

DALWHINNIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MINUTES

Date: Thursday 2ND July 2026

Time: 16.00

APOLOGIES and WELCOME

DCC IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Chappell (MAC), Nicola Penny (NP), Jen Dickinson (JD), David Haggarty (DH), Ian Philps (IP), Lesley Carr (LC), Muriel Cockburn - HC (MC)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

H Christie, A Munday, A Dawson, E Carr, R Feilen E Feilen

MATTERS ARISING

- A meeting has been held to discuss the submitted planning application for Temporary Site Compound at Dalwhinnie Lorry Park by Omexom UK. Planning Ref 26/02187/FUL
- Response to HC Planning must be made by 17th July 26
- Highland Council have not directly notified DCC of this planning application prior to this being noticed on the HC planning list by a resident
- It has been advised that CNPA have not called this in as they feel it has no impact on the NP. Transport Scotland have also not called this in as they feel there will be no impact to the road
- MC (HC) advised to contact Jessica Boughey and Lewis Hannah as community liaison officers for re-newable projects and potential community benefits
- Alan Dawson advised the meeting that his contract with Omexom starts from 13th July 26
- LC advised the meeting that the new application shows this site to be used as part of the Melgarve Cluster Project, something which wasn't on the original planning application, which also led to being advised that Dalwhinnie as not part of the project would not be eligible for any community benefit unlike Laggan
- NP has been in communication with SEE (Omexom sub-contracting to them) with various questions to be clarified. The final point, covering number of lorries, number of containers and if these are just for storage/offices or if there is to be accommodation on site, I have been advised that only the information given in the application is available. I will however continue to question and ensure the points are passed to the project manager at Omexom
- Whilst the community have no objection in principal, there are many concerns and observations that we would like to raise with HC Planning and have some conditions implemented
 - HC assistance with Transport Scotland to have the speed limit reduced on the A889 to 30mph due to the increased level of traffic and the current safety issues already experienced with drivers overtaking vehicles going past junctions and exceeding the current 40mph. With vehicles turning in and out of the site and crossing the traffic this will become more dangerous. The increase in traffic is going to cause a separation situation from one side of the road to the other, especially for residents who need to access the railway station, bus stop, café or just the pavement to walk on.
 - Installation of speed awareness signs would be a benefit to try and control the speed limits currently exceeded

- Soft landscaping at the entrance to the yard would help to reduce the visibility of the site in an area where a large volume of tourists pass through and to ensure the site is not an eyesore for local residents
- It is also imperative that the site is re-instated to its original state at the end of the project – this is something that is essential following previous issues where contractors have used the site and not cleared up at the end of the period, leaving residents to have to fight to get rubbish taken away
- It would be very beneficial to both residents and potential workforce accessing the site if there was a provision put in place to construct a safe walking/cycling path between the Dalwhinnie Petrol Station and the A9, this would provide access from the various bus companies who drop off/pick up on the junction of the A9 and Dalwhinnie South exit
- We would like a liaison officer to be assigned to the community to enable any issues between various bodies to be handled from one central point
- Further information would be welcome on where any additional water that is used on the site would be taken from as currently when water is taken from standpipes the pressure drops and affects residents supply to their properties
- It was proposed by IP and seconded by JD that a letter would be written from the DCC. MAC will compile this and circulate to all by 4th July and any points to be added or amended to be returned no later than 8th July, allowing sufficient time for HC to review prior to any decision on the planning application.
- In addition it was felt that a direct request to Omexom to assist with providing a container on the land in question for use by the community council for the storage of winter lights, pantomime scenery etc and to cover the cost of rent for a period of 100 years (£100) be made