

# Rothesay

## Brief Overview of Charrette Focus

### **Draft Vision Statement**

Rothesay and Bute will offer abundant opportunities for all local people to live, work and start a family; while consistently attracting more residents, businesses and tourists from elsewhere through a collaborative and diverse social, physical and economic offer.

### **Guiding Principles reached**

*These principles should be the foundation of any activity to regenerate Rothesay:*

- Communicating a Positive Self Image (on and off island)
- Collaborative Decision Making and Action across services and organisations
- Active and maintained buildings and spaces
- Accessible and easy to get around
- Fostering opportunities tourism, produce + agriculture, creative industries, tech + digital. Mechanisms: business space, apprenticeships, collaborative promotion.
- A place for families schools, housing, leisure + play, health + well being

### **Routemap Actions**

*This is not a definitive list of the discussed Actions during the Charrette. The entire list is currently being developed and associated into short medium long term actions alongside likely delivery partners.*

- Initiate affordable space for business and enterprise, connecting to future offer of Mount Stuart enterprise / training hub behind Trinity Church. Develop light industrial units at Meadows Rd.
- Alliance for Action to instill and broker collaboration and cohesive plan by bringing together organisations and services to focus on improvements and investment.
- Programming and Development of facilities for Montague Gardens, Guildford Square and a trial of shared surface for summer use at High / Castlehill Streets.
- Redeveloping the Discovery Centre as a central hub for locals and tourists. Developing a Youth space in the old cafe.
- Redesign of Circulation + Wayfinding off ferry and across Victoria Street / Albert Place.
- Redesign of Promenade / Parking along route to Pavilion to north and past Albert Pier to south.
- Accessibility Improvements + Awareness of disability requirements across town.
- Promotion of a 'Bute Brand' and the town's offer on Bute, the ferries and the mainland.

- Ensure Pavilion + Moat Centre combine community and cultural use throughout the year.
- Review and align the collection of tourist and business data across Bute. Business mentoring and apprenticeships advocated through a business association.
- Align investment opportunities and enterprise agencies to elicit new businesses to the island; creating a package for feasible sectors eg online / phone customer support and digital technologies to promote available spaces, trained workforce, reliefs available etc.

## Dunoon

Dunoon is probably about 1 year behind Rothesay in terms of the exploration of the prospects for an Alliance for Action, the work in Dunoon only having begun in earnest over the last few months. Highlands and Islands Enterprise who commissioned the work in both Rothesay and Dunoon accepted that Surf would not be able, due to capacity reasons, would not be able to resource both towns simultaneously. Having got Rothesay to the point where the Charrette is underway and having appointed Paul Duffy as local facilitator in Rothesay, work can begin in Dunoon.

Over the last few months SURF has followed a similar pattern to that which was used in Rothesay. HIE and Council officials have helped by identifying significant individuals who could be interviewed to identify their views of the issues in the town and potential methods of dealing with these issues.

To date discussions have been held with Council Officials and the following organisations

The Queens Hall, The Burgh Hall, The Wooden Pier, Dunoon Regeneration Party, Interloch Community Transport, Dunoon Community Council, PA23, Cowal Gathering, the Dunoon Observer and a significant number of individuals.

The intention is to complete the feasibility study by mid-April and to convene a meeting with those who contributed to discuss the findings prior to its submission to HIE.

Progress to the next stage is therefore clearly dependent on the outcome of the feasibility and the availability of resources to support any future activity.