

### **New Team Lead**

Suzanne Mason has started as the new Engagement and Communities Lead, managing the Community Development team.

This new role involves leading the council's Engagement Strategy and the mainstreaming of Participatory Budgeting in Argyll & Bute; working with and advising colleagues across the council when engaging with communities; while also supporting communities with a focus on capacity building through best practice in community development.

Suzanne Mason: [Suzanne.Mason@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Mason@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### **Community Funding Training**

The Community Development team recently delivered funding sessions to interested community groups, one online and an in-person event, at Arrochar 3 Villages Hall.

The sessions discussed the types of funding groups could apply for, how to prepare applications, and asked groups to reflect on their funding needs. David Rennie the Council's Funding officer gave input at the sessions, as did Peter Watson from the National Lottery. Both encouraged groups to consider applying in the near future, offering support.

### **Helensburgh & Lomond Disability Access Forum**

Community Development have liaised with Disability Equality Scotland who will hold their first meeting by Zoom on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, to gauge interest in an Access Panel for Helensburgh. Indications that this will be well attended with a mix of representatives with lived experience of disability, and agencies who could assist in addressing any future issues that are raised. It is hoped that the group will help address issues of Access relating to buildings, transport, housing, education and health.

It is anticipated that future meetings will take place in a hybrid format with offers already received from partner agencies to host these meetings.

### **Princess Louise Hall**

The PLH committee have completed a number of community consultation events over October to gauge interest from the local community on future hall use. This will be the basis of future funding applications from the group with support from the CD team.

The group are finalising the lease agreements with AB Council for long term lease of the building.

