



Beach at Ganavan Bay



Lock on the Crinan Canal

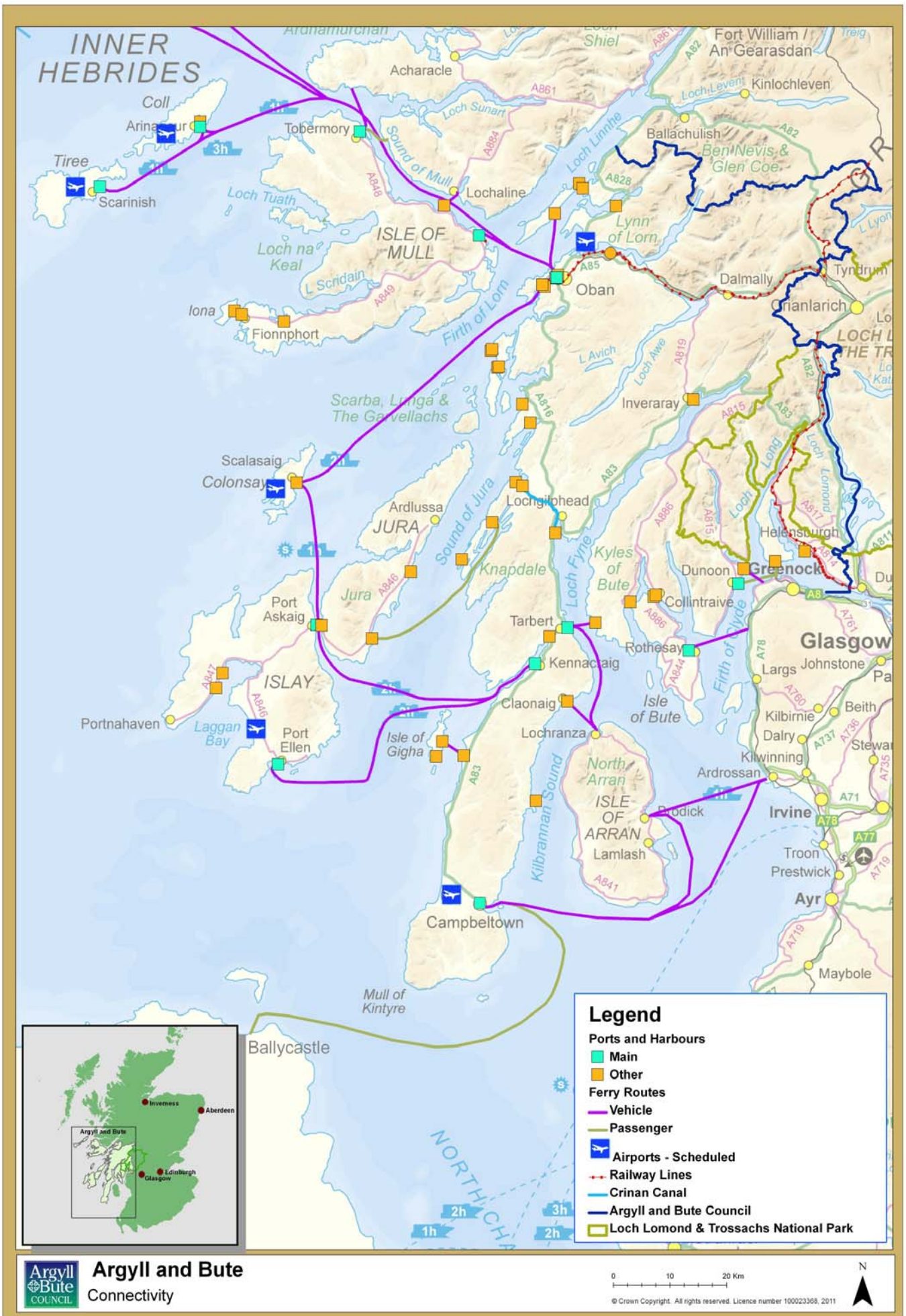


Talk at the
Crinan Canal



Wild camping at North Bute

Social Enterprise Team Annual Report 2014-15





Our vision and priorities

Social enterprise is a term to describe an organisation that has a social or environmental purpose that makes a profit to invest in this purpose or the wider community. In Argyll and Bute, Atlantis Leisure is one of our largest social enterprises, charging customers and delivering services on behalf of the council and reinvesting any surplus back into the business or to develop services targeted at people most in need. In Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network's most recent survey, they had 38 members with a turnover of over £17.7m, employing 376 staff (179 Full time and 197 Part time). This combined with the social, environmental and community benefits delivered demonstrates the significant contribution social enterprises make to our rural communities.

Argyll and Bute Council's social enterprise team is based within projects and renewables as part of the economic development service. It was established following a service review in 2010 and aims to ***'Harness the potential of the third sector and increase their capacity to deliver sustainable communities'***.

We provide a range of services to the third sector: Topic sheets on a variety of popular subjects such as social enterprise, renewables, heritage and events and festivals, they contain details of useful contacts, available support and potential funders; An online searchable database of funding opportunities available to all; Support with the third sector asset transfer process and bespoke support to a range of third sector organisations that help fulfil our aim. In the past year we have produced a Community Support Webpage designed to assist community groups to access advice and information on various topics from funding to project support and development."

Most projects involve working with a range of partners including other council departments, external partners, Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network and the Third Sector Partnership, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the NHS. Some of these projects are described in our report.

We do this by;

- Improving the way the council does business with the Third Sector
- Developing new ways of delivering services in partnership with the Third Sector
- Assisting delivery of the Economic Development Action Plan – CHORD/Renewables/Food and Drink/Tourism/Culture, Heritage and Forestry
- Support Areas for Action as described in Local Development Plans

The team are;

Social Enterprise Team Leader –
Arlene Cullum 01436 658727/07979 214501
Social Enterprise Officer –
David Rennie 01700 501371/07768 101320
Social Enterprise Worker –
Isabell Jones 01369 708547/07989 423368
Social Enterprise Worker –
Brenda Sutherland 01700 501370/07825 842080



Paddling at Ardrishaig

Argyll Coastal Waters

The Argyll Coastal Waters Project is a partnership project between Argyll and Bute Council, Stramash, a social enterprise, and Scottish Canals. The overall aim is to develop coastal access sites to assist the economic growth of Argyll and Bute's coastal communities through improved infrastructure and access to the waterfront and subsequent development of water based recreational activities for people who visit and live in Argyll. Improvements to facilities and access for paddle-sports such as kayaking will create a Kayak Trail, 2 full-time and one part-time jobs, 12 marine tourism apprenticeships for local young people, and a range of volunteering opportunities. The Argyll Sea Kayak Trail is a new tourism product for the area and is

approximately 130km in length, covering some of the most naturally beautiful and wildlife rich parts of Scotland. Stramash administers and supports the jobs of the marketing, training and apprenticeship and paddle-sports development posts.

The Social Enterprise Team have developed and managed this project in partnership with a range of external and internal stakeholders and succeeded in accessing £500,000 of funding from Coastal Communities Fund and LEADER. The project continues until May 2015 and a further stage of development is planned.

Carradale Slipway

The Carradale Slipway project was completed, despite the repeated sabotage attempts of the Scottish weather. Carradale Harbour Enterprises Ltd (CHEL) were unfailing in their commitment to the project which was funded by Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013, Marine Harvest, East Kintyre Windfarm Trust and the Carradale Community.

The slipway will be utilised for launching small boats by visitors and locals, access to the water for other watersports and should be of great assistance to the Marine Harvest fish farm.

CHEL Quote: We are very grateful to our funders, Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013 programme, and our supporters in Argyll and Bute Council. A real partnership project.



Carradale Slipway



View from
Carradale Slipway

The Social Enterprise Team (SET) has supported CHEL by attending site meetings with the main contractor, providing an interface with other council departments, facilitating a cash flow loan from the council, providing support with the FLAG claims, monitoring of cash flow and any other ad hoc support that has been required.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with them on the next stage of the harbour development.



Hermitage Park

The Heritage Lottery Funded restoration and development of Hermitage Park has focussed on the development of a masterplan for the design of the park, and an activity plan to ensure that more people use the park for learning and recreation. Together with the Friends of Hermitage Park and the Users Group we have organised three consultation events in Helensburgh, spoken to over a hundred groups, run an online questionnaire and kept people up to date on facebook, through our quarterly newsletter and in the local press. The masterplan is now finalised and we are on course

to submit a second stage funding bid to Heritage Lottery Fund and other funders.

The Social Enterprise Team has worked with Friends of Hermitage Park Association, council departments and our contractors Gillespies and Gareth Hoskins amongst others, to develop the project. We hope a stage two application will be successful and that the project will continue until 2021 with capital works completing in 2018.

Dunoon Community Sports Centre



Dunoon Stadium

The idea for Dunoon Community Sports Centre was born out of the aspirations of Dunoon Amateur Boxing Club to build a new clubhouse. A piece of land within Dunoon Stadium was identified and a lease was obtained from Argyll & Bute Council. Planning permission and a Building Warrant followed.

The group are awaiting a decision from Sportscotland on their second stage funding bid and they have also applied to OSCR for charitable status.

The Social Enterprise Team (SET) became involved in supporting the club at an early stage. We provided guidance and support in strengthening the clubs committee. We arranged various meetings for the chair and secretary of the club with the estates surveyor, customer services officer, MP Alan Reid, and the Chief Inspector of Dunoon Police leading up to the lease and building warrant being granted. Information required by SportScotland in support of the clubs application was provided by SET.



Cowal Gathering

Blairmore Village Hall



The Social Enterprise Team met with the Blairmore Village Hall Committee in November 2014. We provided support and funding advice and over the next few months we met with committee members to put together an application to Investing in Communities which was submitted prior to the fund closing.

Blairmore Village Hall is one of four village halls referred to in the Benmore and Community Action Plan 2013-2017. The action plan was produced in community partnership with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Village hall upgrade is a priority in the theme "Village Improvement and Community Facilities". The hall itself dates from the 1880's. It was originally built as the waiting room for passengers using Blairmore Pier. The hall was gifted in trust in 1971 for use by the village. The fabric of the building has not been updated since the 1970's. A formal partnership agreement with Blairmore Village Trust is in place and both trusts have agreed to work closely together. Blairmore Village Trust are in the first year of a two year program agreed with the Scottish Land Fund who have recently given Blairmore Village Trust a grant of £90,000 to purchase the village green which lies adjacent to the village hall.

ArtmapArgyll

The Social Enterprise Team has been supporting Artmap Argyll. Artmap exists as a network of 59 businesses contributing to Argyll's creative industries sector through members' studios and venues, pop up shops and community engagement events that happen throughout the year in Argyll. There is no single physical base, office, or workshop where visitors or members can congregate and participate.

Artmap has undergone a period of growth and organisational development that firmly positions itself to grasp and drive forward its plans for growth. With the support of the Social Enterprise Team they have secured funding from the Big Lottery to help develop these ideas that will grow and expand the company. We continue to support the newly expanded Board to achieve its full potential.



Funding Alert

Along with the other resources we have developed we produce a monthly Funding Alert, a fully interactive document which alerts individuals, groups and organisations to current potential funding streams. In our latest questionnaire 71% of respondents reported that they had identified streams of funding through Funding Alert. Funding to the total of £373,200 was identified by various organisations. At present Funding Alert has a distribution list of 1,099 recipients consisting of individuals, organisations and groups and a further 716 people along with multiple groups receive Funding Alert from recipients on our list.

Free tools and resources

- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-support
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/topic-sheets
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/grantnet
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/asset-transfer-process
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/funding-and-support

Training



The team has responded positively to requests for bespoke training on a wide variety of subjects. Including : How to Identify the Best Funding Sources; What is the Best Structure to Set up Your Organisations Governance and How to Strengthen Your Board. Most of this work has been tailored for individual groups but the presentation given to the Community Woodlands Association was to a collection of representatives from the sector. We continue to work with other statutory partners and colleagues in the third sector to coordinate our activities and pool our resources in order to get the best value from the limited training budgets that become available.

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/training>

Events



We have been involved with several events and seminars throughout the year. Back in September we supported the Co-production event held at the Three Villages Hall. In March we helped deliver two village halls events that offered information and support to small local groups who deliver vital services in our most rural areas. In June we were working with Foundation Scotland to showcase the support to organisations who manage community benefit funds from renewables. In October we helped document and disseminate the presentations from the Economic Summit held in Dunoon.

We continue to work with other statutory partners and colleagues in the third sector to coordinate our activities and pool our resources in order to get the best value from the limited training budgets that become available.



http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/festivals_and_events_topic_sheet_1.pdf



Bandstand in Dunoon



Village Halls Event—Centre 81

Key Targets for 2015/16

- Continue support to service prioritisation managers, develop social enterprise opportunities and amenity services projects with the Third Sector.
- Work with the Third Sector Interface to ensure that evolving social enterprises have access to the training and support they require.
- Bespoke support to at least 10 developing social enterprises from within and outwith the council which meet with Argyll and Bute Council priorities (CHORD, EDAP) e.g. Support development and submission of the stage 2 Hermitage Park application, support Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust to become sustainable, support Argyll Coastal Waters delivery and next phase.
- Support the Third Sector to take ownership of council assets through the Third Sector Asset Transfer Process.
- Continue to work with key partners across the council and externally such as Community Development, Business Gateway, Procurement Team, ABSEN, HIE, OSCR, Development Trust Association Scotland, Social Enterprise Scotland and others.
- Work with Community Planning Partners to ensure the benefits of the Argyll and Bute Local Service Initiative are realised into the medium to longer term.
- Maximise external funding opportunities for Third Sector organisations.
- Contribute to the work of strategic partnerships including LEADER Local Action Group, Third Sector and Communities Strategic Partnership and Scottish External Funding Officers Group.
- Continue to prepare and disseminate the council's Funding Alert, Topic Sheets, Online Toolkits and other resources e.g. Grantnet.
- Consult annually through Funding Alert Questionnaire.

