



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 8th June 2020**

**Zoom Session
AT 7.00PM**

Present: Sandy Stoddart (*Chairman*), Rachel Shepton (*Vice Chairman*), Steve Bignell, Becky Coope (*Secretary*)

Introduction

Sandy gave a brief introduction. Since the outbreak of Coronavirus and the subsequent lockdown, 2 Community Council meetings have already been cancelled, so he felt it would be a good idea for the CC to get together via a video meeting. Very little has been happening outside the Covid situation - there are no new planning applications, and the majority of e-mail contact from HC has been in regard to the pandemic.

Priority Routes

Steve asked if there had been any communication from HC regarding 'Priority Routes' signage that has appeared. Some signs have appeared on Achindarroch Road, which doesn't seem like an obvious 'priority route'. Sandy said that notices have been put up to advertise existing routes such as the cycle path which can allow safe cycle and walking routes.

Hand Sanitisers etc

Appin Community Development Trust have secured funding for items such as face masks and hand sanitisers and have offered these to Duror and Kentallen CC. It was decided that it would be a good idea to pursue this offer and place hand sanitisers on the gates on the cycle track above Kentallen Bay, the gate on the track at Cuil Bay and near the defibrillator at the Hall. These may become more necessary as the lockdown is eased and more people start to use these routes. Sandy will look into this. There is also concern about the possibility of human waste at Cuil Bay if a large number of visitors appear after lockdown. Sandy can laminate notices, wording should be decided.

Litter Picking

As the annual litter pick was cancelled, Rachel suggested that Covid volunteers may be willing to do individual litter picks on their daily walks. Bags could be put in the bin at Cuil Bay, once full they could be taken to the now open recycling centre. It was agreed that any litter picking should be restricted to Cuil Bay at present. Becky will place litter pickers and black bags in a secure box at the hall and once this is done Rachel will contact volunteers to let them know they are there.

Hardship Fund

At the start of the lockdown, it had been agreed that CC funds should be made available to anyone in the community who was suffering financial hardship and was unable to buy basic essentials. To date, no one has approached Rachel or Sandy for help, though both had received offers of additional funds from local people. Sandy reported that outside funding is now also available should it be needed. There is still a long way to go in the pandemic and help may well be needed in the months to come. Sandy will publicise the existence of help again as things progress. The villages are working very well under the current lockdown. The D & K Resilience Group has been in operation from the start, offering everything from shopping, dog walking and emergency repairs. Thankfully this has rarely been called on as neighbours are all rallying round and helping each other out with all sorts of things.

Co-op Fund

Ballachulish Co-op have a fund of £196 available to the 4 local communities. Ballachulish have suggested that, rather than dividing it up, the fund is built on by starting an online raffle, the proceeds of which could be used to give a suitable 'thank you' to all those who have worked throughout the lockdown providing the community with essential services. This was agreed.

Sandy summed up by saying that there was a good community spirit before the crisis, but this had developed further in recent weeks, and it is hoped it will continue to build. A lot of good has come out of what is a very difficult time for all.

The meeting was closed at 8pm.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will on 13th July 2020 at 7pm.