

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE held by SKYPE  
on WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2021**

**Present:**

Could Mr. Smith please provide his management plan.

This must include some method of controlling the use of the car park by caravans and campervans, which at times made the area unusable by the general public. It must also address the wider issue of accommodating these visitors elsewhere in Oban - perhaps the old Council yard could be used temporarily? It has water, electricity and sewage facilities.

### **Response from Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services**

In the absence of a relevant officer the Committee Manager read out the following statement from the Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services.

At the Council Budget meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, the Council allocated funding to deal with staycation visitors as detailed in the table below.

<b>Investing in Argyll and Bute's Opportunities - £0.830m</b>	
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£500k	Staycation Argyll and Bute - Supporting recovery and renewal by maximising the potential for growth in Argyll campervan staycation market	Additional funds to be spent across 2021/22 and 2022/23 to support the delivery of a range of facilities across Argyll and Bute necessary to support camping and caravan staycations. This will include provision of additional waste disposal facilities to be available prior to the summer of 2021 and other facilities that will be informed by the Motorhome and Informal Camping Survey. Additional wardens to be employed over the period April to October 2021 to raise awareness in respect of camping
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### **Response from Committee**

Concerns were raised by Councillor McCuish, Councillor Robertson, Duncan Martin and Marri Malloy that the report and response from the Head of Roads and Infrastructure were general in nature and did not specifically address concerns in Ganavan or the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area as a whole. It was agreed that the Committee Manager would seek a further response from the Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services providing specific detail in relation to Ganavan and the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area.

Following a query from Councillor McGrigor, it was agreed that the Committee Manager would also request more detailed information from the Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services in relation to facilities which would be available across the Argyll and Bute area. The Committee Manager agreed to circulate any responses received to Mr Martin and Members of the Area Committee.

The Chair confirmed that she had raised concerns around the situation at Ganavan and across the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area in advance of restrictions being eased with the Policy Lead and Council Leader.

### **Question from Marri Malloy, Oban Community Council**

Marri Malloy requested clarification as to how the situation at Ganavan would be managed and whether wardens would be able to manage the situation at Ganavan whereby people used the car park to stay in overnight and left early in the morning.

### **Response from Committee**

In the absence of the Head of Road and Infrastructure Services, it was agreed that the Committee Manager would forward this question to him and circulate any response to Ms Malloy and Members of the Area Committee.

### **Question from Charles Fotheringham, Appin Community Council**

Mr Fotheringham advised that concerns had been raised by local parents at the beginning of the pandemic around possible issues in recruiting teachers for Oban High School, following reports that some pupils did not have teachers for some subjects.

### **Response from Committee**

Councillor McCuish sought and received confirmation from Mr Fotheringham that he would be happy for Councillor McCuish to ask the Head Teacher of Oban High School this question at item 5 (a) of the agenda.

Councillor Devon provided information around the planned co-ordination of timetables for Tobermory, Tiree and Oban High Schools that helps to expand the number of subjects pupils can access.







## **Decision**

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee agreed:

1. to note the performance presented on the Scorecard and supporting commentary;
2. that upon receipt of the Quarterly Performance Report the Area Committee contact

(Reference: Report submitted by Head Teacher, Tiree High School, dated February 2021, submitted)

7.

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided an update on Roads and Infrastructure Services activities within the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area.

**Decision**

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

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with Responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services, dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, submitted)

8.



## 10.

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided an update to Members on the proposed development of a number of car parks in the Oban area.

### **Decision**

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee:

1. noted and considered the outcome of the site investigations, the responses from the prospective developers and from Environmental Health & Roads confirming that the Tweeddale Street car park was unsuitable for development based on the risks and costs;
2. noted and considered that the Albany Street car park had generated significant interest from developers but would require some site assembly to provide a developable site and would result in a substantial loss of town centre parking if developed in isolation;
3. noted and considered that the Esplanade car park is impacted by existing rights of access, adjacent premises and limited circulation space and its development would result in a loss of public parking; and
4. noted and considered that the additional comments from developers and commercial agents had highlighted that the car parks at the Corran Halls/Victoria Crescent were considered more suitable for development and preparations would be made to promote these sites for development in line with the Area for Action designation.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021, submitted)

## 11.

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing details of increased campervan and motorhome tourism across Argyll and Bute and providing Members with the latest position in respect of this, following the setting up of a short life working group involving a wide range of partners.

### **Decision**

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee:

1. considered the contents of the report; and
2. considered the opportunities and challenges presented by informal camping and motorhome visits and how these could be best managed within the OLI administrative area.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with Responsibility for Development and Economic Growth, dated February 2021, submitted)

