

Balloch Community Liaison Group

Meeting 1st February 2022

In Attendance – Ian Will, Catherine Bunn, Will Miller, Kare Ross (joined after others left)

Apologies: Trish Robertson, Karen Day, John McHardy, Andrew Lilley

Minutes

1. Actions from Previous Meeting – covered by the agenda items
2. Housing Project Update
 - Planning – to be submitted to the 8th February Planning Committee
 - Enabling works
 - Planning – consented, Road Construction Consent awaited
 - Strategy for dealing with existing fibre cables being assessed. Crucial to site start
3. Knotweed

Helen to approach the owner and advise on the apparent spread of the knotweed and the importance of getting it dealt with as an invasive species which is covered by law. It is possible for Naturescot to issue a Species Control Order but Helen would touch base with the owner first to see how they are proposing to deal with it

4. Woodland Update

The purchase from the Crown is almost concluded and will immediately lead on to the assessment of a Community Transfer and scoping out what this would look like. Catherine stressed the importance of this being considered alongside the school land and any opportunities for money generating initiatives that would support the management of the woodland and the potential of funding of a post to drive things forward. Ian suggested that they should have a public meeting to look at options and glean views locally including both Balloch and Culloden residents – Catherine mentioned the new community development in Tomatin and the games area built adjacent to the canal locks in Inverness which are good examples of what can be provided.

Once the Council owns the wood, then consideration can be given to the request from the residents in Underwood to release an area to assist with drainage. This would need to be considered in the context of the broader area and the impact that any drainage works may have elsewhere

5. School land Update

Karen advised that she hasn't been approached by the estates team – Helen will copy the minutes to Karen Day (post meeting note Helen had received and update but missed it before the meeting – sent out in separate email)

6. AOCB

Helen asked if any of the group had heard from a Mr Martin who farms locally. Ian advised that there is growth against the new fence which was erected when the Academy land was purchased and there may well be the transfer of seed from there. There is also a risk that it is coming from the school site or the suds area of the housing development. Helen to go back to Mr Martin re his concerns