

Document reference	Creag Dhubh CLG - 19082026
Revision	FINAL
Function	Major Projects CLG

Meeting	Creag Dhubh Transmission Projects - Community Liaison Group
Date	Wednesday, 19 August 2026
Time	6.00pm-7.00pm Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Attendee	Position / organisation
Amanda McClintock (AM)	SSEN Transmission Community Liaison Manager
Liam McBride (LM)	SSEN Transmission Delivery Project Manager
Garry Irvine (GI)	SSEN Transmission
Geoffrey Lambert (GL)	United Infrastructure
Suzanne Anderson (SA)	Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council representative
Paul Greaves (PG)	Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council representative
Apologies	None recorded
Sue Rawcliffe (SR)	Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council
Linda Divers (LD)	Inveraray Community Council
Martha Smart (MS)	SSEN Transmission Community Liaison Manager
Jim Masters (JM)	Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Paul Kilgallon (PK)	SSEN Transmission Construction Manager
David Fraser (DF)	SSEN Transmission Lead Delivery Project Manager

Minutes

1.0	Welcome, introductions and apologies
1.1	AM welcomed attendees and introductions were completed.
1.2	SA advised that she had resigned from the Community Council, SR has also resigned. PG had been re-elected and the new Community Council members were expected to meet in September. The group thanked SA & SR for her contribution to the Community Liaison Group.
2.0	Review of previous minutes and actions
2.1	The previous minutes and actions were reviewed. Two actions remained open: engagement with Orchy & Awe Men's Shed and the proposed community litter pick.
3.0	Health, safety and wellbeing: safety moment
3.1	LM delivered a safety moment on wildfire response, highlighting the dangers to visitors and the workforce and reminding everyone to remain vigilant.
3.2	A recent issue noticed during United Infrastructure works had been identified and actioned in line with the safety message.
4.0	Project overviews and lookahead
	Creag Dhubh substation
4.1	The presentation provided an update on progress at Creag Dhubh substation. Most above-ground structures were in place, installation and commissioning were continuing in the new buildings, and the super grid transformers had been received and positioned. For the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally overhead line, all access tracks and undergrounding works were complete. Tower erection and foundation installation were continuing, with stringing due to begin in the coming weeks. No significant upcoming traffic movements were noted, so fewer construction vehicle movements were expected. SP Energy Networks have started tie-in works at Access Point 2 with energisation targeted for Summer 2027.
	Creag Dhubh to Dalmally overhead line update

4.2	25 towers now assembled across project with 22 fully topped out. Foundation installation 65% complete with work continuing across remaining locations. All access tracks now complete – A major milestone. Upcoming activities – stringing works and further tower topping out continuing
	Creag Dhubh to Inveraray overhead line update
4.3	For the Creag Dhubh to Inveraray overhead line, foundation installation now 35% complete, tower erection and access-track construction were progressing. Lambing-season restrictions had been observed and lifted. The next milestone was the start of the An Suidhe tie-in works.
5.0	STEM engagement in Argyll
5.1	The group discussed recent and proposed STEM engagement across Argyll, including the Dalmally Primary School early-careers event and ongoing discussions with the University of the Highlands and Islands and Developing the Young Workforce.
5.2	GL advised that he had been speaking with the University of the Highlands and Islands and Argyll and Bute Council about arranging four engagement events.
5.3	SA asked that all schools in the area be considered and queried how further engagement could be encouraged with Oban High School. Suggestions included women in engineering events, careers sessions, practical activities or competitions, project engineering case studies, videos and employee career journeys. GL noted that the University of the Highlands and Islands had recently completed filming on another project. GL will investigate whether this or other suitable material could be shared or highlighted.
5.4	SA also suggested engaging organisations that support young people outside school settings. AM and GL will identify suitable organisations and contacts in Argyll and Bute.
6.0	Community engagement update
6.1	Recent community engagement highlights were presented, including support for the Taynuilt Primary School fence, Festival of the Sea Clipper Race in Oban and Inveraray Highland Games.
6.2	The group discussed United Infrastructure support for local lawn games and fencing. GL will provide further information.
6.3	United Infrastructure planned to attend the Dalmally Show on Saturday and had contacted the organisers to ask whether support was required. SA offered to provide contact details for the local Community Development Officer.
6.4	An update was provided on Orchy & Awe Men's Shed. The proposed location had changed, requiring a further site visit to assess the plot. GL and AM will continue liaison and report back.
6.5	AM advised that she was liaising with Karen about arranging a community litter pick in October.
6.6	Argyll Local Investment Fund – 6 community leaders now appointed
7.0	Community queries
7.1	SA noted an increase in litter and asked everyone working locally to remain mindful and considerate, including picking up litter when safe to do so.
7.2	SA raised a drainage issue on Sue's Road. It was reported that the issue had been resolved on the day. GL will confirm the details for the record.
7.3	SA shared positive feedback from residents and businesses. Project personnel were described as polite, kind and helpful, and a credit to their organisations. The village shop had experienced increased business from contractors working in the area, which had helped the business remain open. Positive feedback was also shared about the respectful conduct of personnel staying locally. AM will pass the feedback to the project teams and contractors.
7.4	SA noted issue with Maintenance of AP02 track - LM has actioned this and confirmed that we have upgraded
8.0	Next meeting: November 2026
8.1	The next Community Liaison Group meeting will be arranged for the week commencing 16 November 2026. Date to be confirmed
9.0	Any other business
9.1	No further business was recorded.

Actions

Number	Action / update	Owner	Open / closed
1	Continue liaison on the Orchy & Awe Men's Shed proposal, including the site revisit, costs and practical considerations, and report back.	GL / LM	Open
2	Progress planning for four STEM engagement events with education partners.	GL	Open
3	Provide further information on United Infrastructure support for local lawn games and fencing.	GL	Open

Number	Action / update	Owner	Open / closed
4	Progress arrangements for a community litter pick in October with Karen.	AM	Open

Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV transmission project

Community liaison group meeting

19 August 2026

Teams: 6–7pm



Agenda

- Introductions and apologies
- Review of previous minutes and actions
- Safety moment
- Project overviews
- STEM engagement – Argyll
- Community Engagement
- Community queries
- Next meeting
- AOB



Review of Previous Minutes

Outstanding Actions:

- Men Shed
- Litter Pick

Safety moment

Safety is SSEN Transmission's number one priority across every project.



SHE alert – positive action: wildfire response

SHE ALERT

Positive Action – Wildfire Response



Date of incident	22/07/2026		Directorate	Onshore Capital Delivery	
Region	Argyll	Location	Forestry Access Track LT29 OHL	Classification	Positive Observation
What happened?					
A sub-contractor team were travelling along a forestry access track towards their work site when they came across a small wildfire on a passing place. They extinguished the flames with water they had in their vehicle. However, the area was still smouldering and as a precaution they consulted the project's emergency response plan and called the fire service and directed them to the exact location of the fire. Fire Service attended and doused the area before thanking the team for their diligence and quick response as this could have become a much bigger incident without their intervention. Network Rail workers were seen in the area earlier and there is a possibility that a stray cigarette or other material could have been disposed of in the area. Given the current hot dry weather and serious wildfires in the Cairngorms and Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh, the sub-contractor team are to be commended for their professionalism, proactive and timely response to a serious threat of a wildfire on the open moors of Argyll.					



Creag Dhubh construction progress since May

- Construction has continued to make strong progress. Most above-ground structures at Creag Dhubh are now in place, with installation and commissioning continuing in the new 132kV and 275kV buildings.
- The super grid transformers (SGTs) have been received and positioned at the substation, completing a major delivery milestone and enabling the next phase of work. Further information on this can be found: [Transformers delivered to Creag Dhubh substation in major milestone for Argyll energy project - SSEN Transmission](#)
- All access tracks and undergrounding works on the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally OHL section are now complete — significant milestones for the project.
- There are no new traffic-management updates. Communities and stakeholders will be informed if arrangements change.
- SP Energy Networks has started tie-in works at Access Point 2. Stringing between towers 17 and 33 is planned within the coming weeks, with energisation targeted for summer 2027.



Creag Dhubh site overview — July 2026



Hauliers approaching the Creag Dhubh substation with an SGT

Creag Dhubh to Dalmally overhead line update

- Tower erection has advanced significantly: 25 towers are now assembled across the project, with 22 fully topped out.
- Foundation installation is around 65% complete, with work continuing across the remaining tower locations.
- Stringing works are scheduled to begin within the coming weeks, marking the start of the next major phase.
- All access tracks for the project are now complete — a major project milestone.
- Key upcoming activities are the start of stringing works and further tower topping out, alongside continued foundation installation.



Towers 1 and 2 topped out at substation (Creag Dhubh to Dalmally side)



Access track completion

Creag Dhubh to Inveraray overhead line update

- Foundation installation is approximately 35% complete, with work progressing across the active tower locations.
- Nine towers are now fully assembled and topped out, including several of the project's tie-in towers.
- Access-track construction is approximately 65% complete, with the remaining sections continuing to support future work fronts.
- Lambing-season requirements were fully observed. These seasonal restrictions have now been lifted, allowing planned construction activity to proceed.
- The next milestone is the imminent start of the An Suidhe tie-in works. No other major milestones are planned this year.



Towers 27 and 28



Final access track completion



Underground works complete at Tower 33

STEM engagement – Argyll

- Visit to Dalmally Primary School early-careers event with SSEN, BAM and Siemens Energy.
- We look forward to future engagement events with schools and communities across Argyll. Such as:
 - Ongoing conversations with UHI & DYW on how we can work more collaboratively together



Community engagement update

Six community leaders appointed to Argyll Local Investment Forum

1. **Isla Mu-Lan McCulloch (Chair)**, Oban-based Democratic Finance Development Officer for the Development Trusts Association Scotland and Founder Trustee of Adventure Oban, a community-led charity dedicated to providing equal access to the outdoors.
2. **Michelle Banks**, Assistant Manager at The Community Shop in Lochgilphead, with a background in community engagement and advice services.
3. **Brian Barker**, Chair of Minard Community Trust and Director of Artmap Argyll and Argyll Homes for All. Until recently, Brian served as Specialist Advice and Technical Manager with Home Energy Scotland.
4. **Ciorsdan Fagan**, Director of Dunoon Presents and Product Development Agent and Event Manager with Argyll & the Isles Tourism Cooperative.
5. **John Gurr**, Trustee of Ardrishaig Community Trust, who has held senior commercial and supply chain roles within the retail sector.
6. **Malcolm McMillan**, Senior Service Manager for Strategic Estates Development and Sustainability at NHS Highland, Volunteer Coastguard Rescue Officer, and former Business Development Manager for Machrihanish Airbase Community Company.



Community engagement — highlights

- **Taynuilt Primary School fence** — Creag Dhubh, BAM and Alter donated materials and labour to replace the boundary fence, creating a safer and more welcoming playground.
- **Festival of the Sea, Oban** — headline sponsorship supported the 13–19 July Clipper Race stopover, bringing residents, businesses and visitors together around Argyll’s maritime heritage.
- **Inveraray Highland Games** — project volunteers supported event delivery alongside local organisers, helping bring the community together and strengthening local relationships.



Festival of the Sea, Oban — July 2026



Taynuilt Primary School fence



Inveraray Highland Games

Community engagement — next steps

Building on recent activity, the project team will:

- **Potential engagement** — ongoing discussions with Orchy & Awe Men's Shed to support its development
- Litter pick — expected to be rescheduled for October
- **Schools and education** — increase engagement after the summer break, building awareness of careers, skills and pathways linked to the programme.
- **Local benefit** — expand volunteering and community-benefit activity across the project area, alongside a continued focus on local employment, skills development and community investment.

Community queries

AOB and date of next meeting

- **Next meeting:** November 2026

Amanda McClintock

Community Liaison Manager | SSEN Transmission

200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH

M: 07901 135758 | E: Amanda.mcclintock@sse.com