

# Partner Update for Bute & Cowal Community Planning Group

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*By Reeni Kennedy-Boyle on behalf of Fyne Futures Ltd, Isle of Bute*

Ref: call for updates 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## Local Employment

With restrictions easing we have been able to fully open existing activities and successfully launch new activities. The business is resourced with 22 people 7 being volunteer Directors and 1 Observer. There are 14 members of staff

- 9 staff are on permanent contracts – 6.7 FTE based on 35 hour week
- 5 on fixed term contracts – 3.9 FTE based on 35 hour week

All Fyne Futures activities are focused on reducing Isle of Bute carbon footprint through provision of low carbon goods and services.

- Volunteer Programme – engaging people in good work and raising awareness of climate change
- Bute Produce market garden and Green Box Scheme
- ReStyle reuse furniture – diverting useful resources from landfill
- Car Bute community car club and Bike Bute e-bike scheme – shared travel resources

## Volunteer Programme

### *Successful delivery of Bute Dignity in All Work*

The project continues to progress well, with good support from a variety of stakeholder groups including people from Phoenix Centre, Rothesay Joint Campus, Rothesay Playgroup, as well as individual community members. End of year report was submitted to Scottish Government Investing in Communities team at end of May. Slide show appended to this report gives a flavour of the volunteer activities and events that are being supported. The three themes are:

- Cookery skills and food sharing with seasonal produce
- Making things last repair, refurbishment and upcycling
- Grow food in public space

This is creating a positive dialogue about our environment and tackling food poverty and insecurity inclusively and with dignity. During 2020/2021 there were 21 events engaging 129 participants with the project. These were all delivered outside with COVID19 protocols in place. For 2021 with restrictions easing our volunteer co-ordinator Steve Kemp has been able to plan some indoor activities around Making Things Last utilising textiles.

## Bute Produce

Our green box scheme is working well with 70% of the box coming direct from the garden. This is set to reach 100% during July as our own potatoes come into season. As part of our ongoing monitoring of our own carbon footprint, with support from Farm Advisory Service, a carbon audit was undertaken.

The report concludes:

*“Fyne Futures is a unique business, but one that is efficient in its use of resources, its low carbon footprint is a testament to that. Regardless of the low carbon footprint, there are areas for improvement that can help the business reduce its carbon footprint further and improve profitability...”*

## ReStyle

Revolve Certification is valid for 2 years and is a Total Quality Management assessment of reuse stores.

I am delighted to report that we achieved certification on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. We received the following feedback from Zero Waste Scotland

***“Huge Congratulations on completing all of the Revolve Standards 100%. I can confirm that you have passed with flying colours and have been awarded your Revolve Certification which is valid for 2 years.***

*The Revolve Online Tool is still fairly new to us all and you have been absolutely fantastic working with it through the actions in a timely manner to deliver exactly what was required to evidence that you meet, and often exceed the Revolve Standards. An exceptional and outstanding effort on your part which sets the bar for anyone else going through Recertification in this new way. Congratulations and very well done.”*

## Car Bute and Bike Bute

### ***Successful launch of Bike e-bike scheme***

With COVID restrictions still in place, decision was made to undertake a soft launch of e-bike scheme with a series of small targeted community events supported by online marketing.

Free test ride slots were set up for:

- NHS and Care Key Workers
- Calmac and Argyll & Bute Council pier staff
- Bute Wheelers
- Car Bute members

Car Bute facebook page has been updated to reflect extended offer -

<https://www.facebook.com/CarButeBikeBute/>

Embedded web page within Fyne Futures website implemented -

<https://www.fynefutures.org.uk/bikebute/>

We are committed to inclusive growth, and have demonstrated this with arrival of the companion e-trike which enables wheelchair users to experience the joy of exploring Bute by e-bike.