

**MEETING OF THE CAUCUS OF BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS HELD IN 22 HILL STREET,
DUNOON WITH VIDEO LINK TO UNION STREET ROTHESAY ON WEDNESDAY MAY 24th AT 2.30pm.**

PRESENT: Max Barr, Chairperson
Robert Aldam, Kilmun CC
Ken Barr, Dunoon CC
Frank Baxter, Bute CC
Willie Lynch, Dunoon CC
Iain MacNaughton, Sandbank CC
Eleanor Stevenson, So. Cowal CC

Notes of Meeting.

- 1. Matters Arising From The Minutes – BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP – 4th MARCH 2014.**
 - (a) It was generally agreed that the Minutes did not reflect the recommendations and discussion that took place. It was also agreed that the responses provided to the matters raised were totally inadequate. We discussed if the Community Planning Group was the correct forum for the Caucus to introduce these joint matters and it was agreed that MB would prepare a letter to be sent to the Council Chief Executive expressing our concerns.
 - (b) Oban Funding Item – no further action.
 - (c) Commercial Waste Disposal Cost – The response in the Minute was considered patronising and inadequate and it was agreed that this matter will be investigated further. MB agreed to contact local businesses to identify facts for presentation to a future meeting.
 - (d) Parking – The response in the Minute was considered patronising and inadequate and it was agreed that more information was required. With the Decriminalisation of Parking now in force it was felt appropriate to ask for a Report to be submitted to the September Meeting setting out the Council's vision and proposals for the future of car parking in Argyll & Bute. Also the Caucus agreed to draft a questionnaire for completion by residents.
 - (e) Dog Fouling – The Minute in no way reflected the action to be taken on the recommendations suggested by the Community Councils however accepting that the additional Parking Wardens being recruited could also undertake Dog Warden duties it has been agreed to await the results of this and request a report to the September and December Meetings setting out what is achieved in the way of parking and dog fouling fines etc.
 - (f) Public Toilets – We look forward to the Roads Performance Manager's Report to the meeting on 3rd June 2014. It is considered that a tourist friendly destination should ensure better public toilet provision than is available in Bute and Cowal, would not have public toilets closed on public holidays. This is regarded as a matter of high importance and the Council is urged to appropriately address the matter by finding the funds to ensure availability of suitable toilets in prominent locations to accommodate visitors to Argyll & Bute.

(g) Cowal Cycling and Transport Initiative – The Chairman reported that since the previous meeting he had attended a meeting of the Forward Dunoon and Cowal Group and had met with the Council's Transport official Moya Ingram. It was confirmed that the Council had secured funding of £250,000 from Sustrans for walking/cycling infrastructure for the Dunoon Promenade area and that this would be carried out in 2014/15 as part of the Dunoon CHORD proposals. There was a general feeling that the proposals for the Coastal Path and the Mountain Biking Routes complemented each other and it was agreed that all parties should attempt to work together to achieve success. Noting the limited funds available from Sustrans it will be necessary to identify other sources of significant amounts of funding. To this end our initial emphasis will be on securing money from the Climate Challenge Fund for a Feasibility Study to support a full blown funding application.

2. **Matters Arising From Draft Agenda – Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group – 3rd June 2014.**

(a) Area Community Planning Group Event Outcomes – Given the importance of this Event which addressed considerations affecting the depopulation of Argyll & Bute the Caucus felt that the cancellation of the seminar scheduled for Friday 9th May was most disappointing. For such an important discussion we consider that it would have been appropriate to have substitute speakers prepared to attend in the event of an unforeseen withdrawal. It was also disappointing that the Council did not see fit to invite at least some representatives from the Community Councils to the Seminar.

(b) Noting that a verbal update is to be provided by Transport Scotland the Caucus would like assurance that further closures of the A83 with long costly detours in the event of a landslide will not be necessary. Can we have an effective COVER to prevent the A83 being blocked?

3. **Bachan Burn Wind Farm Proposals**

It was confirmed that a public meeting had been arranged for 19th June 2014 and that this was the correct approach for the community councils to obtain the public's reaction to the proposals. WL advised that so far PNE had surprisingly declined to attend such a meeting.