

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra Ghaidheal agus Bhoid

Customer Services
Executive Director: Douglas Hendry



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26 July 2011

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMITTEE** will be held in the **EAGLESHAM HOUSE, MOUNTPLEASANT ROAD, ROTHESAY** on **TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST 2011** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director - Customer Services

BUSINESS

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of 7th June 2011 (Pages 1 - 6)
- 4. ACHA BUTE & COWAL IN BLOOM AWARDS**
- 5. ACHA AREA UPDATE - PRESENTATION**
- 6. CUSTOMER SERVICES**
 - (a) Cowal Europe (Pages 7 - 8)
- 7. COMMUNITY SERVICES**
 - (a) Grants to Third Sector 2010/11 (Pages 9 - 12)

8. DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

- (a) verbal report on Milton Burn Flood Prevention Schemes
- (b) Implementation of Dunoon/Gourock Ferry Service update (Pages 13 - 16)

9. PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

10. EXEMPT ITEMS

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee will be asked to pass a resolution in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public for items of business with an “E” on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part I of Schedule 7a to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The appropriate paragraph is:-

E1 - Paragraph 9 Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

- E1** (a) Doctors Surgery Site, Argyll Street, Dunoon (Pages 17 - 20)
- E1** (b) Land, Edward Street, Dunoon (Pages 21 - 26)
- E1** (c) 23 Argyll Street, Dunoon - report to follow

BUTE & COWAL AREA COMMITTEE

Councillor Robert Macintyre
Councillor Alister McAlister
Councillor James McQueen
Councillor Ron Simon
Councillor Dick Walsh

Councillor Bruce Marshall (Chair)
Councillor Alex McNaughton
Councillor Len Scoullar (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Isobel Strong

Contact: Eilidh FitzPatrick, Area Governance Assistant

**MINUTES of MEETING of BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMITTEE held in the CASTLE HOUSE,
CASTLE GARDENS, DUNOON
on TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2011**

Present: Councillor B Marshall (Chair)

Councillor A MacAlister	Councillor L Scoullar
Councillor R Macintyre	Councillor R Simon
Councillor J McQueen	Councillor I Strong

Attending: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
Caroline Sheen, Estates Surveyor
Mike Johnston, Performance Management Officer
Cath McLoone, Area Manager, Resources
Chief Inspector Mosley, Strathclyde Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

Councillor A McNaughton
Councillor J R Walsh

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Macintyre declared a non financial interest in item 5(c) on the basis that the report concerned his request and took no part in the discussion of that item.

Councillor J McQueen declared a non financial interest in item 8(b) on the basis that he is a member of the club and took no part in the discussion of that item.

3. MINUTES

(a) MINUTE OF MEETING OF 5TH APRIL 2011

The Minutes of the Meeting of 5th April 2011 were approved as a correct record.

(b) MINUTE OF MEETING OF 17TH MAY 2011

The Minutes of the Meeting of 17th May 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

(a) AREA SCORECARD

The Committee heard from the Performance Management Officer on the Area Scorecards which enable scrutiny of the Area Plans and of Service Performance at area levels.

Decision

The Committee:-

- i. Approved the overall format of the scorecard.
- ii. Noted the Key Performance Indicators in the scorecard would be an ongoing activity as use of the scorecard develops.
- iii. Agreed that officers named in the Area Plan provide regular updates via the Pyramid system, including the creation of the new Performance Indicators if necessary.
- iv. Agreed the Area Committee uses the scorecard to review progress and performance with the area at every second meeting.

(Reference: Report by the Performance Management Officer – submitted)

5. CUSTOMER SERVICES

(a) VERBAL REPORT ON DUNOON - GOUROCK FERRY SERVICE

The Committee heard a verbal update from the Area Governance Manager on the Gourock/Dunoon Ferry Services. She advised that Argyll Ferries had won the tender process and will be providing a passenger only service to start on 1st July 2011.

Decision

The Committee noted the information provided.

(b) COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE CASTLE GARDENS

Members heard from the Area Governance Manager regarding a commemorative plaque sited within the Castle Gardens, Dunoon.

Decision

The Committee agreed that the plaque should be removed.

(Reference: Report by the Area Governance Manager dated 31st May 2011 – submitted)

(c) MEMBERSHIP OF BUTE CHORD PROJECT BOARD

Councillor R Macintyre, having declared a non financial interest in this item, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion.

Members heard from the Area Governance Manager regarding the request from Councillor Robert Macintyre to be appointed a core Member of the Rothesay CHORD Project Board.

Decision

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Robert Macintyre as a core Member of the Rothesay CHORD Project Board.

(Reference: Report by the Executive Director of Customer Services dated 17th May 2011 – submitted)

6. PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Mrs Anne Gabriel asked the Committee if there was funding in place for the gang plank, new waiting facilities and facilities for staff at the new breakwater for the new ferry service and Councillor Marshall advised there was. Mrs Gabriel also asked if Members were aware that Caledonian MacBrayne will no longer be carrying freight and asked if there had been discussions with Western Ferries, Councillor Marshall advised he did not know this information and said he would look into it.

Mr Moonan asked why the carrying of freight had not been fed into the discussions regarding the ferry service and Councillor Marshall advised that the Council have consistently asked for a vehicle service and if this had been granted the freight would probably have still been carried.

Mr Moonan asked Mike Johnston why there should be a scorecard if it did not demonstrate the progress and advised that the scorecard was very well developed at Council level and it was a working progress to get the area level updated.

Mr Baker, Kilmun Community Council asked what was going to happen to the old pier and Councillor Marshall explained that there had been a workshop regarding the pier recently and there will be a public consultation in the future to discuss the pier.

Cath McLoone spoke on the interim changes to Struan Lodge Day Care advising that the Support Services and Dementia day care have been amalgamated. Cath also spoke on outreach and explained the charging policy. Mr Moonan asked questions on the dementia staff and if staff were suitably qualified and Cath gave him advice. Councillor Simon asked about wavering of charges and Cath explained that the Area Manager could waver fees but it would depend on each person's circumstances and they would also point them in the direction of other agencies to see if they could get help. Cath explained that she would bring a report to the August Area Committee.

Chief Inspector Mosley advised that Bute & Cowal section of Strathclyde Police had been the highest performing last year. He spoke on concerns over the traffic management for Cowal Highland Games with the new passenger only service and explained he had a multi-agency meeting to discuss this issue. There is an initiative at Dunoon Grammar School at the moment that will produce a video on drugs and alcohol. The mobile police office has been approved and he advised that this is a community resource and if it is needed anywhere to contact him. Chief Inspector Mosley advised Members if they had any traffic management issues to contact him. The Anti Social Behaviour Sub Groups in Rothesay and Dunoon are both working well. Councillor Simon said that Hunter's Quay Community Council wished to advise that the problems at Madeira Place have improved since the mobile CCTV camera was installed.

7. DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

(a) VERBAL UPDATE ON MILTON BURN FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEMES

The Area Governance Manager gave an update on the Milton Burn Flood Prevention Scheme.

Decision

The Committee noted the information provided.

8. EXEMPT ITEMS

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

(a) CASTLE HOUSE MUSEUM

Members heard from the Estates Surveyor on the request received from the Dunoon and Cowal Heritage Trust to extend their current lease.

Decision

The Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in the report by the Executive Director of Customer Services, and agreed that if the break option presents an issue to the Trust this will be reported back to the Area Committee.

(Reference: Report by the Executive Director of Customer Services dated 17th May 2011 – submitted)

(b) GROUND, PILOT STREET, DUNOON

Councillor J McQueen, having declared a non financial interest in this item, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion.

Members heard from the Estates Surveyor on the request received from the Dunoon Boxing Club to lease an area of ground at Pilot Street, Dunoon.

Decision

The Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in the report by the Executive Director of Customer Services.

(Reference: Report by the Executive Director of Customer Services dated 23rd May 2011 – submitted)

(c) **KIOSK, THE MEADOWS, ROTHESAY**

Members heard from the Estates Surveyor on the various interests in respect of the pavilion building and tennis courts at the Meadows, Rothesay.

Decision

The Committee noted the information contained in the report by the Executive Director of Customer Services.

(Reference: Report by the Executive Director of Customer Services dated 31st May 2011 – submitted)

(d) **PIT STOP DINER, DUNOON STADIUM**

Members heard from the Area Governance Manager on the lease of site at Dunoon Stadium.

Decision

The Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in the report by the Head of Governance and Law.

(Reference: Report by the Head of Governance and Law dated 6th June 2011 – tabled)

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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL
CUSTOMER SERVICES**

**BUTE AND COWAL
AREA COMMITTEE
2nd AUGUST 2011**

COWAL EUROPE / EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL.

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives Members updated information regarding the potential to hold the European People's Festival in Dunoon at a future date, most likely in 2015 or 2016.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided in relation to ongoing consideration of the possibility of Dunoon hosting the European People's Festival in 2015 or 2016.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Members will recall that reports have been submitted to previous business meetings regarding the possibility of Dunoon hosting the European People's Festival in a future year, most likely 2015 or 2016. In addition, a presentation by members of the Cowal Europe Committee was made to Members at which time there was unanimous enthusiasm and support for such a proposal.
- 3.2 Since that time the Cowal Europe Committee have further considered the possibility, and have recently confirmed that they still wish to actively consider hosting a future festival.
- 3.3 Given the likely dates for the proposed event, it is not possible for the Council at this time to make a financial commitment to a potential future festival, but the organising Committee have asked for clarification of the Council's position in regard to the potential use of Dunoon Grammar School as the principal venue should the festival be brought to Cowal. Clarification of this issue will enable them to decide whether or not to consider making a bid for a future event to be held in Cowal. The Director of Community Services has confirmed that, subject to detailed

discussion and health and safety arrangements being put in place, he would have no objection to such a use of the school being made.

- 3.4 On the basis of the Director of Community Services having detailed discussions with the organising Cowal Europe Committee, Members are asked to agree, at this time, the principle of Dunoon Grammar School being made available as the main venue for a future European People's Festival should the organising Committee be successful in bringing the event to Cowal in 2015 or 2016.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Dunoon has successfully hosted the European People's Festival on two occasions previously, bringing significant economic benefit to the Cowal and wider Argyll and Bute area. The principal of making Dunoon Grammar School available as the main venue for a future festival should be considered in terms of potential positive economic impact if the festival goes ahead.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	None
Financial:	Grant assistance to fund future Festivals will require to be sought.
Personnel:	None
Equal Opportunities:	None

For further information contact: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
01369 707134

Date: 25th July 2011

**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL
BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMITTEE**

2 August 2011

GRANTS TO THIRD SECTOR 2010/11

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details recommendations for the award of Third Sector Grants (including Events and Festivals) to Third Sector organisations in Bute and Cowal.
- 1.2 The Executive agreed to the proposal that applications would be considered twice-yearly in April and again in August. This is intended to avoid allocation of the full budget at one meeting and enable activities held later in the year to be funded.
- 1.3 The total Third Sector Grant budget made available by the Council for allocation in Bute and Cowal for 2011/12 is £35,000. A total of £29,662 was awarded to 15 organisations in April. The Committee is asked to consider allocation of the remaining £5,338
- 1.4 The recommendations are made using the following formula:
- Organisations applying for the first time are allocated between 45 – 50%
 - Organisations that had received grant aid for two years or more are allocated a lesser percentage than those who are first time applicants

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the organisations listed below are awarded funding of £5,338 from grants to the Third Sector.

Ref	Organisation	Grant Awarded 2010/11	Amount Requested 2011/12	Total Project Costs	Recommendation
2.1	Bute Bowling Association	£800	£800	£2,364	£298
2.2	Sandbank Senior Citizens Club	£762	£1,730	£4,030	£400
2.3	Dunoon Community Radio	£0	£3,000	£5,000	£1,400
2.4	Fiddle Folk	£1,500	£1,500	£34,587	£400
2.5	Beachwatch Bute	£0	£1,425	£2,325	£650
2.6	P.A.C.C.T	£2,000	£1,740 eligible amount	£3,479	£870
2.7	Cowal Christian Youth Work (CCYW)	£0	£2,452	£13,172	£1,100
2.8	RSCDS South Argyll Branch	£0	£444 eligible amount	£888	£220
	Total	£5,862	£15,286	£65,845	£5,338
		Total Recommended			£5,338
		Balance			£0

3. DETAIL

	Organisation	Rationale for grant allocation
3.1	Bute Bowling Association	To assist in funding the annual open bowling tournament. The event brings together bowlers and families from all over Britain. Over 200 people are expected to attend the event which will encourage tourism to the island. The organisation is meeting 66% of the costs of the event
3.2	Sandbank Senior Citizens Club	To assist with the regular activities of the Club including hall rental, payment for entertainment, catering and general running expenses. The club provides social inclusion for older people and the funding will enable outings and speakers to visit the club.
3.3	Dunoon Community Radio	The aim of the project is to rebuild the training studio with up to date equipment to allow young people to learn more about broadcasting. Once training is completed the young people will be given the chance to broadcast their own radio programme. The project will provide work skills and eventually a qualification to young people, which will allow them to seek employment in the field of media.
3.4	Fiddle Folk (formerly Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop)	To provide instrumental education in traditional music to all ages, and promote knowledge of Gaelic language in schools. This project provides a service in a rural Lochgoilhead to people of all ages. The workshops will benefit over 950 people of all ages.
3.5	Beachwatch Bute	Purchase of equipment and protective clothing for volunteers who undertake beach cleaning. The project provides a valuable service to the Isle of Bute. This project includes an educational programme through the schools on the island which encourages both volunteering and responsible citizenship. The project carries out workshops in the three primary schools and one secondary school on the Island. Approximately 15 children take part in each beach clean.
3.6	P.A.C.C.T (People and Agencies of Cowal Coming Together)	To provide funding to sustain activities and contribute towards costs of sessional staff member. PACCT is a service-user led organisation that meets regularly and organises weekly activities including a music group and arts and crafts to ensure people with disabilities stay active. They also have special events such as the Ceilidh club, theatre trips and occasional larger events like Health information days, bus trips, etc. The grant is to assist with accommodation rental and administration costs. The organisation brings together local people with learning difficulties and support agencies to promote social inclusion and user led activities.
3.7	Cowal Christian Youth Work (CCYW)	This group was established in October 2010 and has not applied for funding previously. It organises a summer camp, which is open to all young people across Argyll and Bute. The funding requested is solely to subsidise young people from Bute and Cowal who otherwise would not be able to attend due to the cost of the activities. This activity is open to all, regardless of faith, and the need was identified by parents who felt that there was a lack of activities for young people towards the end of the school summer holidays.
3.8	RSCDS South Argyll Branch	To provide at a nil cost an education programme in Scottish country dancing to adults and children of all abilities culminating in a March Children's Festival of dance. The programme will benefit approximately 300 children in Dunoon and district primary schools. It promotes traditional Scottish dance, and teaching is carried out by volunteers.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 All organisations have been contacted and grant applications assessed. Applications for funding of £2,000 and above have been forwarded to the Finance Section of Community Services and some are awaiting approval. Some recommendations are therefore pending a successful outcome of the financial assessment.
- 4.2 Recommendations are in line with the financial assessment to ensure that resources available from this grant budget are disbursed in a manner that will deliver optimum support to Third Sector organisations in Bute and Cowal.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None

Finance: The report sets out the expenditure from the (insert committee) budget for the allocation of Third Sector Grants.

Personnel: None

Legal: None

Equal Opportunities: The grant allocation is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.

Margaret Fyfe
Community Development Manager

For further information please contact:

Liz Marion, Community Development Officer, Tel 01369 704669

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**BUTE AND COWAL
AREA COMMITTEE**

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES 2 AUGUST 2011

DUNOON GOUROCK FERRY – UPDATE PAPER

1. SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the current operation of the Dunoon Gourock passenger only ferry service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the contents of this report.

3. DETAIL

3.1 Preparation

The Council had agreed with Transport Scotland to provide a Harbour Users Access Agreement which would be included in the tender documents for the new operator. Argyll Ferries Ltd, a subsidiary company of David MacBrayne Ltd was appointed following tender submissions and the new service commenced on 30 June 2011.

In anticipation of the new service the Council had procured waiting room and toilet facilities which were suitable for the physically impaired. The water connection for these was not fully operational until midday on the 30th June. The linkspan has been subject to routine inspections and general maintenance was undertaken in the week leading up to the 30th. Further work on the seals, which are now stored in Dunoon, has to be undertaken in October. Argyll Ferries has been advised of this work with the implication that the ferry will have to operate from the timber pier whilst this is completed. The work is anticipated to take five days to complete.

Discussions were held with all bus operators and arrangements put in place for the new marshalling area to be used by service buses with effect from the inception of the new ferry service. Risk assessments for the transfer of passengers from both the waiting room and the service buses were carried out and arrangements put in place to guard their safety. The marshalling area was signed for free parking in alternate lanes

The facilities required to successfully transfer the operation of the ferry from the timber pier to the new breakwater including the installation of pad eyes for the ropes, were all in place for the commencement of service on 30th June and notices had been published in the local press to advertise the new arrangements.

3.2 In service

Staffing prior to the new service was for 10 people operating a rota system. Due to the new operating hours, Legal Services advised that the Council must offer staff a new contract and rota or face redundancy. Six out of ten staff chose to accept redundancy and as a consequence an advertisement has been published seeking interest in four temporary pier operative posts at Dunoon.

The use of the toilet facilities has proved popular not just for ferry passengers and as a result the costs incurred in emptying the tanks are projected to be considerably greater than originally anticipated. A solution to this would be to make a permanent connection to the foul sewer. The decision on whether to progress with this is, to some extent, dependent upon the programme for the construction of the new harbour master's office.

The bus shelters currently in use are due to be replaced and the Council are in discussion with suppliers to provide a more weather resilient shelter in due course.

The vessels proposed for the route had been procured by Argyll Ferries Ltd but in the week leading up to the start of service it was evident that one of the vessels, to be named the Argyll Flyer, would not be ready. The operator chartered the Clyde Clipper and had emergency works carried out to enable her to berth stern to. This vessel went out of service on the first day due to exhaust problems which were subsequently fixed. It should also be noted that despite the operator being quite clear that rope handling facilities were not required from the Council they were requested at 1700hrs on the 29 June and subsequently provided for the first three weeks of operation. The Argyll Flier is now in operation but there remain concerns that the gangway from the vessel to the linkspan is not suitable for all passengers, particularly those travelling with prams or buggies. In terms of running to timetable this now appears to be satisfactory.

The Council has received one letter of complaint via Alan Reid MP from a resident at Hunters Quay. The elements pertinent to our operation concerned the suitability of the linkspan for passengers in terms of trip hazards, the lack of disabled bays in the marshalling area and the lack of a cycle rack. The Council's health and safety officers will inspect and report back on the hazards for passengers although it should be highlighted that the structure was originally designed to accommodate foot passengers. Disabled bays are presently available

in the car park adjacent to the Rock cafe, with suitable access from there to the ferry. Arrangements are in place for the bicycle racks currently on the old pier to be uplifted and re-sited on the block paving to the south of the marshalling area.

There are discussions with the taxi operators regarding their use of part of the marshalling area which would leave the current taxi rank available for use as a drop off point. These arrangements have yet to be agreed with Members.

The single most significant issue is the total lack of any Argyll Ferries staff in Dunoon to answer public queries on the ferry service. There is also a fundamental lack of communication with Council staff to advise of any cancellations or to advise on the preparations for the forthcoming Cowal Games. There continues to be a perception that the Council will manage despite the operator being advised of limitations on staff availability. The new rota operates with two staff on duty and three shifts per day. There have been numerous phone conversations with the operator and whilst they recognise the problems, resolution is slow in coming.

With regard to the timetable it is understood that there are some services that are not carrying any passengers. This may result in the operator reverting to the Scottish Government to request that the level of service on offer be reviewed.

Integration with other modes of transport appears to work well with no reports that the bus services do not suit the new timetable although it is understood that the time gap at Gourock is tight to catch the train. The question of introducing a vehicular ferry service from the breakwater has been raised but to date there has been no firm proposal given to Western Ferries for their consideration.

4. CONCLUSION

The new ferry service continues to present a number of challenges. Those that relate to the Council are being addressed and those which the operator needs to resolve are being highlighted to them on a regular basis by harbour staff. Whilst it is recognised that the contract is in its infancy the problems that have been encountered are largely due to the timescales imposed being insufficient to permit thorough planning and preparation.

5 IMPLICATIONS

Policy

Potential impact upon Policy to be evaluated

Financial	Further analysis required when confirmation of future operation established
Personnel	Requirement to reduce staff number to reflect future operation
Legal	None
Equal Opportunities	None

For further information please contact Martin Gorringe, Marine & Airports Manager
(01546604656)
Development and Infrastructure Services

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