

Assynt CC AGM 19:00 27/6/19
Chairs Report

The CC year June 18 to May 19 has been as busy as ever with many items coming up on the agenda or in matters arising throughout the year.

There are perhaps three items that have dominated this year: winter roads maintenance, impact of NC500 and the proposed toilet closures.

Assynt CC has over the last few years made a sustained effort to bring to the attention of HC Community Services department the impact snow and ice have on local roads, particularly affecting the school bus runs. The snow and ice clearance has always seemed to be short of what we would expect, particularly when compared with the road south of Ledmore. After vigorous communication Tracey Urrey attended a meeting and various proposals were made which included an extra vehicle to grit the Lochinver to primary school route, change to gritting schedule to allow Sunday gritting to improve things for Monday morning and Ullapool vehicles to take responsibility for the Ledmore to Craggie section of road. This last issue has proved contentious and we will have to await another winter to see what happens.

Again the CC has been in regular contact with HC over the impact of the NC500 on our roads infrastructure. This has included requests for more signage on the single track roads, warnings about degrading of road surfaces and requests for more parking controls in the village. It has been particularly important to hear from the communities along the single track road about this.

The ill thought out proposals to close many of NW Sutherland's public toilets was met with a united response from the CC's in the area. Assynt CC was part of this. The result of the outcry is that KLB toilets will not be sold and will remain open, and Achmelvich beach toilet will also remain open. This structure, which is really not fit for purpose, will be replaced by the unit from Gairloch when a community scheme to build facilities there happens. The time scale on this is uncertain which is unsatisfactory.

Other issues that have been to the fore are deer in the village. Culag park is now fenced and very early discussions are underway about fencing the village on the back of tree planting schemes. There will be public consultation on this in due course.

Electric car charging points are installed at the car park behind Cruamer but not yet connected. Once connected we have been told that signage to these will also include signs to the large car park there which is under used.

Dog fouling has been brought to our attention frequently. We have done what we can to ensure dog poo bins have bags and peoples attention has been drawn to this problem.

Improving access to Clashnessie beach is making slow headway. We continue to discuss the late school bus service and bus timetable anomalies with Highland Council.

I would also like to note here there have been some resignations from the Community Council: Dave McBain, Jess Thomas, Marianne Hutchison and Phil Jones. We would like to thank them all for the time given to the CC. This is the final AGM of this CC as there are new elections in November.

David Slator