

Dear Neighbours

Sorry this is quite a long letter!

Sorry bit of a long email. I took some notes from a public meeting about Clunie Loch and include a summary of actions at the end from the Clunie Hall webpage.

There are continued activities at the loch and a terrible weekend, about 3 weeks ago now, of lots of people, litter, damage and a violent attack on James Maclean, who works for the estate. There was a meeting organised on Zoom which is connected with Clunie Hall. Incidentally they paid for the zoom and so we are going to contribute a bit of money towards this. I am sure if others would like to they can, although, you may already donate to the hall of course.

There was a good turnout to the meeting, about 25 people. Councillor Grant Laing led the meeting.

The meeting lasted over 2 hours. The key thing is that people there voted that there should still be access to the loch but that the overnight camping tended to cause problems and that they didn't want camping. There have been, however, those from Blairgowrie who have memories of camping by Loch Clunie and are upset at this idea. We discussed who owns the Loch sides etc. Blair and Rattray Community council wondered about a community buyout? Someone suggested this would maybe mean the problems would be passed onto the community to deal with on their own. Apparently the Dunkeld angling club used to control the loch and there weren't as many problems. It was said that it is not necessarily people fishing that is a problem. People want to be able to continue swimming and going out in a kayak or paddling though. Wildlife was also mentioned and the SSSI status and linking to Scottish Natural Heritage. We discussed contacting the police more often. Boats etc with a motor are not legally allowed. Also advising the police of fires. It can take them time to get there. We discussed ways of monitoring the loch and that it is dangerous for locals to approach at times. The Community council said that there are community wardens in Blairgowrie and maybe we could have some here for certain times? Rubbish and human faeces is a big problem and they discussed bins and the lack of facilities for camping. It came round to saying a ban on camping if possible. Tom McEwan was tasked with talking to police and fire services regarding safety and how to backup the signage with action and contacting them as required. So a plan of action including various resources advice etc.

Parking along the main A923 road is a safety problem and Grant discussed barriers to stop the parking. The parking along the loch side has also been discussed as there are too many cars. The car park at the Church was meant to be for the cemetery but is used by people visiting the loch and so this can be a problem. Others talked of the problem of emergency vehicles getting along the road which is full of cars.

Overall locals at the meeting still want to be friendly to people visiting but have a problem with the numbers of people and those that camp, leave a mess and then the vandals. To start with, most people thought, was signage and so the council are looking at getting something in place ASAP but in the long term there were other ideas like pictures and signs

designed by school children. The Countryside access code. They looked at signs elsewhere, such as Loch Lomond. Also signs about the nature and history of the loch. Discussed stopping people going on the Island as it is a historic site?

What I have forwarded below is what we got as an overview of the meeting. We also have the written comments which were put down during the meeting if you would like to see them but they don't necessarily make sense without the video discussion.

Also of interest is a letter that local land owners sent to John Swinney. <https://www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/Letter%20to%20John%20Swinney%20-%20Access%20%20Antisocial%20issues.pdf>

Janice

Hello everyone,

Here are the action points from the Zoom meeting held last Friday evening, please feel free to share these with anyone who might be interested.

Hi Grant,

Listed below are the key actions to pursue from Friday's meeting:

- Step up efforts to introduce basic signage around the loch, including signs with phone numbers for people to report unacceptable behaviour.
- Campaign for a total ban on overnight camping around the area.
- Continued engagement from local politicians on the issues, including continued engagement with police, council and other key stakeholders.
- Explore the possibility of crash barriers to block off parts of the road that are currently used by overnight visitors to park.

There was unanimous agreement amongst attendees that the loch should continue to be accessible to visitors, but that action must be taken to ensure that the behaviours on display by some visitors over the past two weekends were not repeated and did not become commonplace.

There was also an agreement for the local community to continue to work together on this issue, and for a future meeting to be held to update on any progress and to hear of any further issues that may have arisen.

William

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Clunie Hall Association

<http://www.cluniehall.co.uk/>

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