

Fairlie Community Council – Monday 08/05/2023, h. 07:30pm, Semple Centre, 45 Main Rd, Fairlie

The meeting is declared open at **07:30pm**

Attending:

FCC: Rita Holmes (chair), Marco Piva (minutes secretary), Mairi Wyatt, Jackie Pearson, Alan Holden, Malcolm Milne

NAC: Cllr Ian Murdoch

Police: *none*

4 MoP

Apologies: David Telford, Ian Hunter (FCC); Cllr Tom Marshall, Cllr Todd Ferguson (NAC)

Approval of April minutes: proposed by RH, seconded by MW

Police Report: No Police present, the report was not received. MP to contact Sgt Semple asking for report

NA Cllrs' report: IM will intervene on individual points on the agenda..

1. Update on Pharmacy application

RH has shared an update prior to the meeting:

[copy and paste]

The pharmacy hearing was held on Wednesday 3rd May at 10am in the Waterside Hotel, Seamill. It lasted for several hours with Umar Razzaq opening and presenting his case for the need for a pharmacy in Fairlie, to a panel of two lay persons, a chairwoman and two independent pharmacists. The two pharmacists were there to discuss and ask questions of all the presenters, but they had no vote. The other three were there to ultimately decide. A decision will be made within 15 days. Morrisons, Hallidays and Boots presenters each spoke against the Pharmacy Application being granted. These three objected claiming that current services provided by their pharmacies are adequate and that having a pharmacy in the area would challenge their ability to maintain financial viability. They all said that they delivered to Fairlie people who were unable to get into Largs if they were not well enough to do so. All parties presenting each spoke for at least 15 minutes, some a lot more than that. The Applicant had to convince the panel that the current service for Fairlie was inadequate and the Objectors maintained that it was adequate, arguing that it was not unreasonable that Fairlie folk should travel to Largs for pharmaceutical services as most would travel there for every other service... doctors, dentists, shopping etc. The objectors also maintained that they delivered to those unable to leave home. The Applicant argued that this service could be withdrawn at any time and that Fairlie needed a pharmacy. He also argued that the bus service timetable meant that people were unlikely to be able to travel to Fairlie and back within an hour and that the train station, although handy for those at the south of the village, was a 20 minute walk for those at the north end. He argued that the population of Fairlie had increased with the new houses. The objectors maintained it had remained static or decreased. I was allowed to ask questions and make comments re the presenters statements and said that the new houses added about a quarter to the housing stock and that it must have increased, whereupon one of the `independent` pharmacists argued that couples separate and you often find those single people occupying two houses rather than one.

I realised from the debate about population of Fairlie that nobody appears to have an accurate number and we need to determine it. I said that usually in ordering leaflets for the village, we now order 900 rather than 700. I felt from discussion etc that panel will

refuse application. The Applicant can appeal. I might be wrong about the decision, just need to wait and see.

Legally, it was not enough that a pharmacy would be desirable, it had to be proved that the existing pharmaceutical services were inadequate.

[copy and paste ends]

IM may have access to NAC details re. the population of Fairlie, will check and communicate

2. Hunterston SSG Update (A and B stations)

RH has shared an update prior to the meeting:

[copy and paste]

The B station has had its first monthly update session with the Chair and Vice chair of the HSSG. This is already a long established practice with A station and is welcomed by the SSG. The B site director intimated that there would be further Consultation with local communities regarding plans for decommissioning of the site. This will happen in the next few weeks with public meetings in Largs and Fairlie.

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary's Sergeant Gilmartin attended the latter part of the meeting. He apologised for his absence from the last SSG as he had been deployed on other business. He said he would attend the next SSG in June. He referred to the incident reported in the press and gave assurances that it had initiated improvements.

Magnox as a company will, in the next three years, be dealing with decommissioning of Advanced Gas cooled reactors like Hunterston B's as well as the Magnox reactors (A station), so the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) sees this as necessitating a rebranding. It also felt that the rebranding needs to appeal more to younger people and thus help with expected shortages of skilled workforce, as more stations enter decommissioning. SSG Chairs and Vice chairs discussed the rebranding with Magnox executives on Tuesday 2nd May in London. The Chairs and Vice chairs were presented with some options which had previously been consulted on with different focus groups. The word "Restoration" was deemed inaccurate for use as, all agreed, that there is no chance that the sites will ever get back to greenfield. "Remediation" was deemed acceptable for use in any rebrand. "Nuwave" was dismissed as one Vice Chair said that the hairdressers near him was called that! The decision will be made soon by the Board.

The second part of the meeting discussed "The Big Conversation". This is about a national discussion on waste and sites. Part of this will be about near surface disposal.

From my experience, widening discussion on issues such as radioactive waste disposal to a national level makes it easier to impose something undesirable on a smaller local community. The project takes on the outer mantle of "for the greater good"! They did it in Switzerland with an extensive and expensive consultation by region and localities.

Nationally everybody agreed a resolution to waste disposal was needed and that this necessitated having a specific location. The site chosen was agreed by all apart from those in the locality chosen which was the poorest area.

The next HSSG is Thursday 1st June at the Waterside Hotel, Seamill at 1:30 pm. This is open to the public who can ask questions.

EDF will present on its next steps and its Community Consultation. Direct Rail Services (DRS) has been invited to do a presentation, but this is still not confirmed.

[copy and paste ends]

IM wonders how much the mentioned rebranding is costing.

3. Hunterston Parc liaison group meeting update

RH has shared an update prior to the meeting:

[copy and paste]

This was by zoom on 19th April, with Jackie Pearson substituting for me as I had a previous

commitment to attend an Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in London. David Nairn also attended. Ian Murdoch and Tom Marshall were there for North Ayrshire Council (NAC). There were representatives from Cumbrae, Largs, West Kilbride and Bute CCs. Dr. John Riddell was voted in as Independent chair at this meeting. Until then the interim chairmanship had been held by the jetty director (first Mr. Hemphill, then Mr. McSporran). FCC to write about dissatisfaction with the way the appointment was handled by Peel Ports.
[copy and paste ends]

Dr. John Riddell, the newly appointed chairperson of HPLgroup, is present at this FCC meeting as a MoP.

JR: the next full committee meeting is due to be held in Sept

RH Should we be liaising with Mr McSporran or with JR until then?

JR: amendments to terms of reference will need to be agreed by NAC

IM (who also is a member of the liaison committee): all meetings should be held with all members present or invited. Terms of reference are a planning condition.

RH What changes in the terms of reference does JR expect?

JR A possibility of holding more frequent meetings

IM suggests to move meetings to quarterly instead of biannually; this was discussed time ago and postponed for the time when an indep. chair would be appointed. Also states disappointment at the fact that a second indep. candidate for the chairpersonship, supported by IM himself, was not even invited to the meeting during which JR was appointed.

4. XLCC Application update/ (Planning Committee 24/5/23)

RH has shared an update prior to the meeting:

[copy and paste]

The PC meeting to decide on the cable factory (22/00712/MSCM) is to be held on Wednesday 24th May at 2pm at NAC Cunninghame House in Irvine . It is open to the public. There is also the outstanding issue of Application for Variation of the financial bond.(23/00131/PP) which I will e mail NAC about again today.

FCC has submitted a FOI request regarding discussions between the NAC Environmental Health Officer (Noise) and XLCC`s noise consultants. It has also asked what is happening regarding the financial bond. It appears that both NAC EHO and XLCC`s noise consultants are totally ignoring the important and valid points made in our Noise Consultants Report.

Indeed, the NAC EHO`s previous concerns about NAN 45 needing to be addressed by the XLCC noise consultants has disappeared entirely and to date NAC has failed to respond to our questions about its disappearance. It is being ignored, I believe, because NAC and XLCC`s Noise people are unable to answer the questions it poses. So the ploy appears to be for them to pretend that FCC`s consultants, including the experienced and accredited Les Huson, have not submitted any Noise Report

We get 10 minutes at the PC meeting to object and we have three speakers listed. Two of the speakers (Les Huson and Melvin Grosvenor) will have to join online due to the change in date for this PC. It was originally January then March and now it looks like May. There is another objector and the PC Chair has acquiesced to our wish that he be allocated time outwith FCC`s 10 minutes. Cumbrae CC has asked that we speak on its behalf. We will be objecting to loss of residential amenity by way of outlook and noise, as well as air quality and lack of detail regarding infrastructure for the jetty and the route out to the jetty.

After spending about 4 hours at a Hearing on a Pharmacy, it is a bit incongruous that the huge XLCC development proposal allows us 10 minutes to be heard. This type of development should be going to a Public Inquiry to ensure all relevant impacts are properly assessed as NAC is choosing to ignore our valid concerns regarding loss of residential amenity, in particular due to noise. There was a systematic failure to deal adequately with

the noise detriment from the Hunterston wind turbines and the Conditions imposed, to make sure the population did not have to suffer noise detriment, just did not work in a timely manner or indeed lead to resolution in the long term. This will be no different and Planning Committee members need to be fully aware that Conditions for noise do not work except in favour of the operator. The Planning System is intended to protect the health and wellbeing of those who are impacted by planning developments. Rather than trying to lessen the effects after a development, it is more effective to refuse development that would expose people to unacceptable noise, air or light pollution and which seriously detracts from residential amenity. North Ayrshire Council has obviously decided that it would rather sacrifice our amenity and our human rights to be able to live and enjoy a life free of 24/7 noise torture, in order to facilitate this development which has already reneged on its formerly proposed green plans. The Head of Planning told the Planning Committee last year, when the tower was approved by 5 to 3 that we "would get used to it". He also refused a request by a Planning Committee member for a site visit saying "it was not necessary". It was a new planning committee, faced with an Application for part of a much larger and complex development, devoid of detail and the Head of Planning would not agree to a simple request, some think, because this development was to be facilitated through the process and site visits would only delay or deny development so better not to grant them. The Head of Planning as well as the Officers involved with this development at the early stages have all left NAC.

[copy and paste ends]

RH Not officially confirmed that this will be the PC meeting during which the appl will be discussed.

JR The officers' report should be available by the weekend before the meeting. The infrastructure at the jetty seems adequate now, the cable track being at the level of the jetty

JP The cable track appears to be 10 mt above the jetty

JR Of course there will be a loading structure and one to go above the railway, but the cable track will not be high above the jetty.

JP Asked same question at liaison meeting, had no answer. Suggests to check carefully exactly what plan will be put forward for approval.

5. Tennis courts and swing park update

MW New benches will be installed soon, possibly before the end of the month, but no specific date has been set. The tennis committee had stated that the hut would be removed during one weekend in April, but it has not. They seem reluctant to give permission for its removal. There was a discussion on the topic on social media, but its contents have been removed (it is not known why nor by whom). There are weeds growing on the courts; the best way to fight them would be to have more people using the courts to play tennis.

6. Forestry application (Kelburn)

RH has shared an update prior to the meeting:

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Detail sent out to FCC members. We had no formal notification. Largs resident let us know. It will affect Largs rather than Fairlie due to its location. We should however look at what is proposed.

[copy and paste ends]

IM Ian Dippie from Largs (formerly of Largs CC) has all the details available; strongly suggest to liaise with him

FCC to discuss who will take charge of doing so

7. RAS Application for Aquaculture

MW The appl has not been filed yet. She set up a meeting with David Nairn to discuss details and an answer.

8. Res 3 Dawn Homes

No updates

AOB

+ Coastal Path

It's still unclear how it will join the ramp at the bottom of the Causeway

MoP (Ferry Row resident): how will the people who moor their boats in front of Ferry Row reach the moorings?

RH All householders have been or will be liaised with

IM Will ask for clarifications re. moorings. Maybe rings to be set on the side of the path?

+ Reduction of trains and extension of travel times to Glasgow

David Telford has written ScotRail on behalf of FCC to complain; no reply has been received yet.

+ Men's Shed in Largs

IM invites everyone to drop by and see what the Men's Shed is doing. Reminds that its name is the Clyde Coast and Cumbræ Men's Shed, so it's not exclusive for Largs residents. Its aim is to facilitate health and wellbeing, and IM is glad to report it's being successful. It's open on Tuesdays and on Saturdays, 10am to 4pm.

+ Overhanging branches

MoP Like every year in this period, there are branches and brambles overhanging the pavement, forcing walkers to step on the road.

IM Will check. Technically, the responsibility lies with the landowners.

+ Stop sign on Highfield Terrace

IM The stop sign and the white lines have now been painted.

The meeting is declared closed at **08:56pm**

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 5th of June 2023 at 07:30 pm at the Seemple Centre, 45 Main Rd