

RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

planning.handl@argyll-bute.gov.uk
roadsandinfrastructure@argyll-bute.gov.uk

copied to

Emma Gray and Cameron Maxwell at
Scottish Forestry
Jackie Baillie MSP
SEPA

secretary@rhuandshandoncommunity.org

27th February 2024

Extensive felling and flooding at Blairvadach

The Community Council has been approached by residents concerned that the extensive felling which has taken place at Blairvadach appears to have caused major flooding, both from the main entrance to Blairvadach and from the steps to the southeast of the Children's home.

The sudden appearance of this excess of water coincides with the removal of the mature trees and vegetation that used to absorb the rain and slow its passage down the hill.

Water from the entrance to Blairvadach now seems to be under control, but that cascading down the steps by the children's home certainly was not during the heavy rains last week. This water collects on the lochside of the A814 at the bottom of Aros Road.

Investigating the several planning applications we see that 78 trees are scheduled for felling; 8 trees in 21/00231/TPO, 64 trees in 21/01730/PP plus the emergency felling of 6 trees posted on February 1st 2024. This total includes 8 if the 15 Wellingtonias on the whole Blairvadach site. The replanting required in the 2021 TPO application has not taken place.

The Community feels that the destruction of so many mature trees in this climate conscious time requires justification. We thought that these were supposed to be protected by NPF4 Policy 6.

It is reported in the Govia Report of 31 January 2024 that most of the development site is stripped of vegetation and tree felling is ongoing. There is no mention by the Biodiversity Officer or SEPA or Planning or in the various Tree Reports that the removal of so many mature trees and associated vegetation would cause a problem with runoff.

The Community feels betrayed that trees we had fought for to have TPOs have been destroyed and the nature and character of our environment is being squeezed out between INNS commercial plantations and over development up our hill and into our remaining fragments of mature woodland. This approach to housing development is unacceptable in a climate and biodiversity emergency.

Please let me know what action will be taken. I will inform the Community that Planning, Roads and SEPA have been contacted on these matters. Images showing the Flooding and Felling are attached but better versions are posted on our [website](#) for yourselves, the community and the wider public.

Jean Cook.

Jean Cook
Secretary, Rhu & Shandon Community Council

Copied by email Members of the Rhu & Shandon CC and Councillors Maurice Corry, Iain Paterson and Mark Irvine.

RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Felling

1. Mature beech felled in foreground with felled mixed native broadleaf and exotic conifer trunks piled high at the end of the new road
2. Felled mature beech, silver birch and giant redwoods. Note the piles on mixed tree trunks.
3. Stumps of 3 felled Giant Redwood
4. Nature being erased.

Flooding: Water flowing

1. down through the woodlands
2. down the steps to the southeast of the Children's home
3. along the cycle path; the Aros road turnoff sign is visible
4. across the A814 at the bottom of Aros Road

RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL