



East Loch Lomond Community Trust

AGM, Milton of Buchanan Village

Thursday 19 May 2022, 7pm

1. Walter McAllister welcomed members and guests to the meeting - there were 13 members and 2 non-members present.
2. Minutes of previous AGM (2 March 2021)
Proposed: David Fraser Seconded: Arthur Hannan
3. Chairperson's Report - Walter McAllister (WMcA) presented his report.
 - i. Affordable housing development in Balmaha - Rural Stirling Housing Association continues to investigate ways to get construction underway. There have been several cost cutting exercises to try to cope with soaring build costs. They are now in discussions with a new contractor to investigate reducing costs further. The continue to be committed to the housing development. WMcA also expressed the ELLCT's thanks to John Forbes, Community Led Housing for his help and advice. [There was some discussion around this topic. Members are very disappointed the development is still not underway while understanding the pressures and costs are affecting developments countrywide.](#)
 - ii. Only part of the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme work on the C6 was completed as the original funding bid was insufficient because the road had deteriorated significantly since the bid was submitted the previous year. We understood the engineer in charge had prepared another bid before leaving Stirling Council to complete the work but this was not submitted before the deadline and now it will be another year before another bid can be put forward. It is understood Stirling Council did not submit any bids to the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme this year. [The group discussed this and while relieved the C6 has been partly improved are unhappy the work was not completed as had been intended.](#)
 - iii. There has been a lot of work done on the Balmaha Car Park Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Request. The request to Stirling Council (SC) was submitted in August 2020 but not officially acknowledged 10 months. SC has requested 3 extensions to the deadline decision date - the current one being 15 August 2022. The original documents submitted by the ELLCT stated a nominal transfer price of £1 which was the same as the successful asset transfer of the old toilet block site. The recent introduction of parking changes by SC on 6 September 2021 means this price now does not reflect best value for the authority. The lengthy delays have led to this situation. The support of the Community Ownership Support Service had been a turning point and there is now much better communication with the Senior Manager in the Assets Team. The ELLCT have demonstrated overwhelming support for the asset transfer. We continue to work towards a negotiated conclusion.
[Pauline Roberts, Senior Community Officer offered to follow up on the Participation Request.](#)
 - iv. In August 2021 trustee, Dr Jennifer Dodd, compiled a report - An assessment of the Change in Parking Availability between Balmaha and Rowardennan since the inception of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park - this was in response to a comment "...we don't want to turn the whole of east Loch Lomond into a car park" and while understanding the sentiment the reality is the volume of cars visiting must be acknowledged and managed.

The main conclusion is there has been a reduction of at least 570 spaces over 20 years. While there are reasons for some of this, it is the the lack of action by the responsible authorities combined with the increase in car ownership which has led to this situation. The report is

available on the ELLCT website.

- v. The ELLCT attends East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group meetings which is chaired by the National Park Authority. Local community organisations, businesses and land owners as well as Police, Forestry and Land and Stirling Council also attend. Issues relating to visitor management along East Loch Lomond are discussed. [Rosemary Fraser, Councillor suggested contacting Gerry McGarvey as he is a newly appointed councillor with a NPA remit.](#)
 - vi. Future plans - there is a new Scottish Government initiative called Local Place Plans and the ELLCT have been talking with members of the Buchanan Hall Committee and Well-being Group about the possibility of coming together to work with the wider community to create a Local Place Plan which would identify land related projects the community would like to develop. A Local Place Plan could follow on from the Buchanan Community Action Plan which is now out of date. There will be more information on this in the coming months and your involvement in developing a LPP to reflect what is wanted in the community will be crucial.
 - vii. The ELLCT has also been exploring ways to reopen the Blue and Green Paths and discussions with LLTNP and Forestry and Land are progressing. Walter McAllister brought the online meeting to a close thanking all for their participation.
4. Treasurer's Report - David Fraser presented the report and it was accepted.
 5. Election of Trustees - Pauline Roberts took charge of the meeting as the trustees all stood down and were elected unopposed.
 6. An overview of the Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan, Matt Buckland, Tourist Operations Manager, LLTNP - unfortunately Matt Buckland was unable to attend the meeting. There was a discussion about the STIP and it is understood the NPA will be having discussions with residents about the plan and its priorities.
 7. AOCB
 - i. Sandy Fraser brought the issue of the upgrading of the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan. There will be major construction work and a public consultation is underway.
 - ii. Outstanding Membership Fees - the secretary will follow this up in the coming weeks.
 - iii. Buchanan Well-being Group - there were representatives of the group at the meeting and they gave a brief update of the groups' activities.
 - iv. Buchanan Primary School closure - it was recorded that Buchanan PS will officially close on Monday 13 June. There is to a closing ceremony at the school.
 - v. Buchanan Hydro Scheme - the scheme should be operational imminently. There is a BenCom to be created to administer community benefit.
 - vi. Platinum Jubilee Events - leaflets were handed outlining the events being organised.
 - vii. Louise Doherty told the meeting about a listening benches project she had been involved with and that there may be an opportunity in the future to locate one in our area.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm