

Lochside News

November
2018



R100 BROADBAND OPEN MEETING

DUNCAN NISBET

Stakeholder Director R100 Programme
Digital Scotland, Scottish Government

Will talk to us about the process, scope, plans
and what we can expect.

TUE 27TH NOVEMBER AT 7PM
PORTSONACHAN VILLAGE HALL

*Broadband
survey results are
in - see page 3*

B840 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

A&B Council's Roads Manager confirms that the overlay and pre-surface dressing works has been completed as far as north of Braevallich Bridge, making this ready for surface dressing next year.

They'll be back there in a week or so to pull in and tidy the road verges.

AUTUMN UPDATE FROM THE PORTSONACHAN SQUIRREL REGENERATION PROJECT

Sightings of Red Squirrels along the lochside are definitely on the up! They are now being seen regularly in areas where previously they were sparse. The feeders are being well used, particularly around Ardbrecknish area where there is a definite run of several different adults, keeping our volunteers busy with identifying the variations in colour and size.

We have been gathering Hazel nuts - trying to beat the squirrels - to dry and store for the leaner months to come, to mix with the normal feed. Surprisingly, the specialist mix of "Squirrel and Chipmunk Food" has proved to be unpopular, only eaten in extreme cases, mostly we suspect by mice....

Juvenile squirrels are often seen foraging along stone dykes as well as busy on the ground preparing small hoards of food. With the arrival of Autumn it is certainly easier to spot them. Thanks to all volunteers for continuing to increase the population of these iconic creatures. Why not check out our Facebook page (thanks to Joanne for this), send in any photos and see what is happening in your area.

One final note -one of our road traffic signs for squirrels was stolen from the pole at Argyll Chalets.....





CHRISTMAS AND HOGMANAY AT PORTSONACHAN VILLAGE HALL

NEXT QUIZ!

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER at 7.30pm: Raffle and refreshments

LOCHSIDE NEIGHBOURS

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER at 12.30pm: Communal Lunch with a Festive theme. Soup provided: bring a lunch contribution!

TURKEY BOWLS

SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER at 7pm
Club members play with a non-member for a turkey..... **EVERYONE WELCOME!**



CAROLS ON THE LOCHSIDE

CHRISTMAS EVE at 7pm at Portsonachan Hall
Come along and enjoy a few carols, mulled wine and mince pies in aid of Home Start Lorn

LOCHSIDE NEIGHBOURS

FRIDAY 18 JANUARY at 12.30pm: Communal Lunch and a Red Squirrels update



and don't forget.....

QUIZ: "BURNS, HAGGIS AND AWE THAT"
Friday 25 January at 7.30pm

HOGMANAY CEILIDH AT ARDBRECKNISH HOUSE



Ardbrecknish Bar will be open each evening except Christmas night from 6 pm until 10 pm.

The Hogmanay Ceilidh this year will feature **PADDY & LIBBY SHAW**. Bar open at 6 pm as usual but the Ceilidh will start about 8.30 pm.

As usual no entry fee but please support our raffle to help with funds.

Absolutely everyone welcome especially families.

The restaurant will open the middle of March 2019.

SERVICES AT ST JAMES' CHURCH, ARDBRECKNISH

Sunday 16th December 3pm

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE on
Christmas Eve at 11am**

LOCHSIDE WEATHER INSIGHTS from Philip Bowden-Smith

The first eight months of the year were exceptionally dry and, apart from January, every month was below average rainfall. The net result of this is that we ended up at the end of September having had just 50ins of rain.

However, in the time that Philip has been keeping accurate records, the average annual rainfall is about 105insso there was a good chance of a wet autumn!

September's rainfall @ 340mm was only equalled this year in January and only beaten by October '17's rainfall. October '18's rainfall @ 310mm suggested a pretty wet Autumn might be on the cards - and certainly November started very wet.

All in all 2018 has been a very interesting year weather-wise - and it's not over yet!



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Please get in touch if there's anything of interest you'd like to see in the next issue.
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BROADBAND SURVEY RESPONSE

First of all, a word of thanks to those who responded to the recent survey to see which direction the community prefers regarding the route to superfast broadband. The response summary is as follows:

SURVEYS SENT – 120 ... RESPONSE SHEETS RETURNED – 34 (28%)

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

	<u>PREFER F/OPTIC LOCAL SOLUTION</u>	<u>PREFER WAIT FOR R100</u>
RETURNED RESPONSES	17	17
%AGE OF RESPONSES	50%	50%
%AGE OF TOTAL "COMMUNITY" SURVEY	14%	14%
NUMBER OF SIGNATURES	24	25
%AGE OF SIGNATORIES	49%	51%

Responses with Comments attached – 7 ...

COMMENTS ON FORMS

- Technology may very well overtake our project progress ... mobile masts in and around Eredine, Ardbrecknish etc seem to allow more connectivity on an individual basis
- The BT proposal appears to allow them access to areas like Kilmartin and Ford etc at our expense (*note that this is pre negotiation position and would probably reduce from £760k, but who knows?)
- If we do a local FO solution, what will happen to the present infrastructure? (*note that this applies to R100 as well)

SUMMARY

- The response rate overall is low.
- Of those that did respond, the division is 50/50.
- Even those in favour of a local project were raising the comment re speed of technology.

Is this a mandate to proceed with a local Fibre Optic project? Based on the response level, and the even split within the response, it is seen as better to await delivery of the Governments R100 plan.

STOP PRESS: AN SUIDHE WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND HAS AGREED FUNDING FOR FURTHER AUTOMATED DEFIBRILLATORS ALONG THE LOCHSIDE AND CHAIRS FOR PORTSONACHAN HALL. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR PROGRESS!