

Dunardry Bridge

Action points from meeting held at The Egg Shed, Ardrishaig

Date 26/09/2025

1030–1330

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Role
Chris O'Connell	Scottish Canals	Heritage Manager
Sam Shaw	Scottish Canals	Development Manager
Richard Stein	North Knapdale Community Council	Secretary
Libby Butler	Crinan resident	
Iain MacNicol	Cairnbaan Community Trust	
Duncan Inglis	Cairnbaan resident	
Monica Stewart	Cairnbaan resident	
Dougie Philand	Argyll & Bute Council	Elected Member
John Rushton	Mid Argyll Radio Sailing	
Alan Sinclair	Lochgilphead resident	
Jan Brown	Argyll & Bute Council	Elected Member
Alan Richardson		
Iain Ritchie	North Knapdale Community Council	
Don McArthur	Tayvallich resident	

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Role
Laurie Piper	Scottish Canals	Head of Customer Experience and Delivery
Paul Berry	Scottish Canals	Senior Project Manager
Gordon Motion	Dunardry resident	
John Dunlop	Crinan Boat Yard	

This document outlines suggested action points and potential next steps for the community, to be considered alongside Scottish Canals' Action Points for Discussion.

Both documents serve as guidance only; the final approach should be shaped by the working group, once established.

Action Points

Strategic Planning & Governance

- Attendees present will establish a working group (possibly as a sub-group of Cairnbaan Community Group).
- A formal group will need a defined legal structure.
- Bank account and secure necessary insurances (including public liability) will be required for funding applications.
- Working group to develop a communications and engagement strategy for residents, users, and stakeholders (inc. reporting to Scottish Canals).
- Scottish Canals will appoint a project liaison officer (Sam Shaw will remain current contact).

Bridge Assessment & Operational Decisions

- Conduct updated structural assessment and feasibility study; for clarity, the AECOM 2105 is out of date and should be viewed as guidance only.
- Clarify statutory responsibilities (SC, HES) and ownership implications.
- Decide on future use: full operation, limited access, exhibition-only, or non-operational.
- Evaluate operational models based on outcomes of the engagement, with agreement from SC.

Funding & Resource Mobilization

- Identify and pursue funding sources.
- Ensure eligibility of the group to support applications for funding.
- Consider hiring a project manager or consultant.

Community & Stakeholder Engagement

- Working group to build informal interest and recruit members (including associate members).
- Set up a Google Group for digital coordination; Scottish Canals to circulate the Google Group to attendees and local parties with interest in the canal. No transfer of personal data will be made between Scottish Canals and the group.
- Engage local groups and initiatives (e.g. Tayvallich Initiative, Cairnbaan Trust) and community councils.
- Collect local memories, photos, and maps to create a heritage storyboard.
- Attendees discussed potential community-led projects—such as interpretive signage at Linnet Boat Shed and planters at Crinan dummy lock island—and proposed forming a ‘Friends of Crinan Canal’ group to deliver small, locally funded initiatives outside Scottish Canals’ strategic and operational remit. The working group should formally present this idea to Scottish Canals should this ‘friends-of’ group be formed.

Heritage, Conservation & Expert Support

- Study heritage and conservation aspects of the bridge.
- Consult with relevant organisations:
 - Institute of Civil Engineers
 - Heritage Trust Network
 - Friends of Monkland Canal
 - Institute of Industrial Archaeology
 - Historic Transport societies
 - Canal and River Trust
- Engage local experts and craftsmen (e.g. Crinan Boat Yard, Stan Lawler).
- Explore academic partnerships (e.g. Strathclyde and Edinburgh Universities).

Compliance & Risk Management

- Conduct risk assessment and secure HES permissions for any structural changes.
- Establish third-party agreements with Scottish Canals as needed.
- Ensure insurance coverage is in place prior to any works being carried out.

Reporting

- Working group to inform at the Crinan Canal Quarterly Meeting; an agenda item will be available for a project update.
- Contact with Scottish Canals to be made via the dunardrybridge@scottishcanals.co.uk email address.