

Notes & Actions

Balloch Charrette Steering Group Meeting – Wednesday 1 March 2017

Present: Jim McQueen (Balloch & Haldane Community Council), Stuart Mearns (National Park- Head of Rural Development), Hugh Killen (NP-Development Planning), Charlie Croft (NP-Tourism), Rebecca Hughes (NP-Communications), Fiona Jackson (NP-Communities), Michael McGuinness (West Dunbartonshire Council-Economic Development Manager), John Walker (WDC-Roads), Suzanne Greer (WDC Communities).

Apologies: Mike Williams (Scottish Enterprise)

Scope

Agreed that the Steering Group meets regularly to monitor progress on Balloch Charrette Action Plan priorities and to decide how feedback is provided to the wider community.

Balloch Castle Feasibility Study

MMcG reported that a FS is being commissioned to assess sustainable uses for the future of Balloch Castle, which is owned by Glasgow City Council and leased by WDC. It is being run by ZM Architects and will end on March 31st. After the FS, further research and development work will be undertaken by WDC to review options and make a decision.

ACTION: MMcG next meeting, feedback on options appraisal and provide timeline for future actions.

ACTION: MMcG provide progress update to RH and name/email of WDC Comms contact (COMPLETED)

ACTION: MMcG provide a blog and executive summary of the Feasibility Study and resulting actions and forward to RH for publication.

Scottish Enterprise Update on West Riverside & Woodbank House Developments

Verbal update via SM. Preferred bidder appointed (Flamingo Land) and formal pre-planning consultation for West Riverside and Woodbank House in Spring 2017. Consultation and communication with community will develop in coming months.

ACTION: SM & RH provide JMcQ and RH with website and contact details of design consultants so it can be shared with the public.

ACTION: JMcQ: Community Council share the consultant's details with wider community.

Balloch Village Plans (Station Square & Village Square)

Sustrans continues to develop design proposals for Station and Village Squares, taking account of community and business views, landowner issues, car parking survey and funding sources. WDC is leading on funding/delivery in two phases: 1) construction at Village Square hopefully taking place in early spring 2018 and 2) detailed designs for Station Square developed in spring 2019. If the community want to raise any practical issues of concern during these interim periods, please feed these to the relevant service departments in WDC. Next public consultation event in spring 2017; date TBC.

ACTION: MMcG provide an update blog and summary on progress to RH so that it can be published and shared on NPA website and social media.

ACTION: FJ confirm date of next Public Meeting.

ACTION: MW confirm Scottish Enterprise timeline for West Riverside progress.

ACTION: ALL encourage private landowners to take advantage of opportunities provided by the Balloch Charrette.

Parking Survey

WDC explained that a parking survey had been undertaken.

ACTION: MMcG & RH provide RH with an analysis, interpretation and resulting actions of the Parking Survey, which can be shared with the public.

Activity and Events Strategy

Balloch hosting European Championships Open Water Swim in August 2018 with Global TV audiences. The Great Scottish Swim will be linked into this event. Associated activities will be developed and the event will provide great opportunities to local businesses. A joint working group will be convened to develop ideas and decide how the local area can best benefit from the championships being held in Balloch, which should include staff from WDC, NPA and Abelio and consider issues such as a travel strategy, business opportunities, community involvement, skills/training, engaging young people, music and activities.

ACTION: CC convene a European Championships Working Group and report on progress to next meeting.

ACTION: CC scope out the opportunity to develop a longer-term Joint Events Strategy for Balloch.

Overview of Other Balloch Charrette Priorities

- Connectivity – between village/Loch Lomond Shores – in progress via West Riverside
- Connectivity - bridge across R. Leven – longer term priority
- Balloch Park– Greenspace supporting development of a Friends of Balloch Park with involvement from Community Council
- Signage Strategy – in progress via Street Design project; signage in Balloch Park being reviewed by NPA/WDC
- Pier area – short term amenity issues to be reported to relevant agencies; longer term issues include the need for a spatial review of area by NPA.
- Tidy up river and manage erosion – longer-term issue due to the need to identify resources and responsibilities **ACTION ALL:** consider which agencies can respond.

Communications Plan

A high-level summary of progress should be made available to the public, which provides information on specific projects and which agency is leading.

ACTION: HK draft an overview blog (**COMPLETE**)

ACTION: ALL & RH collate updates from relevant leads on: Balloch Castle, Parking Survey, West Riverside Development & Woodbank House Events, Balloch Village Plans (Station Sq & Village Sq), Events/Activities Strategy, and promote via website/social media

ACTION: SM & RH develop a Communications Plan

Any Other Business

Confirm the Governance document for the Balloch Charrette Steering Group.

ACTION: MMc send Governance document to SM

ACTION: FJ send Aspiring Communities funding information to Steering Group

Next Meeting

Proposed for 10 or 17 May, 2017

ACTION SM