

Ness Community Council

Minutes 24.07.2018 rescheduled from 16.07.18

Lionel School 7.30pm

Present: Katie M MacKenzie (Chair) D MacLeod (Treasurer/ Clerk) Peter Inger Mr Calum Watson (Public).

In Attendance: Cllr K J MacLeod

Welcome: The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting

Apologies: Jean Hawkett, Cllr K MacLeod, Cllr J N MacLeod, Cllr J MacKay

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting and the AGM were approved.

Proposed by: Mr P Inger

Seconded by: K M MacKenzie

Matters Arising:

1. Health and Social Care: Donnie attended the LPG meeting held in Carloway on the 25th of June. He explained that most of the meeting was taken up with Ron Cully going through the Annual Report 2017/18, where he highlighted the good, not so good and where improvements needed to be made. Rather than go through the report (which is quite lengthy) Donnie will e-mail it out to CC members.

2. Ness Sign: K M is still waiting to hear back from James Leitch regarding his availability, she will contact him again regarding this.

3. Scrap Cars: Unfortunately our application to the Third Sector was unsuccessful due to the high volume of applications for funding. However Donnie stated that the application submitted to UOG had been successful. He has spoken to Danda and they have agreed that 20 vehicles will be removed in the first instance and a further 20 later on in the year. Danda will contact Donnie regarding a start date, hopefully sometime in September.

4. Tourism: Donnie attended a meeting with Lisa MacLean UOG Business Development Manager, regarding the joint application to CNES requesting funding from the money made available by the Scottish Government in total £300,000 has been made available for the whole of the Western Isles, on reflection this is not a vast amount considering that CNES have to submit a single Western Isles wide application. It is hoped that we may get a small amount of this pot to support tourism in the Ness Ward.

Jean was not able to attend tonight's meeting however she did submit an update on what she has done so far. (copy attached).

5. C C Forum: Donnie informed the meeting that he had been elected to chair the Lewis Association of Community Councils, the Association is looking to appoint a Secretary and that each C C would be asked if one of their members would be willing to take on the role (No Ness volunteers). It was also

pointed out that there would be costs involved in the work and administration of the Association, it was suggested that each C C could donate the sum of £50 towards these costs, from their annual Admin Grant, (Ness C C agreed to this cost).

Minutes from the above meeting are attached.

6.Roads: In April this year (24.04.18) a letter was sent via e-mail to the then Minister for Transport and the Islands (Humza Yousaf) regarding the state of the road infrastructure in Ness. In May of this year (25.05.18) an e-mail was sent to Alasdair Allan MP, informing him of this and providing him with a copy of the letter, he was also informed that the C C had not even received an acknowledgement of their letter to the Transport Minister.

In June this year (05.06.18) a reply was received from Callum Stalker (Road Policy Officer) Transport Scotland. **Copy of both letters attached.**

Police Matters

There was no Police presence at the meeting, but it was mentioned that the previous problem of speeding cars and loud exhausts was starting up again.

A.O.C.B

A letter has been received from Donald Martin HM Lord-Lieutenant for the Western Isles, who is organising Community Engagement events to promote the work of the Lieutenancy within the Western Isles. Donnie to contact and arrange a date and venue for him to visit.

D.O.N.M

Tuesday 18th September 7.30pm Lionel School.

TOURISM REPORT – JULY 2018

Not a lot to report this month. Tourists are abundant, nothing has been done in Ness to improve their visitor experience for this season, and so holidaymakers are continuing to complain about the lack of facilities. The worst of these are:

1. Lack of public toilets: so they are relieving themselves behind rocks, in the sand-dunes, next to walls, and against structures [built for children] in the Eoropie Play Park.
2. Congestion on narrow roads.
3. Insufficient parking facilities.
4. Insufficient waste-emptying facilities for campervans.

Cyclists need to wear high-viz jackets, or extra bright tops, so that they can be seen more easily on the roads.

I've received no communication from John MacLeod, CNES, re. signage and other issues inspite of the fact that Calum MacKenzie said he would contact me and deal with all these matters in June.

No toilet facilities have yet been installed at Eoropie Play Park.

“Outer Hebrides Tourism” need **photo`s** showing tourist pressure points in Ness to send to the Scottish Government`s Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, especially of:

- campervans parked in unsuitable locations
- environmental damage caused by visitors
- overflowing rubbish bins/misuse of residential bins
- overcrowded parking areas/roadsides
- irresponsible disposal of campervan waste
- traffic congestion.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION - 27th July.

E-mail: enquiries@outerhebridestourism.org

NCC TOURISM UPDATE – JUNE 2018

Calum MacKenzie, Head of Assets & Infrastructure, CNES.

Reply to previous correspondence:

- Butt of Lewis road has been included in pot-hole repair programmes over the past few months. Will continue to monitor the state of the road.
- No possibility of more parking at Eorpie Beach.
- Concerns have been raised about the adequacy of the waste-emptying facilities at Sporsnis. Does this facility belong to the Sports Centre or the Council? If it belongs to, and is operated by Sporsnis, that means that the Council has **NO** waste-emptying facility for campervans in Ness.

Calum has arranged for John MacLeod to:

- Look at the cluttered signage at the Lional Junction.
- Discuss other issues with me [us?].
- Discuss signage for Sporsnis.

Play Park.

Article in EVENTS paper 3/5/18 – 6/6/18 mentioned:

- “the Play Park offering toilet facilities for coastal walkers”. I pointed out to GAIN that our understanding was that the toilet would only be available when the kiosk was open, and that walkers are often in the vicinity of the Play Park early mornings, late in the evenings and all day on Sundays. Their reply was that the toilet would now have a coin-operated door and therefore be available 24/7. This is good news.
- “parked cars stretching along the road from beach road junction to FC/Social Club”. I mentioned the dangers for children on this now busy road. They replied that the parking issue is being looked into.

Self-catering Accommodation.

The renovated building near the entrance to the School and Sporsnis will be opening soon.

The Shielings.

I went up to the Shielings and “YES” the track is in a terrible state, and only suitable for 4x4 vehicles or tractors. The popularity of this track for visitors has been created by Peter May`s latest book “I`ll Keep You Safe” which features this area and even has a map. Tourists want to see where the action takes place [just like they did with his first 3 books: the Lewis trilogy]. They don`t know the state of the road. Presumably, the track needs scraping again but by whom, and who is going to pay? In the long run, improvements will probably form part of a revamped Tolsta to Skigersta footpath.

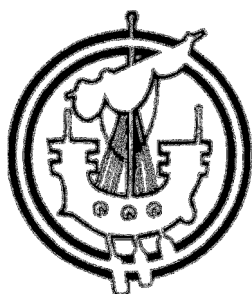
Roads – top dressing.

Sections of the main road, and various side-roads, have recently benefitted from top-dressing.

But parts of Harbost, and all roads to the north, have missed out [again].

Jean Hawkett.

NCC.



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR **LEWIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

u
t

e of Meeting held in the
Council Chamber, Council
Offices, Stornoway, on
Wednesday 23 May 2018 at
7.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr Donnie Macleod (Chair)
Mr Malcolm Dalzel-Job (Vice-Chair)
Ms Cathy Macinnes

Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Alex Mackintosh

Ms Lois Darley
Mr Chris Mackenzie
Mr Angus Mackenzie

Mr Angus Murray
Ms Fiona Macleod
Mr Bob Walker

IN ATTENDANCE

Derek Mackay – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

CONSTITUTION

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Appointment of Chairperson | 1 | It was agreed to appoint Mr Donnie Macleod as Chairperson of the Lewis Association of Community Councils. |
| Appointment of Vice-Chairperson | 2 | It was agreed to appoint Mr Malcolm Dalzel-Job as Vice-Chairperson of the Lewis Association of Community Councils. |
| Appointment of Secretary | 3 | Members discussed the appointment of a Secretary for the Association. It was suggested that interim support be provided by the Comhairle and that Community Councils be invited to consider the appointment of a Secretary from their membership. |

It was agreed that:

- (1) that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would provide secretarial support on an interim basis; and**
- (2) that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would invite Community Councils to nominate a Secretary of the Association from their membership.**

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Draft Constitution | 4 | Mr Derek Mackay circulated a draft Constitution for the Lewis Association of Community Councils. Members recognised that there would be costs in respect of the work and administration of the Association and consideration should be given to introducing a membership fee of £50 per annum, payable from the Annual Community Council Administrative Grant, towards these costs. |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

It was agreed that:

- (1) Mr Derek Mackay would revise the draft Constitution to include the comments of Members; and**
- (2) the revised Constitution would be circulated to Community Councils for further comment.**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Appointment of Member to OHCPP | 5 | Mr Derek Mackay indicated that the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership were seeking the appointment of a representative from Lewis Community Councils to serve on the Partnership. |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

It was agreed to appoint Mrs Fiona Macleod as the Associations representative on the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership for

a period of one year.

Appointment of
Members to
Lewis Transport
Forum

6

Mr Derek Mackay indicated that a Lewis Transport Forum would be established to enable communities to present their views on transport services to CalMac Ferries Ltd, public sector organisations and other transport operators and providers. The Association was invited to appoint representatives to the Forum.

It was agreed to:

- (1) appoint Mr Chris Mackenzie (Point Community Council), Mr Bob Walker (Sandwick Community Council), one representative from Uig Community Council and one representative from either Ness or Airidhantuim Community Councils as the Association representatives for the first Meeting of the Lewis Transport Forum; and**
- (2) review representation following the first meeting of the Lewis Transport Forum.**

AOCB

AOCB

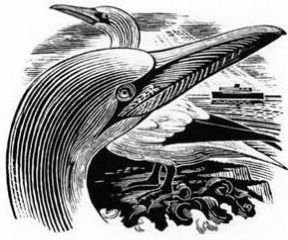
7

Members discussed communications and recognised that emails supplemented by Facebook and a website would offer the best option for efficient and effective communication with Community Councils. It was suggested that an Annual Meeting with the Groups representing Uist, Barra and Harris would provide an opportunity for collaboration, information sharing and joint campaigning.

Mr Derek Mackay provided an update in respect of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and indicated that further guidance would be issued.

It was agreed:

- (1) that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would establish a closed Facebook page for the Association;**
- (2) that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would provide a webpage for the Association on the e-Sgìre website;**
- (3) to note that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would circulate guidance on GDPR to Community Councils;**
- (4) that consideration be given to an Annual Meeting with the Association and Groups representing Barra, the Uists and Harris; and**
- (5) to invite the Chief Executive, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to the next Meeting to provide an update on Service Redesign and proposals for a Single Island Authority.**



Ness Community Council

Donald MacLeod
Clerk/Treasurer
Ness Community Council
c/o 4 Edgemoor Square
Lionel, Port of Ness
Isle of Lewis
HS2 0TJ
Tel: 01851 810443
Email: donnie.26@live.co.uk

Mr Humza Yousaf MSP
Minister for Transport and the Islands

Date: 24.04.2018

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE NESS ISLE OF LEWIS (MAIN SPINAL ROUTE BUTT TO BARRA)

Dear Mr Yousaf,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ness Community Council regarding what we feel is the unacceptable and somewhat dangerous condition of the road infrastructure (and part of the main spinal route. Butt to Barra), in the Ness area of Lewis. Over the years and in some cases dating as far back as 1998, representations have been made to CNES, MP's, MSP's, Public Petitions Committee and most recently to our Elected Councillors, although initially the issue was first raised as far back as the late 1970's, and so far it seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

The Community Council feels that the obvious lack of investment over the years by CNES, has now rendered some parts of this route as unacceptable and dangerous to all who use it. Over the last five years alone the number of visitors from all over the world, has increased dramatically (which is mirrored in the rest of Scotland). The Butt of Lewis, which is the area most visited in Ness and the second most visited site in Lewis, reportedly had 10,000 visitors in 2017, (it is on the Main Spinal route and the Hebridean way cycle route). Already this year (as early as March) we have had Tour Coaches, Campervans and Cyclists using the route.

Parts of this route suffer from the following: Crumbling and cracking of the road surface (across the whole width of the road) on the main A857, vast numbers of potholes, no pavement or footpath, narrow single track roads with no or inadequate passing places, no warning signs (Single Track Road) to name but a few. As I mentioned above this is part of the Main Spinal route and the Hebridean

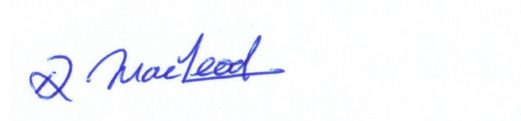
Way cycle route, it is used by tour operators and is essential to their itinerary, also campervans, cyclists, motor cyclists and walkers who all visit during the summer season and as mentioned above the numbers are increasing annually. All this adds to the continued deterioration of the road infrastructure.

From 7am onwards there is a constant stream of traffic on this stretch of road, given that the majority of the working population have no option but to travel to Stornoway. This does not include the number of local workers who constantly use the road on a daily basis, i.e. Health workers, Care Workers, Teachers, Crofters, Self Employed Contractors, Children cycling/ walking to school, to name but a few.

In conclusion the Ness Community Council feels that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has failed in it's obligation to maintain the Main Spinal Route through Ness in a safe and acceptable condition, and we urge you to give this matter some urgent consideration. The Community Council would like to extend an invitation to you to visit Ness and meet with us and members of the Community, so that we can better explain and show you what our concerns are.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,



Donald MacLeod
Clerk/Treasurer
For and on behalf of
Ness Community Council.

Road Policy Team
Trunk Road and Bus Operations

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
callum.stalker@transport.gov.scot



COIR HDHAIL ALBA

Mr Donald MacLeod
Ness Community Council
Reply issued by email: donnie.26@live.co.uk

Our ref:
2018/0015540

Date:
5th June 2018

Dear Mr MacLeod,

Thank you for your email of 24 April to the Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, regarding the condition of roads in the Ness area on the Isle of Lewis. As this is a transport related matter, I have been asked to reply.

It may be helpful if I clarify responsibilities for the management of roads within Scotland. Transport Scotland is responsible for the management and maintenance of the strategic trunk road network including motorways, which is delivered through our operating company contracts. The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 places the statutory responsibility for local roads improvement, maintenance and repair with local road authorities.

You may be interested to know that in April 2018 the Finance Secretary, Derek Mackay MSP, announced that the Scottish Government would make an additional £10 million available to local authorities to assist with the added pressure on winter maintenance budgets and repair potholes resulting from the severe winter weather. The individual local authority allocations have been agreed with CoSLA and these payments were made to each authority on 15 May 2018.

The vast majority of funding from the Scottish Government is provided via a block grant and we do not stipulate how local authorities should utilise their individual allocations. It is therefore the responsibility of each local authority to manage their own budget and to allocate the financial resources available to them on the basis of local needs and priorities, having first fulfilled their statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities. The Scottish Government allocated over £10.4 billion to local government for 2017/18. In 2018-19, councils will receive funding through the local government finance settlement of £10.7 billion. This will provide a further real terms boost in both revenue and capital funding.

Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar will receive over £104 million Scottish Government funding in 2018-19. Taken together with the decision to increase council tax by 3%, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar will have an additional £1.4 million to support local day-to-day services compared to 2017-18.

Should you wish to report a specific defect on the local roads on the Isle of Lewis, you can report a road fault via Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar's website here: <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/fault-reporting/>.



If you consider that Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar has been negligent in the handling of its duties, you can make a complaint through its 'complaints procedure', which can be found on its website at: <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/have-your-say/complaints/>

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may have recourse to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (tel: 0800 377 7330) who may examine the case. Further details on how to complain to the SPSO can be found on their website at www.spsso.org.uk.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

C. Stalker

Callum Stalker
Road Policy Officer

