

Isle of Whithorn Leisure Limited

Registered office: 1 Dashwood Square, Newton Stewart, DG8 6EQ

Company Registration No.: SCO55894 (Scotland)

Grounds Maintenance report.

The aim over the last twelve months has been to tidy neglected areas, reduce maintenance, improve grass cutting and generally enhance site appearance.

The entrance near the garages has been cleared and planted with ornamental grasses which when established should give an attractive first impression of Laigh Isle.

A new Laigh Isle sign has been put in place which is more in keeping with road name signs in the village.

All communal beds have been cleared of overgrown vegetation, re-edged, lined with membrane and topped off with rocks. This should keep a tidy but natural appearance. A monthly programme of maintenance will run from April to November.

A mature tree was removed at the back of number 3 as it was causing damage to the dry stone wall. Damage has been repaired.

The old cow troughs which had lain unused behind the wall at the entrance were placed at the base of the two street lights along the main driveway. Summer bedding plants and spring bulbs will keep them looking interesting. Polite notices of 'Please no wees' have been put in both as they were becoming regular dog relieving stops which makes trough maintenance somewhat unpleasant.

Grass cutting improvements continue to be sought by altering the direction of cut in an attempt to eradicate the ruts. Front private areas will have grass picked up. Back gardens and communal areas will be mulched. If it is possible from aspects of time constraints, machinery and disposal of cuttings more will be uplifted as there is no doubt that appearance and user friendliness is improved when cuttings are uplifted. Grass to be cut shorter is another aim. We have to be aware of SEPA objections to any seepage of rotting cuttings onto the shore. Costs of cage clearance would increase as the annual clearance would be insufficient.

The cages were cleared in February and repairs done to the wire and rail boundaries. Strimming will be done to keep access all round the cages clear to enable more even loading as there is often space at the back when the front is spilling out.

In late 2021 Storm Barra destroyed the wall at the back of Mr Gillespie's bench. Initially no problems were encountered but it was clear that rebuilding would have to be undertaken at some stage. That stage eventually arrived when Isle Farm put cows into the field, seemingly unaware of the absence of the wall. Several incidents of cow and sheep incursions followed and discussions were had with Isle Farm. Previous events had revealed that land to be Crown Land. Agreement was reached that rebuild costs be equally shared between us and Isle Farm,

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them arranging the work. The rebuild was seen as an opportunity to introduce a stile in the wall to the side of the bench as this had become an unofficial crossing point and damage to had resulted.

Some road infills have been necessary and these must always be regarded as a short-term fix. Barring any storm damage needing major expenditure it can be foreseen that the next major call on our resources will be roadworks. The state of the roads will be monitored.

Drains were cleared in February. The committee were informed that Scottish Water are responsible and in the past our drains have been cleaned when work in the village was undertaken. There have however been occasions when we have been overlooked. There does not appear to be a schedule of work on their web site. Approaches to D&G Council were unsuccessful but now it is known who to approach a more regular programme may be possible.

There was a spate of dog fouling reported by a resident in autumn (2022) which seemed to be at its worst at the slipway end and up towards the field gate. Andrew reported that the area around the old heather bed, now re walled, overlooking the shore was in the same state. No amount of signage will change the behaviour of some. If anyone sees an incident and feels able to challenge the owner that is probably the way forward.