

MAKI Area Community Planning Group – 24/08/2021
Update by Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth, Argyll and Bute Council
Local Climate Change Initiatives

Argyll and the Isles Countryside Trust are undertaking a number of initiatives in Lochgilphead including the climate change pods, use of surplus food from the coop, cycle promotion and training and forest creation. ACT are also doing peat restoration on Islay and have the outdoor nursery at Kilmory emerging young people in the environment and helping to restore the gardens at Kilmory.

There is also Scottish canals and restricted verge cutting to aide biodiversity.

The council is continuing with the regeneration of Lochgilphead Town Centre with the CARS project and shopfront grants aiding small businesses in a place where you can access them by public transport and active travel including the new cycle racks. We are looking at an extended active travel network linking Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead.

We are investing in the village centre of Bowmore public realm and shopfronts. We have funded through LEADER and Sustrans new active travel paths on Islay.

We are building energy efficient housing at Bowmore and Port Ellen and Tarbert with HEEPS funding being delivered across MAKI to make existing houses more energy efficient. Latest Government award £1.7m with additional funding going to ACHA including a unique UK Government award transforming difficult to heat houses with a major refurb.

We are looking to invest in Tarbert town centre working with the Skipness and Tarbert Trust. We have invested in shopfront grants for the village centre and are looking to install solar powered bollards to make sure the pavement at the harbour is not restricted. There is also the community growing garden and forest/orchards in Tarbert. We have also funded improvements to the white shore path. Tarbert Harbour Authority have installed 2 EV chargers. There is also a major investment by Scottish water to help stop sewage escaping into flood water

In Campbeltown we continue to invest in the shopfronts of the town and there is major flood scheme being progressed. In Kintyre 2 on shore wind farms are being repowered and a new one is being built.

We are undertaking a public realm investment in Ardrishaig making the town a better place to live. Ardrishaig Development trust have refurbished both halls in the village saving these important community assets.

We are investing in the Lochgilphead Front Green and raising the ground level (It is not a flood scheme but will mitigate impacts) and planting more trees. This will become an important events and community space adjacent to bus route and linked by a new active travel network.

The council is undertaking a series of building energy efficient measures and have leased more energy efficient cars and have re-joined a bike to work subsidy scheme for employees.

The major off shore wind farm off Islay is progressing with crown estates with the round 4 bidding round closing. This could be a 2 GW off shore wind farm fed directly into Mid Argyll and Kintyre linking into the major grid enhancement works that are ongoing.