

Dunardry Rolling Bridge Initial meeting, July 2025	
Date:	Monday 28 th July 2025
Time:	17.00 – 18.00
Venue:	Online
Date of issue:	15/08/2025

Attendees:	Role
Jan Brown (JB)	Mid Argyll Councillor
Iain MacNichol (IMacN)	Trustee, Cairnbaan Community Trust
Rose Marie Parr (RMP)	Cairnbaan Community Trust
Dougie Philand (DP)	Mid Argyll Councillor
Richard Stein (RS)	Secretary, North Knapdale Community Council
Monica Stewart (MS)	Resident, Cairnbaan
Chris O'Connell (CoC)	Scottish Canals (SC), Heritage Manager
Sam Shaw (SS)	Scottish Canals (SC), Development Manager

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Introductions & apologies	
1.1	SS welcomed attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting: to plan the content and timing of the upcoming <i>Dunardry Day</i> event, scheduled for September 2025. The event will include a site visit to Dunardry Bridge followed by a meeting at the Egg Shed.	
1.2	Attendees introduced themselves and their interest in the Dunardry Bridge project.	
2.	GDPR & Contacts	
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SS requested that attendees confirm their consent to share contact details within the group and with relevant stakeholders. Scottish Canals (SC) will act as the Data Controller under GDPR. Attendees were reminded that they may request the removal of their personal data at any time. 	
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoC suggested the creation of a centralised project contact email address. dunardrybridge@scottishcanals.co.uk will be used for all future communications regarding the project. 	

3.	Current Position	
3.1	SS provided a summary of the current status of the Dunardry Bridge.	
3.2	All project-related information is available on the Scottish Canals website: https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/about-us/maintaining-and-developing-the-canals/our-projects/dunardrybridge	
3.3	The 2015 AECOM Condition and Options Report is accessible here: https://dlhxd0sho1wxko.cloudfront.net/production/general/PDFs/Dunardry-Bridge-Inspection-and-Refurbishment-Options-Report-rev-A.pdf	
3.4	Minutes from the previous on-site meeting (June 2023): https://dlhxd0sho1wxko.cloudfront.net/production/general/DunardryB ridge200623.pdf	
3.5	RS welcomed the progress and emphasised the importance of local group involvement for funding and implementation.	
4.	Current issues	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community-led group will guide the direction of the project, with input from local communities. The outcome of <i>Dunardry Day</i> should inform potential future uses and opportunities. Local mapping of views and usage will be essential. NMacN noted that the Cairnbaan Community Trust (CCT) has previous engagement experience and could potentially host related content on its website (subject to group formation outcomes). 	
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding opportunities and application processes were discussed. CoC highlighted multiple potential funding sources. SC to prepare and circulate a list of relevant funders to the group by end of August. IMacN supported the idea that CCT could serve as a vehicle for funding applications, if the working group operates under its umbrella. 	SC
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about the impact of the bridge closure on canal crossing. These concerns will be discussed in more detail at the <i>Dunardry Day</i> follow-up meeting. 	
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RS raised traffic concerns on the towpath. Previous suggestions to reduce speed limits on adjacent roads were met with resistance from the local authority (A&BC). 	

4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DP noted the potential need to manage conflicting views within the community regarding the project's direction. 	
4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS asked about bridge operation and the role automation might play. CoC confirmed that Scottish Canals' Lowlands Team has relevant automation experience. SC to provide examples. Discussion on bridge operation to be part of <i>Dunardry Day</i>; SC will invite Engineering and Operations teams. RS highlighted operational challenges at Crinan Bridge; relevant lessons to be incorporated into planning. 	SC
5.	Historic Environment Scotland	
5.1	Community feedback must be considered in the context of the bridge's historic significance.	
5.2	The potential for automation was discussed. Similar heritage bridges have been successfully mechanised, offering safety benefits.	
5.3	SC to extend an invitation to HES to attend <i>Dunardry Day</i> .	SC
6.	Dunardry Day Format	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RS expressed concern that a full-day event might be too time-consuming and risk losing focus. A half-day format was proposed to concentrate efforts and improve participation. 	
6.2	<p>Proposed Schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 09:00–10:00: On-site meeting at Dunardry Bridge to assess condition and constraints. 10:30–13:00: Discussion session at the Egg Shed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of strategic options. Formation of a community-led working group. Assignment of roles and responsibilities. 13:00–13:30: Informal networking and meeting close. 	
7.	Dunardry Day Timing	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early September was initially discussed; however, availability conflicts were noted. IMacN is unavailable until 22nd September. After a review of attendees' availability, the morning of 26th September 2025 was agreed. SC to issue invitations confirming the date and time (09:00–13:30). 	SC
8.	Background Information	
8.1	SC to circulate the following materials in advance of <i>Dunardry Day</i> :	SC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of relevant funding streams. • Guidance on how community-led groups can partner with Scottish Canals. • Background project documentation and records. • Historical and contextual information. • Draft agenda for <i>Dunardry Day</i>. • Formal event invitation. 	
9.	AOB	
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No items raised. 	
10.	Next meeting	
10.1	Dunardry Day to be held on 26 th September, SC to issue invite.	SC
11.	Circulation	
11.1	Attendees. North Knapdale Community Council. Cairnbaan Community Trust. HES. A&BC Community Wealth Building.	