

FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FCC)

Pre-meeting notes - THURSDAY 30th January 2025

AGENDA item:

1. Attendees:

Peter Hogbin, R & A Dodd, Jan Brown, Mark Boston, Andy Henderson, Sharon MacInnes, Sarah Nixon, Phil Nilsson.

2. Apologies for absence: L. Henderson, K & L Mackellar.

Linda Henderson

3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting:

Prop: RD 2nd: AH

4. Matters arising:

- River Leacainn (Old Stables) embankment condition – Cumlodden Estate are aware and monitoring its condition which is thought to be stable. Ongoing Argyll Estate land ownership investigations are nearing completion and once finalised detailed ownership plan will be shared with FCC.
- Installation of handrailing along public footpath – FCC have written to ACHA to request the installation of suitable handrailing system and have received acknowledgement and await their response. Once received details will be sent to the SCIO for information and follow up action, if appropriate.
- Excessive vehicle speeds in Queen Elizabeth cottages area - covered under roads.

5. Treasurer's report:

- Bank position as at 30th January 25: Total balance (all funds) £1,564.19 (see separate sheet)

6. Police report: - Dec 24 – 16 calls received resulting in 7 crimes being recorded (combined Furnace, Inveraray and West Lochfyne areas) – see separate report for more detail.

- Nuisance & unacceptable behaviour – The CC have been asked to assist a village resident who has been subjected to repeated daily/nightly disturbance as a result of door bell ringing, and knocking. Unfortunately this is not an isolated case as reports from four other households have been received of a similar nature, with some reporting the throwing of stones against windows. CCTV footage capturing images of the juveniles involved has been provided to the Police, and a separate approach has also been made to the council's Public Protection group in order to identify what assistance they can provide. As well as the nuisance, distress, and risk of damage to residents property, concerns have also been expressed over the apparent lack of supervision, control exercised by parents who may not be aware of their child's activities, leaving these juveniles potentially at risk.

FCC will continue to monitor the situation and also ask that anyone who has been subjected to this kind of disturbance get in touch. (Post meeting note: MAYDS (Mid Argyll Youth Development Service) will also be contacted to see if they can assist).

7. Roads:

- Cumlodden name place sign – Bear are currently following up with their sign supplier.
- Vehicle speeding on Queen Elizabeth Drive – Update; the CC can submit a Traffic Speed survey request to the council, but following discussion (and as no residents have submitted any complaint to Police Scotland) it was agreed to not to take this request forward at this time due to the likelihood it would be turned down.
AH suggested that letters could be sent to all residents, requesting that they make their complaints known to the CC.

8. Micro Grant applications/update:

- An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund have advised that the CC's next payment is currently being processed (£1,121.29). FCC's annual report detailing the last 12 months awards granted is now due for submission to the An Suidhe Wind Farm Fund.

9. Furnace Surgery – update

Changes since last CC meeting:

- We are currently awaiting an update from Dr R. Coull.
- Furnace & Inveraray PPG are holding their next meeting in the Furnace Village Hall on Tuesday 18th February at 7.00pm – everyone is welcome.

10. Environmental:

- PH asked about the arrangements for the disposal of recycling that goes into the Lingerton site as he has concerns about the waste being sent abroad. JB agreed to try and find out what happens to the recycling once it has left Lingerton.

11. Correspondence:

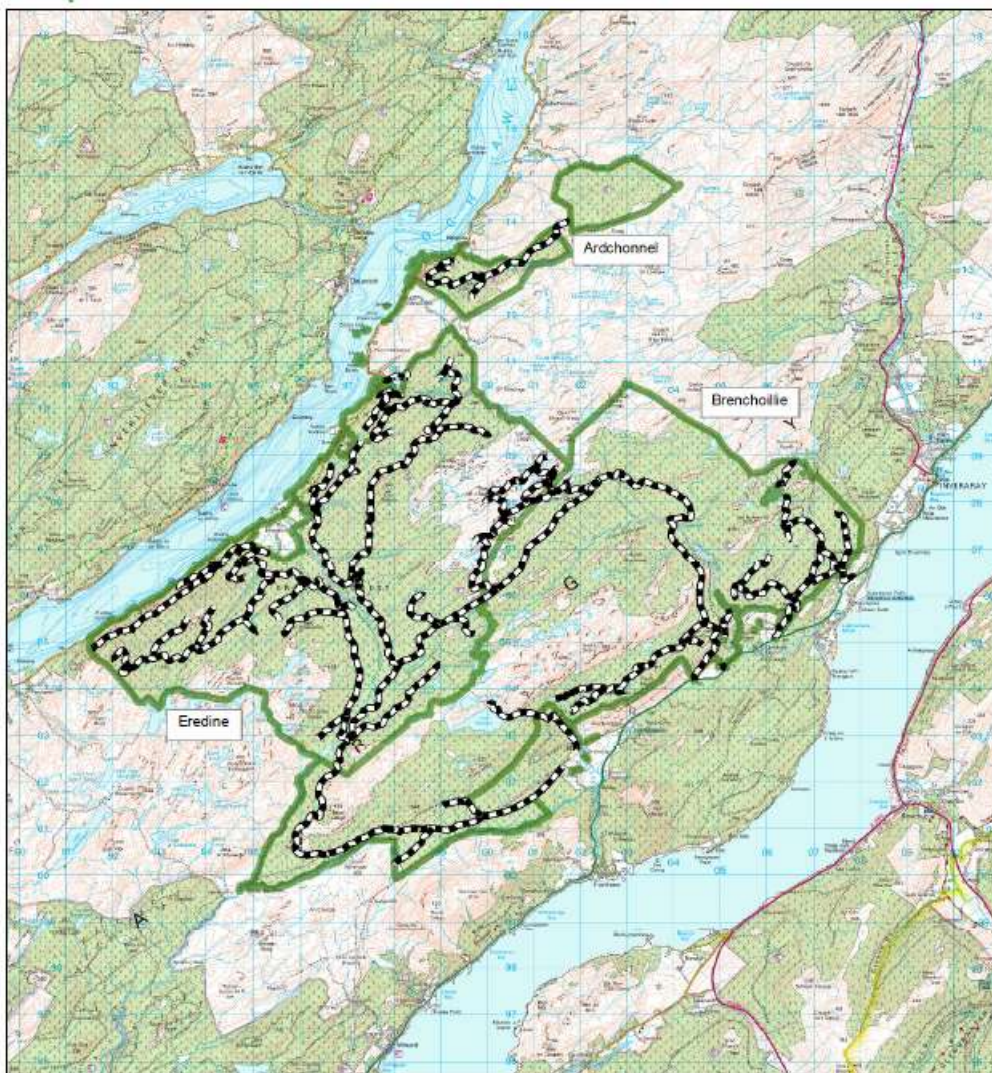
- Planning applications: Dec 24 none, Jan 25, two (details as below):
- Validated: 25/00103/PNWAY | Formation of forest track | Brenchoillie Forest Furnace Argyll
- Determined: 24/01436/PP | Installation of air source heat pump | 3 Leacainn Terrace Furnace Inveraray Argyll And Bute PA32 8XS
- Forestry & Land Scotland have issued a new (revised forest roads) land management plan (LMP) for East Loch Awe – See attached map (App1).
- SSE Community Liaison Manager (Caitlin Quinn) to attend February meeting to provide update on sub-station upgrade works and community engagement works.
- Balfour Beatty's Social Impact Coordinator (Laura Leslie-Sherwood) has been invited and agreed to attend the March meeting to inform us of BB's community support activities as well as explaining the type of community assistance they can offer.
- Following storm Eowyn the Council are seeking residents feedback on how they managed communications when power outages occurred. Were you, or a neighbour badly affected and if so how did you cope, perhaps by carrying out in-person welfare checks?
As PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Networks) are due to be switched off by 2027, any information you can provide may be used to inform and lobby the Government and Mobile Network Operators (MNO) for improvements.

12. AOCB:

JB reported to the CC that the Auchindrain historical township had now been closed. She stated that the site would not be opening this April as planned as all funding had ceased. JB reported that the board of trustees had been trying to source funds for the mothballing process. The township is the last of its kind in the world and JB is looking for local champions to get involved in raising the profile of the site.

Next FCC meeting – 27th February 2025. All Welcome.

Appendices:



East Loch Awe blocks

Scale @ A3: 1:75,000

Date: 27/01/2025

Author: Jenn West

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Legend

Forest Roads

Forest Roads

Blocks

Blocks

Scotland's national forests and land are responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

