

MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLE

Decision

The questions will be put to the relevant department and Councillor Kain will request that the response is issued timeously.

Question 5 Roddy McCuish

Roddy submitted the following question prior to the meeting by email:-

I recently reported rat increase of some alarming numbers at the junction of Polvinister Road and Glencruitten Road. I thought the quickest way to investigate this problem was to approach one of my elected members. I contacted Cllr Lynch who replied very promptly and reported it to the relevant department. Unfortunately he was told the warden was unexpectedly unavailable at the moment

Scotland, however, fly tipping can be reported to the Council using the online form or

Chair stated that in essence the problems should be reported to the relevant Land Owners.

Question 7 Neil MacIntyre

Question submitted by email prior to the meeting:-

how much CCTV plans will cost if it goes ahead.

Even a projected cost would be great if they are putting these plans together and are waiting for further information.

Mark Calder advised that the costs are negligible between £500 - £2000 which could be absorbed as part of the existing budget. We would be looking at installing 1 2 cameras at Ganavan possibly on the toilet block and one elsewhere to cover the

provides support for all our CCTV systems across the whole area, to agree a specification with them and get their professional advice on the appropriate system for the area.

Question 8 Laura Corbe, Keeping Oban Beautiful

Laura submitted the following question by email prior the meeting:-

We, a community collective led by Keep Oban Beautiful & with volunteers from amongst others Oban High School, would like to ask for permission to work on council land to rehabilitate a small stretch of woodland located close to the high school. The goal is to create a wellness walk & woodland heaven in this otherwise unused scrap of land. We do not wish to acquire the land, which may not be possible anyway as I believe Scottish water may have an interest there, but would like to have all permissions/risk assessments/training/ paperwork in place to begin work by the start of the 23/24 academic year. There are several invasive species which we will endeavour to remove however there is a small amount of Japanese Knotweed

removal as soon as possible.

Mark Calder advised that this is not something that they were aware of but are happy to work with any group who are willing to take any vacant and disused land and do something positive with it for the Community. He confirmed he had details and will get in touch with her directly to take this forward and that he hoped to have an update for the next Area Committee.

Duncan Martin asked if the Council have any plans to deal with the eradication of Japanese Knotweed at the Black Lynn next to the Bridge Café?

Mark Calder advised that he is not sure of the areas specified and would need to find out if the Council is responsible for the removal Japanese Knotweed in the areas. The Council does have a Policy for the Eradication of Japanese Knotweed which he will circulate to the Members and Duncan for their perusal.

Councillor Hume advised that the Council Policy is to spray the Japanese Knotweed in the Autumn which does not eradicate completely, it is an invasive species which requires to be pulled out at the root.

Councillor Luna Martin believes the Council Policy is to inject the Knotweed twice a year, however, there has been a couple of issues raised concerning the cleaning of the council vehicles after the treatment of the Knotweed, which could cause cross contamination?

Mark Calder did not agree that this was the case, there are mechanisms in place for the cleaning of vehicles following work will all invasive species.

Question 9 Marri Malloy Oban Community Council

Following a recent visit to Ganavan I witnessed 2 large Campervans parked in the bays with them a car taking up a further space and all their diving equipment taking up another space. It has been in the papers recently that with the issue of camper vans councils are employing specific wardens for this problem which are funded by the Scottish Government are Argyll and Bute Council going to employ such wardens in Oban and if so, will they be deployed to Helensburgh as the current traffic wardens are. I know the TRO is coming up later in the Agenda, but we will not be permitted to ask questions during that items, so will the TRO cover Ganavan?

Councillor Kain advised that the funding and wardens is not something we are aware of and asked Mark to add this to his list. Councillor Green added that the wardens in Highland were funded by Nature Scotland.

Stuart Watson advised that the Council has 6 traffic/amenity wardens to cover 116 carparks and 2.5km of road, they are put out to where they are most needed and where the demand is higher. Oban has the highest rate of attendance at 80% for a traffic warden to be on site within the town. In terms of Ganavan the Traffic Order was never installed there to raise revenue, the 2 hours free time was to allow people to walk dogs, walk the cycle path and recreational time. The traffic wardens do attend Ganavan, we have worked closely with the Police and the Environment Wardens done joint site visits and there has never been any evidence to what is reported to us. The police have written to us to state there has been no evidence anti-social behaviour.

In comparison to Highland Council where they have a warden to every 500 spaces, Argyll and Bute have a warden to every 1200 spaces, also the Oban wardens are not just covering Oban they are OLI wardens so have to travel to Craignure, Fionnphort and Iona which is a whole working day away from Oban.

Councillor Hampsey asked if the traffic wardens have a schedule to kept to and show how often they attend Ganavan and whether there is an aim as to where these wardens should be and how much time they attend these areas?

Stuart advised that wardens do not have a schedule to follow as the public would pick up on when and where they would be in the area. Wardens also do cash collections and whilst they are carrying out these duties they are unable to do enforcement.

Question 10

10. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND ROAD ACCESS FUND

The Committee gave consideration to a report that provided options on how to spend £75,000 that had been allocated from the Crown Estates funding to a Cemetery Maintenance and Roads Access Fund.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee:

1. agreed the package of proposals up to the value of £75,000; and
2. noted that regular updates would be provided via the Roads and Infrastructure weekly briefings.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services, dated June 2023, submitted)

11. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER PROPOSED FOR OBAN

The Committee gave consideration to the updated draft report of the Oban on street Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) following officer engagement via the Community Participation Request process.

Decision

(various streets Oban) (Amendment) Order 220_(TRO) is made.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services, dated June 2023, submitted)

12. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided links to the recent activities of Roads and Infrastructure Services relevant to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee considered and noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services, dated June 2023, submitted)

13. GIBRALTAR STREET PUBLIC REALM PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to an updated report on the Gibraltar Street Public Realm Project.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee:

1. Noted the content of this report and
2. Considered and agreed an officer approach with regard to public consultation on proposed bespoke signage.

14. HSCP BI-ANNUAL UPDATE

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee noted and considered the number of awards made since December 2022.

17.