

LOCHABER TIMES & OBAN TIMES

No 8684

Thursday 7 September 2023

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

£1.10

Finlay races ahead to take 12th BNR win



WIN A STAY AT CAMERON HOUSE ON LOCH LOMOND WITH DINNER AND CRUISE – SEE PAGE 37

Careers fair



DYW stages largest event of year so far at high school

• See page 23 for more

New boss at Fort FC



Robert Coull takes over helm of town football club

• See back page for more



Councillor Ken Gowans, chairperson of Highland Council's economy and infrastructure committee, unveils the plaque to officially open the new Caol flood defences with help from pupils representing Caol School, St Columba's, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar and Lochaber High School.

Photograph: Iain Forsyth, alloa photos

CAOL AND LOCHYSIDE FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME OPENS

by Jamie Willis
willis@obantimes.co.uk

The Caol and Lochside Flood Prevention Scheme in Fort William was officially opened on Thursday August 31.

Honours for opening the £11 million scheme were given to Highland Council's economy and infrastructure chairperson Councillor Ken

Gowans, alongside fellow councillors, community representatives, stakeholders and invited guests.

Pupils from local primary schools and Lochaber High School, and the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, were also on hand.

Consisting of a 1.2km flood embankment along the shores of Loch Linnhe, from the Caledonian Canal

embankment to the Caol Spit, and an 800m flood wall up the side of the River Lochy, finishing at Soldier's Bridge, the scheme promises to provide flood protection to around 300 homes.

It also includes improved access to the towpath at the Caledonian Canal, as well as upgraded walking and cycling routes with planting, seating, paths and a play area.

The opening of the flood prevention scheme concludes a near decade-long development process. In 2015 Highland Council employed JBA Consulting to prepare a flood risk assessment, while principal contractor RJ McLeod was appointed in February 2021.

A total of 45,000 tonnes of rock armour and 2,000 cubic metres of concrete

were used in its construction. Councillor Gowans said he was honoured to open the scheme and commended the work of contractors and council officers involved.

He also thanked the Scottish Government for its financial support.

He said: "A project of this magnitude requires precision engineering, a wealth of

Continued on page 5.



when it comes to carpets...



...we've got it covered

Creating Beautiful Homes

mathesons
FURNISHINGS

mathesons.co.uk

Tweedmill, Soroba Rd, Oban
Tel: 01631 565195