

Summary

This report provides CPP Area Committee members with a brief update following on from the previous report regarding informal camping.

1. Purpose

- To provide a brief update on activity within this area.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the partnership group note the content of this paper and progress to date,

2.2 That partners continue to collaborate to try and address the challenges faced due to increased informal camping activity.

3. Background

The last report presented was on Informal Camping and outlined the opportunities and challenges, some of which is being driven by the pandemic and some of which has been a longer term trend.

4. Detail

Some relevant updates are provided below -

- The Motorhome and Informal Camping Survey went live at the beginning of February 2021. This was promoted through Argyll and Bute Council's communication channels and by partners. Over 150 responses from throughout Argyll and Bute were received. There were a range of views and locations shared across the Argyll and Bute Council region, with varying experiences. Feedback came from local community organisations, representatives, landowners, as well as local companies that fit out motorhomes. Although the survey was focused on communities within Argyll and Bute we received feedback from out with the area too. A link to the survey can be found here [Motorhome and Informal Camping Survey \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/motorhome-and-informal-camping-survey). The survey data will have some operational value and will also help in future project work.
- At the recent council budget, resource was committed towards four seasonal warden positions for the 2021 season (one per administrative area) within Roads and Infrastructure Services. These positions will focus on positive and proactive engagement with visitors, encouraging responsible behaviour. Another temporary position is being created within Development and Economic Growth to help progress Staycation project work.
- At the recent council budget, resource was committed towards public conveniences (PCs), to support the reopening of those PCs which remained closed last year as the resource wasn't available to re-open them under the enhanced cleaning regime required.
- Progress is being made on developing clearer guidance for businesses/landowners/community organisations on the regulatory aspects and what might be required if they are interested in providing greater facilities to accommodate visitors. Most sorts of development, even small scale, will require planning permission and a caravan site licence. Assistance is being provided where possible to assist those interested in developing facilities.

- The national Visitor Management Plan and Strategy was published by VisitScotland on the 19th of March 2021 and full information on this can be found here - [Visitor Management: Scotland's Plan & Objectives | VisitScotland.org](#)
- NatureScot launched the Better Places Green Recovery Fund on the 19th of March, applications can be from constituted organisations, registered charities, trusts, local authorities and community groups. Where applications are received from partnerships or organisations working collaboratively, a lead applicant must be identified.
 - Fast delivery project applications - midnight Friday 9 April 2021.
 - All other applications - midnight Friday 14 May 2021.

Full information on this fund can be found at the following link - [Better Places Green Recovery Fund - Round 2 | NatureScot](#)

- VisitScotland announced the opening of Round 4 of the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund on the 19th of March, Design grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects, but to qualify for the design grant Expression of Interests through the local authority need to be in to VisitScotland by **Friday 30 April 2021**. If you have projects for submission please contact - Craig.wilson2@argyll-bute.gov.uk Full details on the requirements of the fund can be found at the following link - [Rural Development Fund - Funding | VisitScotland.org](#)
- We are currently developing better collated information on locations of existing chemical waste disposal point facilities in Argyll and Bute. Encouraging existing sites which offer motorhome waste disposal points to non-resident tourers to promote their facilities through CaMPA's (Campervan and Motorhome Professional Association) map. Work has also be underway to identify within the regulatory environment and operationally, how additional chemical waste disposal points might be provided. Resource was allocated in the recent council budget to assist with this.
- We are promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which is a national priority, to encourage responsible behaviour, more information on this can be found here [NatureScot \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](#). VisitScotland has recently setup a responsible visitor management campaign and more information can be found at the following link - [Responsible](#)

[Visitor Management - News | VisitScotland.org](#) A

communications approach will be adopted consistent with national messaging.

- The national guidance for Managing Camping with tents was recently updated - [Managing camping with tents in Scotland | Scottish Outdoor Access Code \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](#)

5. Conclusions

Argyll and Bute Council continues to work with partners to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented, seeking solutions that will benefit our communities and reduce negative impacts where possible.

6. SOA Outcomes

- **Outcome 1 - In Argyll and Bute the economy is diverse and thriving** – tourism is an important part of Argyll and Bute’s rural economy and we are required to adapt to help support the growth of the sector.
- **Outcome 2 - We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth** – Infrastructure investment is bid for in a targeted approach, working with industry and communities.

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