

## **Mull Community Council Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, 7pm (Telephone Conference)**

**Present:** Andrena Duffin, Billy McClymont, John Maughan, Susan Campbell, Fiona Brown, Jim Corbett, Pam McColl, Norman Hickson, Adrian Stephens, Moira Westland, Iain Campbell, Sue Hawkes, Sarah Padley, Vic Linneman

**In Attendance:** Mary Jean Devon, Duncan Brown, Mairi Greig, Joe Reade, Oliver MacLean, Seonaidh MacKenzie, P.C Kevin Bonar, Colin Morrison, Kirsty Renton, Elizabeth Ferguson, Morven Gibson

### **Minutes Previous Meeting:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sarah Padley 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam McColl

### **Police Report – P.C Kevin Bonar**

Total Calls - 29

Mull North - Total calls – 15 Calls of note – All routine calls Crimes recorded – 7

Craignure and surrounding -Total Calls – 4 Calls of note – All routine calls Crimes recorded – 1

Salen and surrounding area- Total calls – 3 Calls of note – Crimes recorded – 1

Ross of Mull & Iona - Total calls – 7 Calls of note – All routine calls Crimes Recorded - 1

### **Calmac Communities Board - Elizabeth Fergusson**

E.F represents Mull, Iona, Tiree, Coll, Lismore and Kerrera. 6 different islands with very different needs. E.F stated that if 2 meter social distancing rule is reduced to 1 meter, that will significantly change capacity on ferries. Working on getting outside seating tickets to allow greater capacity, and are hopeful that this might be instated. These will be sold as 'turn up and go' tickets. There is currently a 2 week booking window which has caused some issues for tourism and those who need to get off the island quickly due to appointments etc. CCB is working to have this extended by the 15<sup>th</sup> July. The final decisions lie with the Scottish Government. Craignure – Oban route is not currently fully booked and therefore not at full capacity. There is also investment required from Scottish Government and third party pier owners e.g. local authorities for regeneration projects to update many of the port facilities. E.F has been pursuing issue with visitors who have Covid 19 symptoms. It has been confirmed that those with symptoms should not travel on public transport. Calmac advice states that those with Covid symptoms cannot travel on the ferry unless they are an emergency patient travelling in an ambulance. Any further questions and issues that arise from that are for the local authority contingency planning. A.D stated that there is great concern for tourists who are in self-catering accommodation developing symptoms. Dr Jespersen is currently working on getting a definitive answer to this. An answer is needed within 2 weeks. E.F in full agreement. The answer needs to come from the Scottish Government and Local Authority.

### **Update from Ferry Committee – Joe Reade**

Local issues are being worked on together with CBB and this spreads the workload for each group. It is hoped that the 2 week booking window will not be a permanent fixture as it can force passengers to purchase 2 single journeys if they cannot book the return journey they need at point of booking. A.D asked how Covid symptomatic people go to and from the island as Calmac currently are not

permitted to carry any symptomatic passengers. J.R state that Transport Scotland have been in discussion with the Health Department to create policy which allows people with Covid to travel. There is a timetable in place from 15<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> October. The Coruisk will operate 3 return journeys per day. The question of prioritising booking is being discussed by Calmac and Transport Scotland. The Ferry Committee are feeding into this to ensure that local opinion on prioritising is clear. Concession tickets are not bookable at present but Calmac are attempting to change this. A.D stated that she had received multiple messages of concern with regards priority booking for those with hospital appointments. J.R stated that twenty percent of passenger and car spaces are being held back for 'turn-up-and-go' passengers, which is intended to enable unplanned or urgent travellers to get a space on the ferry .M-J.D confirmed that there is a 'West Coast Understanding' that ambulance or 'Rapid Referrals' are given place on ferry. Minor routes are not bookable. S.P enquired as to whether there is staff available to cover crew if there is a Covid outbreak amongst Calmac staff. J.R stated that in theory the entire crew would not have to go into isolation if one member of staff had a confirmed case as they are working in pods to reduce contact. A.D asked if high school children will be guaranteed space on Fridays returning from school. M-J.D stated that Don McKilop had given assurance that this would be the case.

### **Rumours of Covid on Island**

A.D asked for member's opinion on whether there could be official channel where by confirmed cases could be announced. V.L discussed with Dr Jespersen and opinion from medical staff was negative. V.L would like to see a system devised that would diffuse rumours and officially put community minds at rest. M-J.D stated that individuals are being falsely named and accused and so there should be protocol in place to prevent this. A.D asked all members to e-mail opinions.

### **Island Re-opening – Community Feedback**

Must keep delivery service open to those who are shielding. Must continue to reassure community that community bodies are doing everything they can to keep the island protected. B.M stated that some bookings have cancelled themselves for that very reason. They do not want to put the island at risk or make community feel uncomfortable. P.M stated that some of the bookings for Glengorm have stated that they will be doing all shopping beforehand and bringing their own PPE. C.M stated that Marketing Mull have employed an officer to advise small businesses on Mull.

### **Public Toilet Re-opening Update – Mary-Jean Devon**

Craignure toilets will be open from 6<sup>th</sup> July. Fionnphort and Iona toilets will be open from 15<sup>th</sup> July and will be cleaned twice daily. Calgary and THA toilets will open. Salen and Ulva closed.

### **A.O.B**

S.P enquired as to when commercial waste will be uplifted again. A.D to contact Iain Elwis and report back. S.P suggested that shop fronts and window displays be decorated with rainbows for the island opening back up. A.D agreed that this was a good idea and will contact Sue Penny.

