

# Lochside News

February 2017



## Broadband update

Zoe Laird, Director of Community Broadband Scotland, attended the SLACC meeting in January to review the lochside situation regarding broadband and the way forward.

In what was a very open and realistic meeting, the following points were made:

- An Open Market Review (OMR), being conducted now, will define the next stage of national rollout. Rather than postcode coverage, this review will drill down to premises level. This will show where suppliers like BT are focussing commercial efforts, and clearly identify areas (such as ours – sparse population and difficult terrain) where public money can be focussed to provide a good connection service. The OMR completion is expected late summer/early autumn.
- The OMR will be followed by a commercial contracting/procurement process, which is thought to take about 18 months. Only at that stage will it become clear where CBS funding is allowed.
- It was stressed that, at present, CBS can only provide capital funding. It is recognised that operational costs are the key to success for projects in areas like ours and CBS will explore the options available regarding the funding limitations.
- Everyone accepts that a local service is not intended to make huge profits, rather to provide a high quality service therefore local options regarding operational funding also need to be explored.
- A reminder, for the SLACC area alone, the capital expenditure is in the region of £350k, and operational expenses are estimated at £45k per annum. It is this opex number which makes the proposed project marginal as a standalone option. Obviously, the bigger area that can be covered, including more potential subscribers, the better. The OMR will help define other local areas in a similar situation.
- CBS will keep a dialogue with BT open, especially regarding the plans for Kilchrenan and Dalavich.
- Underwater cabling is not being ruled out, although it may be quite costly, depending on who could do it.
- The way forward is likely to be an “interim” solution (eg 10 Mbps, rather than superfast at 30 Mbps), possibly community led, but we should be aware that if this path is chosen, it should be an option that can be developed to superfast rather than thrown out and replaced once superfast arrives.

### Individual grants for satellite linkage:

There are grants available for individuals to install satellite systems to achieve a faster supply. There are various companies who do this, with the installation/set up costs being funded to a level of 90%. Under these systems, once the grant is agreed and confirmed, you need to sign up to a contract (usually yearly) where the monthly cost and download capability is set depending on individual needs.

To find the companies who can do this, (sorry for the next bit ...) search BROADBAND SATELITTE GRANT on the internet.

### **Lochside Neighbours ...**

*The next Lochside Neighbours gathering will be on Friday 17 Feb at 7.30pm in Portsonachan Village Hall, when Caroline will give a talk entitled 'Five Girls and Mehitabel' about her youthful explorations of the States, Mexico and Canada. This is not an Open Meeting.*

### **St. James' Church, Ardbrecknish Church Services**

There will be a Communion Service on  
Sunday 19th February at 3pm.  
Everyone is welcome.

## Taynuilt Medical Practice News

Libby Dodson, Practice Nurse, will be retiring at the end of March. We are very sorry to see her go after thirteen years with us but wish her a long and happy retirement. We have offered Sarah Wellburn a permanent contract and she will be working at all three sites. Sarah is a fully qualified practice nurse. Lindsay Dodman, has also started as a nurse with the practice. Rhona McGoogan will be leading the nurse team and will be making best use of the skills they have. Remember the nurses can undertake asthma reviews, smears, immunisations, spirometry, smoking inhalation and much more besides. If unsure if an appointment with the nurse is an option for you, please check with the receptionist.

It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to foreign travel. If you are making arrangements to journey to far flung places, please ensure all your immunisations are up to date and that you have malarial cover if needed. Contact the surgery to make an appointment with the travel nurse to discuss your needs, as soon as possible after arranging your holiday. There is a charge of £20.00 for this service. The nurses have the most up to date information on what is needed and it is highly recommended you see them before travelling to exotic destinations.

Please remember that all community pharmacies provide the minor ailments scheme. This enables patients to be treated for complaints such as eye infections, coughs and colds, ear ache, hay fever, indigestion, constipation, period pains and more. You can use the minor ailment service if you are registered with a GP in Scotland, you are a child, you are over 60 or have a condition for which you would not normally pay for a prescription. It is hoped eventually to roll this scheme out to everyone in Scotland who is registered with a GP.

## Scottish and Southern Energy – Priority Services

want as many people as possible to register with them to enable them to identify homes with older or younger members that might have problems if the electricity is cut off for any length of time.

<https://www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServices/>

## The loch road is full of potholes again!

The number for the council department to report potholes is 01546 605514. You cannot claim for compensation unless the council has previously been informed about a pothole! If we all phoned in, perhaps they will fill them in...even if only to prevent claims!

## YOUR RURAL WATCH IS NOW LIVE!

The Rural Watch scheme is up and running and awaiting local residents signing up. It's easy to register, go to [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk) and click on 'join'. Then follow the instructions and when complete I will have received the notification to accept your application to the group. When registered you will receive updates on national crime trends, cyber crime and local lookout requests.

At midday on 15th February 2017 Willie Clark from the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland team will be holding an afternoon session at Dalmally Community Hall to provide additional information and answer any questions you may have. There may even be a free window sticker in it for those attending!

Regards PC Darren Miller L099  
Dalmally Community Constable  
T: 01838 200658



## Cladich House B&B opens in March...

*I am holding an open house weekend on 11th & 12th March. Please do come, have a drink and a nose around! Just knock on the door, see where family and friends can stay if you don't have the room! You are welcome to pop in anytime except between 11:00 am and 1 pm as I'll be walking the dog. I look forward to seeing you Sarah*

## 2016 Rainfall Totals

"Total rainfall for 2016 was 2420.6mm or 96.8ins. This represents only 83% of the averaged rainfall for the three previous years, so a relatively dry year. As a hydro generator I can vouch for that! What I can say is that when keeping a raingauge about 30 years ago the average rainfall then was anything from 75ins to 100ins pa., and I recall one year when it was only in the 60s. So, it appears that the climate has got wetter over the years."

Philip B-S

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year Total
<b>2013</b>	290.4	110.6	39.7	186.3	198.8	85.2	100.9	157.6	265	343.4	252.4	528.9	<b>2569.2</b>
<b>2014</b>	464.1	424.5	249.5	158.5	145.4	54.9	160.9	238.4	54.6	380.8	203	461.9	<b>2996.5</b>
<b>2015</b>	426.6	276.7	311.4	141.7	236.5	176.8	223.4	178.5	44.3	169.9	466.8	565.4	<b>3216.0</b>
<i>rain days</i>	24	18	23	16	22	19	23	19	8	15	27	27	
<b>2016</b>	347.3	280.9	152.8	152.6	106.0	105.7	220.7	215.6	305.8	83.8	222.3	227.1	<b>2420.6</b>
<i>rain days</i>	24	18	19	17	11	16	27	19	24	13	15	21	



South Loch Awe-side Community Company

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Please do get in touch if there is anything of interest that you would like to see in the next issue of Lochside News.  
Email: [lochsidenews@gmail.com](mailto:lochsidenews@gmail.com)