

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

### **COVE & KILCREGGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL - 20 AUGUST 2026**

#### **AULD, John**

After being a member of CKCC for many years, I was appointed Convenor in August 2023 bringing local knowledge to the post. CKCC cover many things and work with the Councillors to make positive contributions to community life, whilst supporting the needs and viability of the villages. If you find yourself with the interest to read this, please read the Convenor's report in the 2026 AGM minutes on the CKCC website. It covers the concerns of CKCC and the village which are being working on, and the regular minutes snapshot current areas of work and outline the approaches taken.

#### **BARLAS, Kenneth**

I spent 19 years of my youth living in Kilcreggan, moving back in 2017. Since returning, I have started a local taxi business for both myself and the community. As an existing member of the community council, I would like to remain part of its future. We are a useful stepping stone for residents to use to liaise with the Council, and for collectively offering advice to the community. With many new initiatives in progress ie. Youth Cafe, community garden and new housing developments, I believe as a community council we should remain firmly in touch to help them progress.

#### **BEEVERS, Nicholas Daniel**

My name is Nicholas Beevers and I am a long-term resident of the G84 area. I moved to Portkil in December 2024 where I live with my family and numerous pets. I wish to make a positive contribution to my community by helping to develop the wonderful sense of place that Kilcreggan and Cove residents have fostered over recent years. Furthermore, I have a deep understanding of the water environment of the Rosneath Peninsula and the wider Clyde from my career as a local freshwater and marine biologist and I would bring this experience to the role.

#### **BENTON, Mairi**

I am standing for community council because I care deeply about our area and want to play an active role in supporting local people. With experience in community events, small business leadership and public service work, I bring a practical, calm and solutions focused approach. I believe in fairness, transparency and listening to residents so decisions reflect real needs. I want to strengthen local services, champion accessibility and help create a welcoming environment for all ages. I am committed, approachable and ready to work hard for our community.

## **BENTON, Mark W**

I am standing for election as a community councillor because I care deeply about our community and want to help ensure it remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. As a resident for thirteen years, I understand the issues that matter to local people, and I believe in listening to residents, representing their views fairly, and working constructively with fellow councillors, local organisations, and volunteers to deliver practical solutions. If elected I will focus on protecting and improving local services, supporting community initiatives, maintaining and enhancing our public spaces, and ensuring that local voices are heard.

## **CONRAN, Susannah F**

The Community Council (CC) aims to be a professional, welcoming and friendly group encouraging input from anyone who wishes to attend, whether it be to learn more about local community or with an issue requiring support. I would like to be part of such a CC to help give this support and be involved with the ongoing upkeep of Cove & Kilcreggan villages. I have lived and worked in the area for 20 years and feel part of the community. Changes are inevitable and I would enjoy being part of the CC to keep local people informed and supported.

## **CUNNAH, David Christopher**

Having lived in Kilcreggan for 3 years I want to be involved in the activities and decisions that shape the community future.

## **DEERY, Gerald**

I have lived in the village of Kilcreggan for thirty-eight years. Prior to moving to this area, I was in HM Royal Marines. After HM Forces, I was employed as a MoD Police Officer. Leaving the MoD in 1990, I ran my own business from Kilcreggan, employing a few of the local tradesmen and labourers. Over the years I have been involved with running the local youth club and have been a community councillor in the past. At present, I think the village has some issues and I believe I am in a position to help.

## **ELLES, Penelope – No statement provided**

## **FOWLIS, Derek Geoffrey**

I hope to be re-elected as a councillor for Cove and Kilcreggan so I can continue to help to improve our community. I have a strong working relationship with our local councillors.

## **GOSTICK, Katharine Helen**

I moved to the villages from Fife 3 years ago, having lived in Scotland for 30 years. I am a civil servant previously working for local authority/private industry. I love the outdoors and will frequently be seen walking my dog and sailing around the villages. I love the area's coastline and maritime history both past and present. I have always cared for the environment; which my degree (Environmental Sciences) strengthened. I have joined the Our Community group to help protect these and would like to join the community council to provide the voice needed to achieve this for the community.

## **GRAY, Derick**

I'm putting my name forward to be considered by the community of Cove and Kilcreggan as a candidate to be selected to our Community Council. I am married and have lived in Cove for over twenty years. As a rural community, I'm aware of some of the challenges which we face here on the peninsula. With the increased house building and how that may impact on our health and educational resources. Though I may not be widely known on the peninsula, many of you may have seen my Derick-on-the-Loch photographs which I use to highlight the beauty of our home.

## **LAMONT, Sheena Dorothy**

I was born and brought up here and am passionate about this area. So much so that I chose to move back and retire here. I am currently a community council member and take pride in doing work to improve the villages.

## **LEE, Simon Joseph Arnold**

I have lived in Cove for 11 years and am proud to call this community home. With a young family growing up here I care deeply about preserving the character, safety and quality of life of Cove and Kilcreggan. I have served in the Royal Navy for 22 years, developing strong values of service, responsibility and integrity. If elected, I would listen to local views, represent residents fairly, strengthen ties with the armed forces community, and work constructively with others to support a thriving, resilient and welcoming community.

## **MCLEAN, James Frederick Telfer**

I am a retired building engineering consultant and been visiting Cove and Kilcreggan throughout my life. I have lived permanently here since 2014. My family have been associated with the peninsula for four generations. I have a keen interest and knowledge of sustainability issues related to the built environment and the requirements of climate change. I am interested in ensuring there is a coherent conduit between the council and the community and that we have an active voice regarding planning to ensure proposals are coherent and result in good quality, energy efficient, housing that meets the needs of the community.

## **MILLS, Alison Ruth**

I am keen to support and promote a thriving and sustainable community. I am particularly interested in the Arts & Music and want to ensure that there is a lively creative scene on the Peninsula. I would also like to encourage the community council to be a safe and kind place for people to bring their issues. If community councillors can be civil and generous to each other, good discussions can take place and solutions found.

## **MCVEY, Ellen Janet**

I would like to put myself forward for re-election on the Cove and Kilcreggan Community Council. I believe it's important to have people serve on the Community Council that have local knowledge of the villages. There is real risk of the area becoming a retirement destination if we cannot build more affordable housing. Failure to do so would put the primary school at risk of closure. This should not be allowed to happen. I believe the villages still have much to offer and need the support both financially and physically to keep them viable by persons in the local community.

## **O'REILLY, Sheelagh Mary Geraldine**

I have been a resident of Kilcreggan for more than 20 years. Since October 2022 I have been Secretary of the Cove & Kilcreggan Community Council. I have helped increase the visibility of the CC through use of social media and the website. I have been active in Community and Household Emergency Planning as we are a coastal community at risk of surface and coastal flooding. Going forward the Community Council must focus on social, economic and environmental development (not just planning) that provides jobs, housing, a child friendly environment and an effective approach to social inclusion with accessible facilities.

## **SNOOK, Rodney N**

I have lived here since 1966, serving on Rosneath and Clynder Community Council (CC) for most of the 1970s as Secretary. The ethos I will bring to the CC is: promote an open two way communication with residents; improve discussions within the CC, so that all views are given equal consideration; ensure decisions and views reach by the CC are circulated to residents and local groups; and inform and press on Argyll and Bute the local feelings that reflect not only the majority view but include any alternative positions.

## **STEEDS, Lucy**

I am passionate about Cove and Kilcreggan as places where we can live together well. With our child at Hermitage Academy, following Kilcreggan Primary, I'm deeply committed to the Youth Café, where I volunteer. I'm involved in Arts, Environment and Heritage Groups locally and the Community Run Club. I am also supportive of Cove Burgh Hall events, from the Book Festival to yoga. A big fan of bus/ferry travel, I'm equally a strong advocate for other local services and shops. I have extensive committee experience from my university job: eg chairing on Research Ethics and fundamental to our Education Committee.

## **STRACHAN, Anne Denise**

Community Council membership should have representation across the whole area. Resident in Cove for around 40 years, I have a keen interest in the environment and engage in various local initiatives from beach cleaning, through woodland and footpath working parties to helping at Craigownie Community Garden. Now retired, my experience includes systems development and project management, and recently, acting as Treasurer for the Community Council. I feel it is very important now to have a proactive Community Council that actively engages with the community to ensure their views are properly represented to both private and public organisations.

## **TAYLOR, Paul Richard George**

My wife and I have been in our house near to Knockderry Castle for over a year having initially been attracted by the scenery and transport links. We were already aware of the vibrant and friendly community from having been part time in the area staying in a static caravan at Auchengower to which we commuted by train every few weeks from Suffolk. I would like to join the council to share decisions on developments, transport and managing the environment while also conserving the character of the area. My background is railways latterly in infrastructure with Network Rail.

## **WRIGHT, Charlotte Jane**

Having called Kilcreggan home for 12 years, I want to give something back to the community I love. Community Councils exist to be the voice of local people – ensuring residents are informed, heard and genuinely represented on the issues that matter most, from planning decisions to local policies that shape our daily lives. I believe a good council is proactive, not reactive. I'm committed to keeping communication open and accessible, encouraging wider participation, and making sure community views reach the right decision makers – clearly and effectively. I'm proud to serve and work alongside you.