the site, the intention is to cap the coal and built over it, as it has been stated that there is no reason to remove it if it's stable

DN It is not stable: it's leaking chemicals. Samples have been taken, they are been analysed now. Water runs through the coal deposits and to the sea; the whole site should get an EIA.

IM asked re coal cleanup at liaison meeting, was told that lots of money have already been invested on that

MoP: There are visible, big mounds of coal by the shore. It is waste coal that has no possible use. Spreading it all over the site and capping doesn't seem very environmental, and bad PR for Peel too. Also, Peel have been clearing bushes and small trees that had become a wildlife haven.

RH At liaison meeting, Peel stated that they did it to “clearly delineate the borders” of that land, which is industrial

6. **Dawnfresh fish farms plans**

DN There have been 3 applications for offshore, open cage fish farms; Dawnfresh have a bad reputation (especially in Loch Etive, where most of their production is). Will circulate a document prepared by Friends of Loch Etive highlighting the practices put in place by Dawnfresh there. They caused a degrading in the water quality, and will negatively impact wild salmon and all the local wildlife including seals and oysters. More ideal, onshore self-contained fish farms (on Hunterston land). What is the position of NACouncillors?

TM Can't or won't declare a position. Application for fish farms on Arran was declined (see Planning Comm website, 24/03, to see the exact reasons why). Personally, haven't seen this application and haven't talked to officers yet

MoP whose husband is a salmon fisherman: it is a Norwegian company; there, open cage farms are not allowed as they are detrimental to the environment. More and more countries are focussing on onshore farms

IM Strongly opposed: detrimental to environment. Unacceptable if area wants to be promoted for tourism

AHi Opposed; should follow Norway example

RH Propose to set up a meeting with other CCs

MoP: they will use the fact that there are jobs in it to push

MoP: not many jobs actually

AHi: if application rejected, the possibility of an appeal depends on what ground it is rejected on.

Police report

No Police present, so it is read by MP as forwarded by PC Dominic Murphy.

In the last month, 19 incidents of which 1 a crime (compared to 34 with 1 crime last year).

The crime was a breach of bail, a male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Traffic monitoring is ongoing.

There are no specific questions to be asked to the Police.

AOB

None

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 7th of June 2021 at 07:30 pm via Zoom (link for MoPs will be provided on request; MoPs present at this meeting and those who have already expressed their interest will receive it)