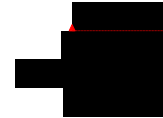


## RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Mike Page SW**

**cc**

Adam McLean:GH  
Craig Armstrong: SF  
Cameron Maxwell:SF  
David Signorini: SF  
Roland Striven: SF  
Kirsty Robb: Ridings Sawmill  
Allan Johnston: Coille Haulage  
Iain Catterwell: ATTG  
Jim Smith: A&BC  
Raymond Kane: A&BC  
Stuart Watson: A&BC  
Kirsty Sweeney: A&BC  
Charles Bushby SW  
Agathe Stoffel: SW  
Ian Robinson: SW



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01436 820314

secretary@rhuandshandoncommunity.org

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9<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### **Timber and Aggregate Transportation on Pier and Station Roads**

Dear Mike

We are delighted that you have submitted a Pre STTS Grant for an alternate transport route.

On a different matter, in regard to an EIA Screening Opinion Request required for roads and infrastructure, nine months ago you stated you were actively working on EIA's and would provide a response to RSCC regarding potential damage to archaeological sites which may affect the intended in-forest route. Could you send us the result of the archaeological sites issues and the written statement to confirm that you do not need an Environmental Impact Assessment for the planned link road 21/02614/PNWAY?

Additionally at the September 2022 meeting you mentioned the planned delivery of 1,050 tonnes of road building material for the new in-forest road over the course of one week. Iain Catterwell explained to you that clauses in the TTMP made it unlikely the A&BC Roads Officer would agree to 52 HGV loads (104 HGV journeys) on this route in one week. We now understand from Mr Adam McLean this figure has now doubled to 2,000 tonnes; 80/100 HGV loads (160/200 HGV journeys). Adam also revealed that because of a Statutory Plant Health Notice on infected larch trees in Highlandman and Torr, it is estimated that 12,000 tonnes of timber will need to be harvested, starting summer 2023. This will mean some 960 HGV journeys on Pier and Station roads, Given that this is the school holiday period, the safety of the many unaccompanied children on the roads at all times of the day is a grave concern. Is a new or revised TTMP being actively considered and developed with A&BC Roads Department? In the interest of transparency, accuracy and road safety is the Community Council going to be consulted on this matter?

**At a meeting of the Forestry Group of R&SCC on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 we concluded we are not in a position to support the use of Pier and Station Roads by timber related HGV's in the interest of road safety.** Our Community has never been properly consulted on

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this issue as evidenced by Iain Catterwell at the 6 September meeting who opined the original consultation exercise by SW was **seriously flawed**. You will also be aware of the radio broadcast on 26 July 2022 where Cameron Maxwell and Charles Bushby both asserted how significant public consultation is.

Resolutions were agreed, minuted and approved on January 23rd 2019 at the controversial Café Rhu meeting. These resolutions were based on CONFOR, the Timber Transport Forum and Scottish Forestry best practice and protocols. They were again confirmed on September 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 in the Community Centre in Rhu where you agreed to consult before the next phase of work. No consultation has yet taken place. For your convenience I have attached the minutes of both meetings.

### The relevant bullet points from the January 2019 meeting are

- BH will draft a leaflet, with the assistance of R&S CC that will provide information on the extraction programme, contact numbers, links to health and safety and timber extraction guidance. R&S CC to provide a list of the issues they wish addressed in the leaflet. This leaflet will be distributed as an insert in the Helensburgh and Lomond Community Advertiser magazine distributed to all houses in Rhu. Copies will also be made available at local outlets (Brae Shop, Café Rhu, and Rhu Inn). The objective of the leaflet is to provide information on the timber extraction programme, clearly identify which organisation is responsible for which aspect of the extraction and provide health and safety advice for users of Highlandman's Road and woods during the timber operations.
- Prior to the next phase of timber extraction in 2023-24 a public meeting open to all residents will be held and a flyer circulated in advance to advise the community of the timber operations.

We are making a formal request that the moral obligations and commitments SW have made to our Community in respect of consultation be finally adhered to before any further works take place.

We will provide a list of issues, book a room for the meeting, and provide details on the insertion of the leaflet in the Community Advertiser.

You will see that this letter has been copied to all parties who have a commercial or regulatory interest in this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Jean Cook.*

Jean Cook  
Secretary, Rhu & Shandon Community Council

### Copied to

Members of R&S Community Council  
Lomond North Councillors  
Jackie Baillie MSP