

Morvern Community Council Meeting June 1st (Meeting held on ZOOM)

Present: Morven Gemmill (chair), Angus Robertson, Annie Tordoff, Kenny McLaughlin, Martin Sampson, Alasdair Firth, Trish Morretti, Annabel Thomas, Amy Stammers, Sue and Stuart Layton, Keith Laidlaw, Sally Semple

AGENDA

1. **Previous minutes** - agreed by email circulation and uploaded to Morvern.org
MG to liaise with Peter Boylan and Jane Stuart-Smith re community planning. **ACTION MG**
2. **Resilience Group update**- AM/KM - group updated as per notes of weekly resilience meeting (please see Morvern.org). In national Volunteers week MCC would like to thank everyone in the community for all their contributions; deliveries, Morvern facebook page, volunteer rota and all the other things that people have done to support each other. The volunteer rota will continue well into the autumn and resilience group will review at that point.
3. **BT Broadband update** following letters to MSP & MP in February (see minutes of meeting Morvern Community Council section on Morvern.org) New infrastructure is planned, pipeline from Carnoch not feasible. MCC will be able to contact openreach directly in the event of future area wide outages. All agreed that meeting objectives had been met. Could anyone who has not been recompensed for the outages earlier this year please email morverncc@gmail.com

4. Planning applications

- a. Annabel Thomas discussed the document circulated (see Morvern.org), COVID-19 and traffic highlighted as risks. All proposed developments fit within the fence. Road discussed - mitigating risks to damage are to bring in smaller vehicles and minimise traffic by potentially mixing concrete on site. Annabel stated that any damage to the road as a result will be repaired. Timescales TBA. Scheme likely to offer employment opportunities dependent on revenues and bottling processes. It was noted that it would be great if the sand mine could help with glass in addition to the recycled bottle plans.
- b. **Business hub** - As it looks like there will be a gradual relaxation of lockdown under COVID19, MCDC anticipate building work restarting on the Hub in the coming weeks/months as the government regulations allow.

The purpose of the hub is to be utilised as a multi functional community space that can be adapted to the community's needs while balancing this with the need to contribute to the running costs, preventing it becoming a drain on MCDC/TC.

Recently MCDC has been exploring the idea of there being an opportunity for them to adapt the current proposed layout inside to enable the space to lend itself to a café . Whilst still incorporating the heritage society and options for tourism/retail. In light of this request MCDC has decided to :-

1. invite expressions of interest from members of the community who would want to run a café as a business, leasing the area from MCDC/TC.
2. If there are more than one expression of interest MCDC would carry out a fair review process to select the most suitable option.
3. MCDC will be inviting expression of interest shortly and will place information on the MCDC website and FB pages. As it looks like there

will be a gradual relaxation of lockdown under COVID19, MCDC anticipate building work restarting on the Hub in the coming weeks/months as the government regulations allow.

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1. Invite expressions of interest from members of the community who would want to run a café as a business, leasing the area from MCDC/TC.
2. If there are more than one expression of interest MCDC would carry out a fair review process to select the most suitable option.
3. MCDC will be inviting expressions of interest shortly (next week to 10 days) and will place information on the MCDC website and FB pages.
4. MCDC still has an obligation to the groups that have already requested involvement in the space so anyone expressing an interest would need to take that into consideration.

No planning applications in Ward 21.

c. Planning applications for mussel farms on Loch Sunart discussed - Marine Shellfish Farm - New site consisting of 2 single head-rope 0.5m x 220m longlines for the cultivation of mussels | Land 2540M NE Of The Mains Drimnin The application falls within the MCC area. However, it was either missed off the list of applications that we discussed at the last MCC meeting or wasn't on the Ward 21 list. AF updated that we are now beyond the statutory date for responses, but the local community marine group CAOLAS have looked at the available information and on the basis of this they have objected to the application. The grounds for their objection were that there is very high biodiversity in the area where the moorings would be placed and some of this would certainly be damaged by the physical presence of the moorings and, potentially, by effluent. SNH have not recommended any surveys or provided any information on what is there on the seabed and have not objected, but local divers are aware of at least 6 priority marine features which are there, some of which are not mobile and would be destroyed. CAOLAS have objected on the grounds that without doing any surveys it is not possible to say what will be destroyed but this could be some rare, priority species.

5. Police Update - not present at the meeting but update passed on.

- There was an attempted break in to the social club - anyone with information should contact Angie
- KMcL also reported to Angie a shed that had been broken into at Ardtornish.
- People should continue to adhere to the guidelines and police have been asking people to leave the area if not local. Lockdown has reduced the number of fatalities in Highland from the virus.

- There has been a noticeable increase in dog fouling - can people please ensure that they clear up after their dogs.

6. **Recycling arrangements** from June 1st Fort William - please see Morvern.org

7. **Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee call for evidence** impact of COVID-19 on the rural economy and connectivity in Scotland - call for evidence discussed and thought that local businesses should be encouraged to respond. AR will advise if MCDC and MCC should respond collectively. MCC advocate that all local businesses affected by the crisis should respond to this to inform and influence Scottish Government's future planning

Link to information below

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115229.aspx>

8. **Treasurers update** - Summary report discussed and available to view on Morvern.org.

9. **Dail Mhor Update** from Jenni Hodgson and Sally Semple.

- There are 6 beds occupied at DMH, all stable and there are no pending discharges. Currently Covid-free. Issues with the heating, hot water and smelly drains (currently fixed but flagged up in case of future problems). Care Inspectorate registration has been changed to allow respite care (Inver Nevis had problems when they didn't change this) - the reference to "permanent beds" has now been removed. Latest care inspectorate report looks likely to be a '5' and close to '6' which is good but further work is still needed on activities and community engagement. (Update: have checked this on website - 4's and 5's). Public Health guidance issued on Friday (15/5/20) required care workers to minimise working between both care homes and at-home care. This is a big problem and they're still working out how to do this - in particular how to minimise contamination between homes. **Guidance is changing daily but it would be prudent for Community Councils to start identifying multiple roles outwith the care sector to minimise spread of infection.** There's a stack of admin around testing. There's no shortage of PPE but they have been warned that there may be a shortage of chemicals. Marie Law (NHS Highland Lochaber Manager) thanked communities across Lochaber for supporting those in care.
- Urram has now received formal charitable status from OSCR. This will enable the partnership working with Highland Hospice to commence once restrictions ease. Sally and Jenni are both directors. I'm hopeful this may be an opportunity to get care at home running again in Morvern as it has been difficult to get the NHS team to make serious efforts to recruit in the area.
- We have engaged an architect with Sally's help, to work up a drawing of what the site could be as a starter for ten. As soon as this is available and we are able to have an open day, we can start to consult with the wider community and also need to get a picture of service requirements in the future.

Thanks to Sally and Jenni for representing us. MCC noted and congratulated Dail Mhor on high inspection ratings.

Discussion also held around future primary care in Morvern - committee agreed to invite key reps from NHS Highland and locality services in the coming months - **Action MG.**

10. **Killundine** : AF updated the meeting and shared that an award has been made by the Scottish Land Fund towards the purchase of the estate, but not the full amount. Information is currently embargoed. Morvern Community Woodlands currently working on next steps. Discussion held around the postponing of postal ballot due to COVID.

11. MCC has been notified that the RSPB Life bid has been resurrected. This is likely to be submitted again in July. The bid was previously discussed and noted again that we would wish a successful grant to offer local employment. **Action AF** to invite RSPB to next meeting

12. Tourism discussed and self catering. Noted that Wales start date likely to be end of September. Currently included in Phase 3 in Scotland.

13. Village tidy to be added to July meeting

Date and Time of next meeting 6th July 7pm