

Meeting of Caucus of Cowal and Bute Community Councils in Hill Street Offices, Dunoon on Wednesday 12th February 2014

In attendance : Marian Norris (Ardentinny C.C.), Robert Aldam (Kilmun C.C.), Iain MacNaughton (Sandbank C.C.), Ken Barr (Dunoon C.C.), Eleanor Stevenson (South Cowal C.C.), Danielle Clark (Col. & Glen. C.C.) and by V.C. Grace Strong (Bute C.C.)

As the first meeting of the new caucus, consideration was initially given to deciding on a Convener. Although absent, Max Barr of Dunoon C.C. had previously indicated he would be willing to take on the role if no one else was interested. Max was unanimously appointed.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine appropriate agenda items for the next Community Planning Group meeting on 4th March in Rothesay. After some discussion, the following was agreed :-

- **Cowal cycle and transport initiative :-**

A & B Council (“the Council”) is requested to support the proposal of a cycle route from Ardentinnny to Toward which would aim to promote cycling as a recreational activity, encourage more people to cycle rather than drive and serve as a local heritage journey linking up locations such as Ardentinnny walled garden, Blairmore pier, Argyll Mausoleum, the proposed nature reserve at the head of the Holy Loch, Lazaretto Point, Castle Hill/Castle House Museum, Castle Toward, etc. Council support is essential and will enable the six community councils concerned to seek funding from bodies such as the Climate Challenge Fund and Sustrans.

If the Council is supportive of the project, both it and Police Scotland are requested to identify traffic and highway engineering issues which they consider will need to be addressed, e.g. roadside vehicle parking, road surface conditions, carriageway widths, pinchpoints such as Hunter’s Quay ferry terminal, etc. It would be very helpful if this could be done fairly soon.

- **Funding application :-**

The Council has apparently applied for around £100 million of funding for new development proposals in the Oban area. Given the dire state of the local economies in Dunoon, Rothesay and Campbeltown and the comparative affluence of Oban, what is this for?

- **Fly tipping :-**

Why is it cheaper for local builders to transport waste construction material by ferry to recycling/disposal centres on the opposite side of the Clyde than to take it to the local facility at Dalinlongart?

- **Free parking :-**

Why is there free parking around the centre of Gourock but not in Dunoon?

- **Dog fouling :-**

This public health hazard continues to be an issue for all local community councils despite both the Council and Police maintaining they regard it as a “serious” matter. The caucus wishes to make the following recommendations :-

1. A penalty of 24 hours community service for all identified offenders.
2. All dog walkers to be required to carry plastic bags.
3. Implementation of an information campaign highlighting the hazards associated with dog faeces.
4. Random checks by Police officers and community wardens when dogs are likely to be walked by their owners, i.e. morning and evening.
5. Imposition of automatic fines.

- **Public toilets :-**

According to the Scottish Tourist Guides Association the first question that bus parties and many other tourists have when they arrive in a town is “Where are the public toilets?”. As the economy of Dunoon and its neighbouring communities still relies on tourism what is planned to improve the current dearth of readily convenient public conveniences in both Cowal and Bute? Are there any proposals, for example, to install vandal resistant facilities?