

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 06/09/2021, h. 07:30pm, Zoom meeting

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (Chair); Marco Piva (minutes taker); Karla Tully; David Telford; David Nairn; Ian Hunter

NAC: Cllr. Ian Murdoch; Cllr. Alan Hill

Press (Largs & Millport News): Calum Corral

6 MoP

Apologies: Alan Holden (FCC); Cllr. Tom Marshall (NAC)

Approval of August minutes: proposed by DT, seconded by RH

The Police report for the period 31/07 to 28/08 has been forwarded via e-mail last week by PC Dominic Murphy to RH.

Incidents: 27 of which crimes: 4

Last year incidents: 31 of which crimes: 4

- 3 youths reported for assault as a result of one incident

- Report of theft of fuel from Pier Garage, enquiries are ongoing

- 1 adult male arrested for breach on non-harassment order

- 1 male arrested and reported for drink driving following proactive stop by the police

Received, at past FCC meetings, reports of youths causing annoyance in the area of Fairlie Castle.

Additional patrols have been and will be carried out in the area.

NACllrs choose to comment on single agenda points

1. Community Council elections information

Nominations by 15/09

A note was sent to CC members; public notice was printed on Largs & Millport News last week; notices in petrol station and at Semple Centre, left at Community Garden and distributed

2. A78

Funds are still present and saved, but there was a delay due to issue with mains water.

Maybe the work will need to be outsourced.

KT to “keep the pressure on” asking for updates

IM confirms that it is only a matter of when; has a meeting next week re traffic, will ask

3. Hunterston SSG update after meeting on 02/09/2021

A note had been circulated by RH to FCC members and NA Cllrs, stating what follows (copied and pasted):

Of the 13 voting members on this group only 4 were in attendance: Stuart Mcghie, vice chair, John Lamb WKCC John Glover NA Councillor for Kilwinning and myself RH.

ONR, SEPA, NAC Environmental Health, Scottish Govt , NDA , Magnox Socio economic lead and Civil Contingencies were present.

At HNB, defuelling will start post January 7th 2022. Both reactors will have stopped generating by then. R3 will reach its final run before R4.

EDF will defuel and NDA will do the decommissioning. Both stations have started liaising and it is probably likely, if ONR has no objection, that the B station ILW will go into the A station ILW store.

The B station Nuclear Inspector made it very clear that the ONR would be looking at the proposal to use A station ILW store for the B station ILW and it was not a case of EDF or NDA deciding on this, it would ultimately be for ONR to approve or otherwise. Its original capacity was to be 1300 packages of ILW but this will almost double if HNB waste goes in. EDF have stopped plans for a new store.

NDA have decided that Hunterston A will not go into care and maintenance as originally planned, but, will continue decommissioning. This will mean that work will be ongoing for the next decade and beyond. EDF estimates it will take 3.5 years to complete defueling.

There was discussion about skills and training with Hunterston A taking on 40 apprentices. There is a lack of people able to tutor/ teach.

Roof repairs will be carried out on both A station reactor buildings but there is no plan for new cladding as the strategy has changed to continuous decommissioning and this will be looked at as work progresses.

The next Hunterston SSG is Thursday December 4th by Zoom.

The March SSG will hopefully be a normal face to face meeting.

The Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting is also in December.

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DT any news about the Offsite Emergency Plan? A request for an unredacted copy of it is now with the Information Commissioner.

RH No mention of it

Calum Corral: will there still be danger when operations stop?

RH For the 3.5 years (or more) necessary for defueling, the risk level remains as it is now. After that, it will lower

IM The DEPZ will not change after shutting down

DN The fuel being moved may actually slightly increase the risk factor

DT Heard that a convoy of lorries carrying nuclear flasks, with police escort, may be going through Fairlie soon (MoP also has heard this)

RH will phone and try to find further information on this

4. Highview Cryogenic Energy Storage (PeelPorts marine yard)

There was a meeting involving FCC, Largs CC, WK CC and Cumbrae CC. Questions were asked and answered. Notes were circulated, stating what follows (copied and pasted):

FCC members and Largs CC, West Kilbride CC and Cumbrae CC representatives met with Highview's team by zoom. There was a presentation and a Q and A session where Highview were open and agreed to consider volunteering to do an Environmental Impact Assessment. (As it transpired NAC said it was necessary for an EIA and Highview will be doing one).

The points were made that:

1 cryogen should be kept away from seawater and unfortunately the site at the Marine Yard is reclaimed land, prone to flooding and bounded on two sides by the sea. This means a non chemical explosion could occur in the event that cryogen leaked.

2 The amount to be stored is very large, larger than we had thought.

3 The site is very visible and we are an area of high scenic value.

4 The main jetty has neither cranes nor mains electricity supply if materials are to be brought in by sea.

5 We brought up possible noise and light pollution.

6 There would be 6 -9 jobs post construction with it running almost automatically.

We welcome that there is to be an EIA.

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MoP: they seem to be competent and professional. However: is a sudden release of cryogenic material possible, even in extraordinary circumstances? If so, this must be taken into consideration. Highview will do a quantified risk assessment and an EIA. It must be kept in mind that all their predictions are on paper, not proven. Is there a possibility that they

apply for a waste heat program or something similar?

IM (who was at the meeting): asked for an EIA with support from AHi; glad they promised one. NAC also asked for EIA, so it is now necessary.

DN Afraid that they may dump heat in the sea and/or take heat from the sea. Also, less than 10 jobs leaves the station apparently unmanned.

AHi agrees with MoP's observations; suggests to wait for planning app to see exactly what the plan is.

MoP: if they use the sea for heating or cooling, it will not be viable; they must have a way of storing heat or cold generated, or it will not be efficient.

5. **XLCC Subsea cable manufacturing facility (PeelPorts coal yard)**

Currently in pre-application consultation stage.

RH emailed for further information.

MoP: what is available online is data from similar (but smaller) plants elsewhere in Europe. The plan seems unclear. There is no provision in it for applying for permission to run cables through their countries' territorial waters: this seems to be already considered as done. The market seems saturated already.

DN Tenders for replacement cables in UK have already been secured

RH 900 jobs have been mentioned, so any opposition will need strong motivations

MoP for clarity, what do Peel gain from this?

RH money for leasing the land

IM there is 1/4mil£ from ScotGov for a feasibility study, 10mil pledge (only a pledge though) from ScotEnterprise, 18mil from Ayrshire Growth Deal; also, potential to receive 13mil from ScotGov, the difference in cost for building plant here and not in Wales

RH It has been stated that the plant would work 24/7, 350 days per year. It has been stated that there would be no noise and no smell.

MoP: objectively, the location makes sense. But they seem disorganised and lacking a concrete basis (except for the Saudi money)

DN they mentioned designing a new kind of cable, but they didn't reply when asked for details.

AHi thinks that the Officer will identify all the issues and officially ask for clarifications.

6. **Hunterston Grid Stability Complex (Hunterston Estate)**

The application went straight to ScotGov as it is over 50 MW

It would be built near East substation

Supposed to be not noisy

MoP Why not on brown field instead than on (depleted but still used) farmland?

7. **Rigghill wind turbine appeal**

The case officer is Jayne Anderson. The reporter has been appointed; it is the same of Cloch Brae. Possible conflict of interests? Format of appeal not identified yet (RH will monitor)

8. **Garden Centre and Restaurant**

It has been refused by PlannComm.

RH One of the reasons for refusal is to maintain the green strip between Fairlie and Largs. Is it possible to know who voted what way?

DT surprised as a similar plan was approved in the past

AHi refusal seems to be as it goes against policies 2 (related to the view), 15, 17. 4 Cllrs + Chair voted in favour, 5 against.

9. **Hunterston Masterplan**

MoP It seems to make sense, it has all the right wording. They want to retain a port incl. bulk handling, industry, green energy hub. Not too clear, too changeable. Waste mgmt licence still valid.

10. **Dawn Homes**

They have permission for a second block of flats (where temp SUDS pond is)
DT Temp SUDS pond is very important right now

AOB

+Fairlie Community Trust:

AGM of FCT Wed 29th Sept at Village Hall (up to 20 ppl allowed, apply to take part). Most directors will be resigning, looking for new ppl or FCT may be closed

+ Armistice Wreath:

IH in charge

+ Clyde Marine Planning Partnership:

DN: an association of Clyde Coast CC (WK, Cumbrae, Fairlie, Largs, Skelmorlie) applied to become members of CMPP; rejected, which is against Community Empowerment Act. A meeting on 16th Sept will be held to discuss this

+ Tennis court:

Mairi Wyatt and AHi found several volunteers for maintenance

+ Drillships:

Adverts have been posted for crews, Any news?

DN: Maritime Union says that there is an outstanding welfare issue, and that a welfare inspection is overdue

IM suspects that they are looking for crew to keep the ships where they are. Notes it is only a personal conjecture

+ Wild oysters project:

DN looking for a local proj assistant and a location to store around 100 tons of shell cultch (will become a reef as a natural habitat, but only after having been weathered for 1 year no less than 200 mt from the sea)

RH suggests to ask Hunterston estate or NAC

DN reports that some fishing nets, illegally used on SSSI, have been confiscated

+ Foul smell on shore path:

MoP reported this a few months ago, especially concentrated near the "turret". It is still present.

DN: SEPA have a backlog due to a severe tech issue; waiting for reply from ScotWater. Asked for review of whole beach front. Sewage (effluents from village) were mentioned; SEPA should be in charge.

+ Cyclists on the path in front of Ferry Row:

MoP, resident in Ferry Row, highlights the fact that cyclists are running at speed along Ferry Row, and the situation seems to be getting worse. Was told in the past that NAC would remove signs pointing cyclists to the path (at least until completion of coastal path)

AHi will check; afraid that not much will be done until completion of coastal path

MoP: it has also been mentioned that the two lights at either end of the path in front of Ferry Row (sea side) are likely to be removed by NAC (it is a right of way on private land, so NAC are not mandated to maintain them)

+ Coastal Path

There still is no money, but it will be completed

AHi supposes it may happen within a couple of years

IM agrees

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 4th of October 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)