

Correspondence with Shieldaig Community Council

Dear Applecross Forum members

The Shieldaig Community Council would like to raise an issue with the Forum regarding the significant disruption that we experienced as a result of the Allt Na Moine hydro development, specifically the disruption along the coast road but also within Shieldaig village.

It is our understanding that a £5,000 fund was created specifically to compensate affected communities, which has now been transferred to the Applecross community's "Community pot".

When considering the disruption experienced by the Shieldaig community area - up to 48 lorry journeys per day over the past 17 months - and comparing that to the disruption experienced by the Applecross community area - where only four households were significantly affected - it had been our hope that Shieldaig would receive an appropriate allocation of these funds, if not the entire £5,000.

This issue was raised with the Applecross Community Company, which discussed it at the latest board meeting. The ACC board agreed that the lion's share of the disruptions had been experienced by the Shieldaig community and formally noted its support for the money being donated to the Shieldaig community.

We very much hope you will raise this issue at your next meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Gosling

Secretary, Shieldaig Community Council

hughgosling@gmail.com

07977 015602

Hugh

My apologies for the delay in responding to your email. I have been very busy with another project recently and have rather let my emails accumulate.

I suspect that this should fall under the heading of Community Fund on the agenda in view of the terms of your letter. There will be no difficulty in your attending to speak about this. It has already featured in previous discussions.

However I believe that there may be a number of misunderstandings.

To my knowledge no fund has been created specifically to compensate affected communities and no such fund has been transferred to the "Applecross communities' "Community Pot".

In terms of their lease of the land the developers are obliged to make payment of the sum of £5,000pa as a community benefit which the Applecross Trust has decided should be paid to the Applecross Community Fund. The developers decided to double that and have paid £10,000 into the Fund. Information was provided to the Forum on 10th February by Archie Maclellan. In view of comments made by Kalie at the meeting and an indication from Archie that the developers had indicated that the payment took into account that there had been some disruption clarification was sought from the developers about their intentions for the money. At the meeting on 21 April Archie informed the Forum that the intention of the developers was that the entire payment was to go to the Applecross Community Fund. Thus there is no fund specifically to compensate affected communities. I explained this to Kalie in an email dated 14 May and advised her that this was a decision of the developers alone in which the Forum played no part.

The Applecross Community Fund is in the final stages of being established as an SCIO. The monies which have been donated to the Fund are at present held by the Applecross Trust on behalf and with the agreement of the community. The disbursement of funds will be a matter for the Trustees, once appointed, in accordance with the purposes of the Fund which have been approved by the Forum. The geographical area relevant to the Fund does include at least part of the area of Sheildaig Community Council.

As I also advised Kalie I have spoken with Mackenzie Sutherland about the concerns expressed by her at the meeting in February. He attempted to locate any conditions relating to numbers of trips etc in the planning permission but was unable to do so at that time. I do not know if he has subsequently found any such conditions. I am assuming that a direct approach has been made to the developers without success. I suggested to Kalie that Highland Council might be persuaded to bring pressure to bear upon the developers.

I apologise again for the delay in responding to you. I look forward to the discussion at our next meeting on 1st September. Whether that will be in person or virtual will depend on government advice but we are hopeful that good progress is being made towards the lifting of restrictions.

Kind regards

Kathrine