

Minutes of the first Clunie Loch Steering Group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Reasons for creation of the group: Irresponsible camping, excessive parking on verges and blocking access for larger vehicles, litter, human faeces, fishing tackle litter, vandalism, fires, assault.

Topics discussed: Litter and bins, Alcohol use, Parking, Responsible Access and Education, Fishing.

## **Litter and Bins**

### Litter

A lot of litter and faeces have been removed.

A Facebook page called Save Clunie Loch was made volunteering to pick litter. Locals with no computers may also want to volunteer. Clunie Hall have 6 litter picker tools for people to use. Council will try to acquire more Litter picking tools for volunteers.

### Bins

One opinion is removal of bins and then signage to ask people to take their litter home and/or pick up other litter you see.

Trials of this in Scotland have no conclusive results. A person will research the results of any no bin compared to bin trials.

A person will try a mini trial of no bin and signage on an area of his land where cars park.

Another opinion is that keeping a bin will reduce litter, along with signage and education in the long term.

Placement of bins is another consideration.

## **Alcohol Use**

A lot of litter is alcohol related, with cans and bottles, some smashed.

Reduce the party destination feel to Loch Clunie and encourage responsible loch users.

An alcohol byelaw would mean no alcohol at all. It would need to cover around the loch as well as on the loch, the Island and castle.

Private local houses and grounds would not be included.

This would require consultation with the local area. People are able to put their opinions and objections forward.

A person will communicate with council in order to start an application for an alcohol byelaw.

## **Parking**

Discussion on a car park away from the loch and a clearway around the loch. Land owners not keen on a car park on their land. Concerned about cost of infrastructure and maintenance.

New clearway enforced along a section of the A923 and over the bridge to Loch Clunie and then stops. The new clearway is temporary, due to the Covid 19 situation, in order to maintain social distancing and this lasts 18 months.

It is possible to have this clearway permanently as well as a clearway around the lochside roadway with application and process.

Concern that there needs to be some parking along the loch and access for watersports.

Require local knowledge and identify where and how many designated parking spaces there would be.

Land owners need to be contacted regarding parking on their land for their input and permission for parking.

### **Responsible Access and Education**

New temporary laminated signage regarding responsible camping is in place.

Want to get permanent metal signage on responsible use as well as natural and human history of the loch with signs that are already available.

Signs with children's pictures have worked elsewhere. Council will contact a community council volunteer regarding this. Also a Clunie local can also be asked about the local schools involvement.

Many people using the loch don't know the Outdoor Access Code. It was said that schools don't teach about the Outdoor Access Code. It would be good in the long term to have education of children who then teach adults.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), now called NatureScot developed the code.

Opinion was that the code needs a review and that NatureScot have a role to play in the Clunie Loch situation and education.

A person has spoken with the Partnership Against Rural Crime about damage to trees at the loch. Also head of Physical Security at Historical Environment Scotland will have a look at damage to Clunie Island and the castle remains.

### **Fishing**

There are presently no controls over fishing in Loch Clunie. Fishing tackle and rubbish have been left as a hazard to wildlife and loch users.

A person will contact the owners of the loch regarding fishing and the possibility of a fishing club and permits.

### **Further Meetings**

The steering group will be invited for monthly meetings on a Wednesday. Open meetings with be two to three months.