

Community Council Forum Meeting 18.10.23

6pm, Breadalbane Room, Kenmore Hotel

Minutes

Attendees:

- **Taymouth Estate**
 - David O'Donoghue, General Manager
 - Sarah Cairns, Project Marketing Lead
 - Mairi McAdam, Community Relations Manager
- **Local Community Councils Represented:**
 - Aberfeldy
 - Dull & Weem
 - Mid-Atholl, Strathtay & Grandtully
 - Kenmore & District
 - Glenlyon & Loch Tay
 - Killin

Agenda:

- New team members
- Communications Update
- Taymouth Castle Plan & Update
- Glenlyon Estate Update
- Kenmore Village Update
- Kenmore Village Store
- Moness Resort Update
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Community Pledge
- Key Focus for Next 4 months
- Questions

Discussion:

The meeting began at approximately 6:00 pm, and the discussion was led by David O'Donoghue.

- David introduced two new members of the Taymouth Estate team:
 - Sarah Cairns, Marketing Manager
 - Mairi McAdam, Community Relations Manager. This is a new position. Mairi is a long-time resident of the Kenmore area and will be responsible for outreach to the local community, keeping residents informed of developments on the Estate, and addressing questions or concerns they may have.
- David then gave an update of recent initiatives to engage and inform local residents, including:
 - **An expanded and updated website.** The welcometotaymouth.com website now includes additional details about the project, including activities to protect and improve the environment, updates on historic preservation and renovation projects, and details about work underway in Kenmore Village.
 - **Quarterly newsletter.** The first newsletter was delivered to 2000 local residents on 24 October. It will provide information on key restoration and conservation projects, and detailed architectural, agronomy, horticultural and historical insights for those who may not visit the website regularly.

- **Future Community Council forums.** The next quarterly forum is proposed for 17 January 2024. However, David emphasised that he is eager to continue having an open dialogue, and community council members should feel free to reach out to him directly at any time.
 - **Community Event on the Castle Grounds.** The Estate is planning to hold community events twice a year on the Castle grounds. These activities are still in the planning stages and may include an annual local golf tournament.
 - **Other Community initiatives.** The Estate is keen to continue supporting activities, initiatives and causes in the community.
 - **Community notice board in Kenmore Square.** The Estate has installed a notice board that will be updated regularly to provide residents information about developments on and around the property.
- **Taymouth Castle Plan & Update**
 - The current plan for the Estate includes 145 residential properties. This is a reduction from previous plans.
 - Restoration and preservation of the park and woodlands is underway with the assistance of a local arborist and an expert in deer welfare.
 - Renovation of the James Braid golf course is progressing generally in keeping with original design, with an extension of yardage. Grass seed is being procured locally and sand from the property is being used to limit truck deliveries.
 - Core paths will be reinstated once construction is complete and it is safe to do so. Signs for the path are in production, and the noticeboard in Kenmore will be updated with the latest information on core paths.
- **Glenlyon Estate Update**
 - We do not intend to change the use of Glenlyon Estate. It will continue to be utilised for outdoor pursuits.
 - The Estate road has been improved.
- **Kenmore Village Update**
 - **Kenmore Village Shop.** We anticipate reopening the shop in the Spring 2024. It will stock more than 300 items, including daily essentials and local produce. It will not offer beer, wine, or certain other products readily available elsewhere in the village.
 - **Kenmore Hotel.** The hotel requires renovations beyond what was originally anticipated. Given this, the hotel is now scheduled to reopen to the public in 2026.
 - **Public Toilets.** The toilets are being fully refurbished and are expected to reopen in Spring 2024.
 - **Taymouth Trading** – The current plans include a restaurant and pub, open to the public.
 - **Other properties in the Village.** Brae Cottages, Am Fasgadh & Gatehouse, Police House, St. Margaret's & Willowbank, Nurses Cottage, and Boathouse Cottages have been refurbished and are being used for staff accommodation.
- **Moness Resort**
 - The resort will remain open to the public. The current team will continue serving local residents and tourists.

- Although the resort will seek planning permission to allow the cottages to be used for workforce housing when they are not utilised for hospitality, the hotel, restaurant, bar, and spa will continue to operate as they have.

- **Community Pledge**

David shared a draft of a community pledge the Estate is considering posting on the welcometotaymouth.com website and elsewhere. Attendees voiced their support for the pledge.

- **Key Focuses for Next 4 months**

David explained that, among other important initiatives, over the next four months, the Taymouth Estate team will be focused on completing restoration of the Castle and re-opening the Village Shop.

- **Questions**

- **Motorised boat/loch activity.** The Estate is a member of Loch Tay Association and will adhere to its rules and regulations.
- **Salmon fishing.** The Estate will continue monitoring the salmon population. This year, fly fishing for trout only will be permitted from the north bank of the river between Kenmore Bridge and Chinese Bridge
- **Availability for workforce housing for local businesses.** A portion of the Moness Resort cottages will be available for workforce housing for local businesses, some of which have already enquired about availability for employees.
- **Community Council Member support.** Council members expressed their support of the Estate project. The Estate is very grateful for this support and remains committed to working in close partnership.

- **Closing**

- David thanked the council members for their attendance and partnership. He reiterated that he is always available to meet with them individually to address their questions and share the latest information.