

MONDAY 3 MAY 2021

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held via video conference at 7.00pm

Members

Mr A Carter
Mr J Fraser
Ms K Fraser
Mr M Hall
Mr S Hay
Mr A Irvine
Mr A Johnston

Mr D Ristori
Mr G Robinson
Mrs A Simpson
Ms F Valente
Mr A Wenger
Mrs J Williamson

Ex Officio

Cllr M Bell
Cllr S Flaws
Cllr S Leask

In Attendance

PC Jamie Henderson – Police Scotland
Mari Grains – Trading Standards Officer, SIC
Robina Barton – Transport and Projects Officer, SIC
Neil Grant – Director of Development Services, SIC
Robert Sinclair – Executive Manager of Assets, Commissioning & Procurement, SIC
Ms Caroline Carrol – Living Lerwick
Chris Cope – Shetland News
Andrew Hirst – Shetland Times
Anna Watts - Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

05/21/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

05/21/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A Hawick, Cllr C Smith, Cllr P Campbell, Mr M Duncan

05/21/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Malcolm Bell - Planning

Addition – Police Scotland Report

PC Jamie Henderson presented the Lerwick area report from Police Scotland for February/March.
PC Jamie Henderson left the meeting.

05/21/04

Speaker – Mari Grains, Trading Standards Officer, SIC – Scambusters presentation

Mari Grains forwarded Powerpoint and PDF versions of presentation; clerk to share with members.

Mari Grains left the meeting.

05/21/05

Speaker – Robina Barton, Transport and Projects Officer, SIC: Public Transport Fare Policy Review Consultation

SIC appointed an economic consultant to do this review, following STAG methodology. The aim is to identify problems with the current fare structure which has no coherence, no set policy for public transport fares eg between buses and ferries. The review is also looking at tackling inequalities.

The initial part of the review engaged the public through consultation and also has a reference group which includes SIC depts, NHS, Ability Shetland, Shetland Bike Project, to investigate what different fare structures might look like. Before any kind of discount can be applied, a base fare is needed and options are to be explored for setting the base fare. A range of discount options are being explored, targeted at different groups of people. The appointed consultant is analysing responses to the public consultation, but Community Council responses give the opportunity to get an overarching community view.

Question: What is the situation regarding taking bicycles on buses? There is currently no firm policy, it is at the discretion of the operator and therefore could vary journey to journey depending on capacity of the bus; this is also more difficult at the moment with reduced capacity due to COVID restrictions. A passenger could contact the bus company in advance to find out. It has been difficult to implement along with wheelchair users and prams etc. Racks on the front or back of buses has been trialled in Orkney, but weather/salt causes issues and also takes time to load and unload. Overarching aim is to encourage people out of cars, particularly single-occupancy. The challenge is to link up shared transport, public transport and active travel. One possibility is pool bikes with parking close to bus interchange.

Question: Could the review process consider how fair fares are delivered? For example, dispersing a fixed sum monthly to people who need public transport and they choose where and when to use ('Community Uber' model). Sevenoaks in Kent turned all fixed link services into demand-responsive services and is a model SIC would like to explore. New opportunities with sharing vehicles, apps for peer-to-peer car sharing in the community, to reduce need for people to own cars and have access to a vehicle when needed, reducing inequalities.

Question: Does the review committee include people who use buses? Yes, one person in the group is a bus user and other members of group are working with people who use buses.

Question: Do we need to use assets more wisely? For example, during break times for ferry crews, the whole ferry is out of use and docked in the harbour. There is a need to look at the whole network so that all can work effectively together. Ferries are subject to legislation regarding how long they can work and there are limitations to numbers of staff available for ferry operation.

Question: Is electronic payment now available on ferries? Yes, available now on Bressay ferry and looking into implementing across service. Ultimate aspiration is to be able to develop to a universal way to plan, book and pay for travel.

Question: Different demographics will have different requirements of public transport; are different age groups represented? The review is trying to engage with different types of service users regarding needs around fares.

Deadline to report to funders regarding the review is the end of May, but the process has thrown up other areas to investigate further. Transport will keep members updated.

Robina Barton concluded by saying that if anyone has questions, they are welcome to contact her.

Robina Barton left the meeting.

05/21/06

Speaker – Neil Grant & Robert Sinclair, SIC: Knab Redevelopment update

Neil Grant:

Planning to commence first phase during May (see newsletter circulated) Overall project will be phased over 10 years to include various uses of the spaces and to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of those who live and work there. Plans include a Creative hub and potential student accommodation. The plan has successfully attracted £9.1 million of Government funding, not for delivering 'more of the same' but in line with Islands Deal funding focused on value added for the future. £3 million is for arts and creative industries. A Community asset transfer for the old school science block into a community centre for New Life Shetland is in progress. The Knab masterplan has already won awards for work so far.

Robert Sinclair:

The first phase of demolition is planned to begin on 10th May. It will be 18 weeks for the first phase, involving separation of buildings to be retained and demolished. This phase will include a tendering process for consultancy and design services for regeneration of the site. By spring of next year, it is expected that the first phase of demolition will be complete, with the second phase underway and designs well developed for roads, pavements, public spaces. SIC will then have to take a decision on when to invest in the later stages of development. At every stage, interested parties will be kept involved and further newsletters will be distributed. It is hoped to have permanent displays and a project team member in the Anderson Institute building to be available for information to the public.

The Chair queried regarding whether a Traffic Management plan is in place for the first phase.

Traffic management plans accompany planning applications for first phase. For construction and demolition, this is included as part of the overall Health and Safety plan. Project email address is project.knab@shetland.gov.uk

Question: Has the Science Block change of use been approved?

Community Asset transfer arrangement is subject to all necessary planning consents and requirement for change of use is part of the process. New Life Shetland would probably be willing to come to a meeting and discuss the plans with LCC.

Question: Will Islands Deal funding be going more to infrastructure or arts?

Funding is to provide housing at a higher, future standard (including low carbon, connectivity – both physical and digital, suitability for working from home). Another aspect is about making the spaces on the site special and to help community engagement and wellbeing. Another element of the funding is for an arts and creative hub. Suitability of the old Anderson Institute is being looked at for that but needs to go through feasibility study etc. Other buildings may also be suitable. Islands Deal funding is to add value to the site.

Question: Does the Knab site offer a microcosm for future Shetland, an opportunity for the wider community to think differently about living in Shetland?

COVID restrictions have demonstrated significant changes/opportunities around working from home etc. To obtain such a large amount of funding is unusual and is in place to design a place for the future. When the Anderson High School relocation plans began, SIC decided to take ownership of the site and produced the masterplan to fill demands for the benefit of the community, rather than selling the site to the highest bidder.

Question: Is there any opportunity to sell assets and generate income from demolition, eg slates from roof?

A lot of redistribution and recycling has already taken place. There has to be a balance between commercial realities of clearing the site in an environmentally friendly and safe way. The initial assessment will be on a quality basis before looking at financial returns.

The Chair thanked Neil Grant and Robert Sinclair and said members will look forward to further updates. Neil Grant and Robert Sinclair left the meeting.

05/21/07 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th April 2021 – for approval**

Minutes approved by Mrs J Williamson; seconded by Mr S Hay

Arising from minutes: The Chair is to meet with FLJ re Sletts Pier; due to circumstances this hasn't happened yet but will hopefully be this month.

05/21/08 **Correspondence**

Query on email regarding Cunningham Way. The action from April's meeting was to write to the owner. The email shows it is common grazing land, does this mean it is owned by the Council?

Mr A Johnston confirmed that the land is not owned by the Council but if anyone does go around gate with vehicle, it is ill advised. It was agreed that it is unclear what else could be done regarding this issue. The gate was installed to stop people using the road, so that those using road are the ones paying for the maintenance, they have keys for access to use the road.

Colin Smith's report/explanation regarding Sletts Pier disrepair seems to give a comprehensive answer. The Chair will meet with Colin and pick up on some of the points in his email.

05/21/09 **Finance – Core Funding Report 26 April 2021**

The Chair requested confirmation that the SIC core grant had been paid into the LCC account. Clerk confirmed that these funds were received on 30 April.

Town Centre Fund Capital Grant

Ms K Fraser suggested the possibility to fund more comfortable seating, perhaps with form of robust shelter.

Ms C Carroll said that plans for Harrison Square are SIC run and include sheltered seating. Ms Carroll will forward an email with relevant information. It was suggested that maybe additional tables along with seating would be good.

Mr S Hay mentioned the pathway around Gilbertson Park which has almost disappeared. It would be good to have this recreation space accessible with a decent path for people to walk around and watch activities. Mr G Robinson supported this; it is currently very wet and boggy around the area. It was agreed to forward this idea.

05/21/10

Living Lerwick grant application

Mrs J Williamson proposed; Ms K Fraser seconded.

05/21/11

SSEN Resilient Communities Fund

If any members have ideas, inform Chair/Clerk of suggestions and they can be approved at next meeting for submission.

05/21/12

Letter from M Bailey re: Bowls Hall at Clickimin

No comments, file for correspondence.

05/21/13

Planning Applications:

A - Land Adjoining Clickimin Loch, South Road, Lerwick, Shetland (2021/116/PPP) Demolition of existing derelict building and to erect a dwellinghouse.

After discussion regarding potential environmental impact, it was agreed to reply with a comment on the need for safe access to the property and to ensure appropriate mitigation is in place to prevent pollution going into loch.

Mr G Robinson proposed; Mr J Fraser seconded.

B - 2021/101/PPF – Church Road, Lerwick; Retrospective application for electric vehicle charge point. No objections

C - 2021/127/PPF – Former Science Block, Old Anderson High School; Change of use.

Mr J Anderson proposed forwarding an objection on the basis that there is no parking provision. Mr A Carter seconded.

It was suggested that New Life Church representative(s) be invited to attend a future LCC meeting and speak about their plans.

D – 2021/160/PPF – At SES EI & Mec Services, Oversund Road, Lerwick. No objections.

05/21/14

Proposed Orders for Parking Place for Disabled Person's vehicle:

A – Sletts Road – no objections

B – Sandveien – no objections

05/21/15

AOB

Mr J Fraser - Suggestion of a series of training workshops regarding planning consultations in order for LCC members to properly represent the community they are appointed to represent. Ask department if there is a revised timetable for this training.

Mr G Robinson – Concern regarding the fence between the back of 1 and 4 Burnside which is a public area and built to protect the embankment. There is danger of falls, particularly for a child and also a broken wire which is a hazard in itself. Write to housing to raise concern.

Mr S Leask – interesting and informative meeting, thanked all.

The Chair suggested that LCC send a note to Living Lerwick to express marked improvement to Harbour House and toilets since cleaned.

Mr A Wenger – queried whether an extension to Public Toilets opening hours could be explored for summer. Write to SIC.

Ms K Fraser – quite a few folk wondering about Knab and park toilets opening times; enquire regarding these too.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....
Date.....