

Atlantic Islands Centre

Ionad Dualchais nan Eileanan A-Staigh

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON SITE?

No doubt some of you will be wondering why there is no sign of the Atlantic Islands Centre emerging out of the ground at the Cullipool site.

Construction progress has been frustrated by the need to divert the water main that runs under the track adjacent to the building. This work has to be undertaken by specialist contractors appointed by Scottish Water and unfortunately our contractors, MacLeod Construction Ltd., have no control over the timing of the work. The pipework for the repositioned water main is already laid but the connections to tie this in to the existing pipe at either end have still to be completed and only once this is done can the old pipe be removed and the concrete ground slab completed. We are hopeful that the connections will be made this week (by Friday 16th May), but inevitably the delays incurred will push back the planned completion date for the building.

In the meantime, MacLeod Construction have been progressing the drainage for the Centre and during the spring tides later this month the outfall pipe to the sea will be laid in so that it is well below the mean low water mark. The pipe route to the sea runs along the seaward verge of the road near to the sharp corner leading in to the village, and following discussions with Argyll & Bute Council Roads and Planning Departments, the opportunity is being taken to improve the road layout at the same time as reinstating the verge. The road surface around this corner will be widened to allow two vehicles to pass and as well as reducing the inherent danger of this corner it will eliminate the need to use the track as an alternative access to the AIC site. A Planning application to formalise these arrangements has been lodged with Argyll & Bute Council.

The Trust has also recently submitted an application to Argyll & Bute Planning Department to deal with the condition attached to the original Planning Consent regarding the specification of slates for the new building. The Planning requirement was for West Highland slate to be specified, but the use of recycled slate to roof new buildings is no longer considered a good use of this diminishing resource and the specification needs to be changed. Slate for new buildings now generally needs to be sourced from outwith Scotland and the attached Factsheet explains more about the reasons that have brought about this situation. We will, of course, be using recycled Luing slate from the walls of the old Engine House for the walls of the new building, and the supplies of this slate are currently being cleaned and sorted at the temporary stock piles along towards the quarry, in preparation for the stone mason commencing work.

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