

FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FCC)

31/10/2024

1. Attendees – M Boston, M Wilson, G Corner, S McInnes, A Henderson, P Nisson, S Nixon, P Hogbin

2. Apologies for absence: L Henderson, R & A Dodd.

3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting:

Prop: M Wilson

Sec: A Henderson

4. Matters arising:

River Leacainn:

Embankment deterioration – SEPA & SW say that remediation works are a “Landowners” responsibility. Currently following up with Argyll Estates Agent, Bidwell’s to establish ownership – awaiting Bidwell’s response.

AH – Thinks it belongs to the cumlodden estate

Potential flooding issue – SEPA have responded stating that these concerns are likely better directed towards Argyll & Bute Councils Flood Prevention team as they (the Roads Department group) would be the ones involved in removing obstructions from below or within/upstream of their assets like bridges or storm culverts etc. From SEPA’s perspective some “in river debris” is beneficial as it provides flow variability assisting in sediment movement and habitat/shade for fish species. If it is deemed to present a flood risk by an authority with assets in the vicinity, or downstream, or by a riparian landowner, SEPA would have no objection to it being removed for that reason. Safety concern raised with floodingenquiries@argyll-bute.gov.uk group and we await their response.

It was noted during the meeting that there are ongoing works at Furnace bends as the road is collapsing.

MB agreed to forward information of concern to G Corner for escalation of the matter.

Emergency resilience plan – there was some discussion about the risk of damage to infrastructure in the case of a major emergency. Does the community have a plan in place for if there was an emergency i.e. if the road were to collapse?

- Installation of handrailing system – pathway (between; Queen Elizabeth cottages/Village centre) – Query raised with A&B Access Manager over ownership of this footpath,

enquiring whether it is feasible to install handrailing in this area as some residents are experiencing difficulties in navigating the path due to its steepness and camber - currently awaiting response from A & B Council.

- GC - has the council adopted the footpath as they installed the lighting?
5. Treasurer's report: (see attached spreadsheet)
- Total Net Assets: £1,908.29. unchanged from previous month.
6. Police report: No report issued this month.
7. Roads:
- A83 – Bear have confirmed that remaining “Cumlodden” sign is on order and that it will be fitted, as soon as it arrives.
 - Update on speeding on Queens Elizabeth Drive. Resident has raised the issue of people continuing to drive at inappropriate speeds in the area. D {Philand had previously offered to escalate this at the relevant council meeting. It was agreed that residents need to make their complaints official by reporting to the police. Reports can be made to police Scotland online at: [Contact Police Scotland - Police Scotland](#)
8. Micro Grant applications – No new applications received.

MW advised that he would be submitting an application on behalf of the local bowling club. They are requesting an amount of £300 to assist with annual running costs. MW voiced concern about barriers faced by applicants to the fund. Pointed out that an application may be submitted but not responded to in a timely manner due to the frequency of CC meetings.

SN agreed to share the guidance and application form on the Furnace facebook page – will also forward to M Wilson.

9. Furnace Surgery – We are awaiting a further update from GP/Practice Manager:
- BT Openreach Internet connection to building still awaited. This preventing operation from surgery building.
 - A new ‘Bloods testing’ machine is now available in Inveraray. As this is a non-NHS supported test, Practice would welcome funding support to help finance the provision of this additional service.
 - New PPG email address has been setup and is undergoing testing. A PPG newsletter is currently being finalised for issue to signed-up patients in the near future.

- PH asked if the CC could donate £50 to the PPG to assist with the costs of producing the newsletter * only money from previous financial year can be used for this purpose. Members of the CC agreed with PH's proposal.

10.Environmental – Domestic waste disposal – Lingerton recycling centre:

- Is domestic waste being recycled, or exported, overseas for incineration/disposal?
- GC confirmed that all waste is shipped out of Lingerton now, and that the site is due to shut, with the council incurring costs in order to break the contract with the service provider at the site. It was stated that all recyclable waste was shipped to Glasgow, then potentially abroad, having a great impact on the areas carbon footprint.

11.Correspondence:

- Planning: New planning application 24/01749/PP - Taigh An Uillt Burnside Furnace Inveraray Argyll And Bute PA32 8XN - Erection of extension – submitted on 23rd September – Status: awaiting validation.
- WLFCC have asked whether FCC would be interested in participating in the Doodle Poll to pin down a date for the next Eredine consultation session in November. A small group representing various Mid Argyll Communities responded to a mail previously sent out and met together on September 23rd to follow up on the Inform and Inspire sessions. It was agreed then to continue the process with the support of RWE. Since then, we have been adding members to a group to continue the explorations and discussions. If Furnace residents are interested in participating then they should confirm who will represent the community on this group? The Poll link is below.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e9OwgRJb>

Please complete the poll to indicate your availability. The session will be online.

- Fiona Ross (Reporter for the Argyllshire Advertiser) has written to enquire whether Furnace residents are experiencing problems with smart meter connectivity in the area? If so, please let the CC know so that we can pass on Fiona's contact details.

12.AOCB:

- Wreath for Remembrance Day – It was agreed that David McInnes would be asked to lay the wreath.
- MW – the Christmas lights need replacing – SM is buying new ones.
- MW – Can points be fixed on the lampposts for future Christmas decorations? MW to explore options.
- MB raised concern about the stability of the monument wall – could an application for charitable funding be made? The wall needs re-pointing and new cornerstones. MW suggested forming a voluntary group within the community where people could offer their practical skills to enhance the village. MW was happy to organise this.

Next month's meeting – 28th November 2024 - 6.30pm, Furnace Village Hall