

Sunart Community Company
Loch Sunart Development Working Group
22nd May 7pm Fire Station
Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Peter Ford (chair), John Jones, Louise Cameron, Mark from Abernethy, James Hilder, Michelle Hilder (SMMAATA), Tim Coldwell, Colin Campbell, Barnaby Edwards, Isobel Baker (LDO)

Apologies: Kate Proctor, Karl Bungey, Chris Evans

2. Agree minutes of last meeting (January 7th)

Proposed B.Evans, seconded L.Cameron.

3. Clarify Remit of the Group – (tabled February 2017 – See overleaf)

Group read through the following terms of reference outlining the remit of the Loch Development Group and agreed to add the proposed 6th point.

Draft Aims for Terms of Reference

1. To investigate ways in which Loch Sunart can contribute to the Aim¹ with the primary focus on the upper reaches of the loch from Resipole, east.
2. To assess the feasibility of making improvements to the marine infrastructure, and other loch related facilities.
3. To consult the community and other stakeholders (loch users, landowners, Crown Estate, relevant businesses etc) regarding plans and to communicate and promote progress
4. To seek financial support (grant funding, loans, investments, donations etc) for any planned activities and developments, as appropriate
5. To engage such individuals, companies and organisations as are required to facilitate the activities of the working group.
6. *“To promote greater use of the loch and a wider range of activities, whilst applying the principals of environmental and financial sustainability.”* **All present agreed proposal to add this point.**

4. Ownership of Land & Jetty & Licence - Crown Estate/ Highland Council / Marine Scotland

- a) Reduction of annual rent of £380 being sought and clarifying right to transfer running to trading subsidiary. **IB working on negotiations.**
- b) Council draft lease is with solicitor - transfer for £1 plus legal fees
- c) Awaiting new Marine Scotland Licence although this has been paid for. Unfortunately, it had been allocated to the wrong department hence the delay.
- d) Stables – no longer on market
- e) Discussed that the jetty and slip has no value for insuring. If work is carried out to improve and upgrade, then that may change.
- f) **JJ is working on insurance** for public liability.
- g) Marine Scotland need information about how many moorings we will have this year so they can issue the invoice. **JH BEv to meet and take a look at moorings** and who owns what and finalise the list for the year.
- h) GDPR was raised and that some present felt that Crown Estate Scotland requesting details of individual mooring holders was unnecessary. The moorings form from SCC will have a box with the option for members to opt out of having their information shared with Crown Estate Scotland. **IB JH working on moorings forms.**

5. Visitor Moorings

- a) Installed – IB to get a safe donation box to attach to the tin shed. JH to organise tickets in Shops which will help us to gather some information about visiting boats if they do go to the shop to buy a ticket.
- b) IB to make posters – one for the tin shed display (keys held by BEv and JH). IB to talk to harbour masters and organise publicity at Lochaline Tobermory and Salen
- c) IB to look into adding to Google Earth
- d) TColdwell will paint V 15T on the three vis moorings – to make them more obvious as visitor moorings.

6. Sunart Water Festival Proposal – Mid September – See separate proposal for a fun day of watery events.

- a) The Loch Group were in favour of supporting the festival
- b) Abernethy can't make the festival this year due to bookings already made. However, Mark from Abernethy informed us that there may be some wetsuits available for use by participants of the festival – He will make enquiries
- c) MH and IB are working to organise the festival

7. Income Generation and Fundraising- see separate paper "Friends of Sunart Coast and Waters"

- a) Confirm Rates for Moorings Holders for 2018-2019 season
 - i) Agreed the same fees as previous years Total £50 (£40 goes to CES)
 - ii) Have an option for further donation to the SCC Loch Development Projects to cover costs and allow further upgrades and developments in this area.
 - iii) JH IB to finalise moorings forms
- b) Options for short or long-term rent of Visitor Moorings to local boat owners - Discussed the possibility of renting out a visitor mooring.
 - i) Agreed that it would be simplest to link up unused moorings to people who want them. Don't want to tie up our moorings and then not have enough. How ever would be helpful to cover costs. Moorings could be let on a Monthly basis so that if there is evidence that we need the use of it for visitors, then there is flexibility.
 - ii) IB to get in touch with person interested in a mooring
 - iii) Also to confirm with Ian Mclellen about allocating his mooring
- c) The group discussed donations for slip and other users, suggested donations...
 - i) £10
 - ii) £25 regular users
 - iii) £40 business users
- d) Friends of Sunart's Coast and Waters – proposed member club set up for receiving donations as proposed above). Donations will be used towards work associated with the coastal and water in the Sunart Area. Donations can be made to this Friends of Scheme by anyone interested in supporting activities, improvements and community ownership of facilities. Those joining within the Sunart area will then become members of the Community Company and those outwith the area, Associate Members.
 - i) Importantly, the 'Friends Of' will also provide a great evidence base for funding applications, showing that there is significant interest in Marine and Coastal activities in Sunart.
 - ii) Those present all supported the proposal
 - iii) IB to draft Membership form

8. Coastal Assets Audit (HIE) and Tourism Survey – Yachts and Yacht Charter Co's

- a) Update from Izzy & SMMAATA – Marine Tourism survey fine tuned and put on to survey Monkey. Two responses completed. Haven't pushed it hard, and if we want many returns will need to be a more involved approach, with a day or more visiting marinas etc. No further action at present.
- b) 2020 year of Coast and Waters – would be great to tie in to this (promoted by Event Scotland) and be able to showcase what we are doing here during a year with a lot of publicity and interest from funders etc. The Sunart Water Festival starting this year leading up to the 2020 event will be a good starting position to attract attention and hopefully funding for all the aspirations we have along the shore, the installation and upgrade of marine facilities and promoted activities.

9. Future of the Jetty (point raised at meeting so added item)

- a. There are several options for the future management of the Jetty
 - i. **Repair** – Could completely surround jetty in new concrete. The foundations were discussed and there is some doubt as to whether there are any.
 - ii. **Repair and Upgrade** – look at modifying the jetty so that it is more fit for purpose
 - iii. **Demolish**
 - iv. **Look at potential tie ins with Pontoon system**
- b. The group discussed that the Jetty is a useful breakwater and provides shelter for launching boats on the slipway. However, it is not fit for purpose as a jetty. It is covered with water at high tide, and does not reach out far enough at low tide.
- c. The Group agreed that it would be useful to **consult a Marine Infrastructure Engineer** – and for their views on what is possible and needed. **Action not yet allocated**

10. AOB

- a) BEv raised that the 2nd visitor mooring is too close to his mooring so Mallaig marine will need to be contacted to move it westward about 10metres. **IB to contact Mallaig Marine**

11. Date of Next Meeting

Tues 17th July 7pm – location tbc.

ⁱ The Aim of the Working Group is to assist the Community Council and Community Company in working towards the community vision for the area:

“A socially and economically inclusive environment which adapts to change in a sustainable and dynamic way creating a resilient community”

Summarised as: *Keeping Sunart a great place to live, work and visit.*