



Ardrishaig Community Council
Public Meeting Thursday 15th of December 2022 6PM

Council Members in Attendance

Convenor	Christine MacIntyre
Vice Convenor	Fiona Hoad
Treasurer	Fiona MacFarlane
Secretary	Susanne Hawkby-Whitwell
Council Member	Ross Weir
Council Member	Lix Armstrong

Apologies

Mary McCallum Sullivan
Blair Johnston
Gillian Hogarth

Christine MacIntyre welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and thanked them for coming out in the cold, and then gave a brief introduction of the role bearers and member of the new Ardrishaig Community Council.

Items discussed

1. Scottish Canals
2. Community Notice Board
3. Planning
4. Forestry Land Scotland Parking Charges
5. Activities in Ardrishaig
6. Opening date for the Ardrishaig Public Realm Improvements
7. Inconsiderate Parking
8. Pedestrian Crossing on the main road
9. ArtMap
10. King George V Park.
11. Community garden.
12. Millennium garden.
13. Lights out in Hermione Terrace.

Scottish Canals

We are looking forward to working closely with Scottish Canals. They are promising to get on board with the new Council. The canal is 9 miles long and has space for us to develop events and other things along the canal length.

All the updates from Scottish Canals regarding ongoing works and other community information for the Crinan Canal are digital, either on their Facebook or their website.

We might need to address this as being an issue for people who do not have the skills or resource to access this information.

Notice board and Community Notices

A community notice board needs to be installed for council notices and other community information. The community council to produce a quarterly newsletter for display in shop fronts in Ardrishaig.

Planning

There is a planning application for improved or a change of access up the Brackley Rd. No further details available at this stage.

Forestry Land Scotland Parking Charges.

Forestry Land Scotland are introducing parking charges in the local car parks in woodlands they manage. It was noted that although this affects us locally it is a nationwide initiative. However, local consultation on this issue appears to have been non-existent. It was noted that government organisations will take money from the rural economy with little or nothing given back. We do not have other facilities like some of the larger areas, we have no cinema, for example and therefore a blanket policy for all Forestry Land Scotland car parks is not the correct answer. It may be better to only charge during summer months or through the tourist season, or to allow locals to park for free. Forestry Land Scotland have recently been encouraging people to use their car parks and now want to start charging for them. We know that woodland walks are good for mental health and there's a likelihood that people will go elsewhere, or park inconsiderately. The parking charges will be payable by mobile phone app or mobile phone payment, this is a problem as a lot of the local car parks have no mobile signal, so you would have to leave the car park and pay for your parking later.

How will this be enforced?

It was noted that there is no enforcement for the parking charges at Crinan. Will this be the same?

Forestry Land Scotland are a government organisation but they are self-funding. It was noted that the decision makers on this parking charge proposal are not local and when the Forestry Land Scotland representative was contacted they were not able to answer any questions. Only referring us to the FAQs on their website. We are looking at working with North Knapdale and Tarbert community councils on this issue. It was also suggested that contacting our MSP Jenny Minto might be beneficial.

Action. Gillian is in discussions with North Knapdale Community Council.

Action. Ardrishaig Community Council to keep the community updated on this issue using Facebook

Action. Contact at MSP Jenny Minto.

Activities in Ardrishaig

It was noted that the Community Council would like to be able to put on some community events. For instance, Ceilidhs and a Gala Day. We should also pencil in a Hogmanay event for next year. It was noted the Boat Club has their new boathouse in place and they are looking at having some barbecues in the summer months.

Previous activities in Ardrishaig have included: Drama festivals, Halloween parade, mobile cinema, pantomime, craft fairs, Gala day, Music Society. Diecast Model show, Flower show, Mid Argyll Arts Association events, Country dancing and fitness classes to name just a few.

Ardrishaig Public Realm Improvements

Do we have an official opening date for the redeveloped carpark on the front in Ardrishaig? We know it's due to be opened in spring 2023 and we believe it is on progress, there are fortnightly progress reports. We're not sure about the placement of the trees that have just been planted, but they will make a nice place to string some Christmas lights next year.

Action Publish the updates on the community Facebook page

Morrisons and parking issues.

It was noted that there are parking issues caused by Morrisons deliveries near the public hall at the back of McColl's shop. Is it possible that Morrisons deliveries could be further down the village? It's believed that Morrisons/McColl's own the land at the back of the shop.

Action. Check with Scottish Canals and Land Registry to see who does own this land.

Pedestrian crossing

No further updates on this at present. We understand that BEAR have no objection to the crossing on the A83, but that Argyll and Bute council say there is no money available to fund the installation of a pedestrian crossing.

Is it possible the Community Trust could fund a crossing?

Do we believe a crossing is beneficial?

Do we think people would use a crossing, and walk down from where the bus is going to stop?

The crossing location was originally suggested for the Kayak Trail. Would a lollipop lady or other traffic calming measures be better?

We believe it's possible that Argyll & Bute Council may come up with another excuse even if we find independent funding.

Action. Contact the Community Trust to find out about funding for the crossing?

Action. Community Council to follow this up with Argyll and Bute Council

ArtMap

Can we put Ardrishaig on the art map? There's a good exhibition space in the Egg Shed. But people don't know what the Egg Shed is and signage is poor. There is a display in there already, however there was some concern around insurance, the ArtMap will be an ongoing discussion point.

King George V Park

Blair will have an update for the next meeting.

It was noted there is about 6 acres of space, so there is room for further development and it could possibly be used for Gala days and other community led events.

Community Garden

This is a separate project to the King George V development but is using part of the KGV park. The land proposed to use for the community garden is between the school and the sports field.

A steering group has been set up to work on this project. Leaflets have already been sent out and there is a Facebook page. There are 20 interested members already and a 6 member steering group. Two of those people are in attendance this evening. Argyll and Bute Council are fully supportive of the project and Lix Armstrong is working with the Council to get a licence to enable the start of clearing the ground.

The idea of the community garden is to develop it in the way the community want, with polytunnels, raised beds and a meeting place, other items that would be nice to have are a sensory garden and a kids area. The park is owned by the community but Argyll and Bute Council have taken over responsibility.

Contact has been made with the Argyll Bute Council development officer to facilitate getting issued with an operating licence, there may be an option to transfer to a lease later. There are some concerns that older kids use the area currently possibly in an antisocial manner. There are already plans to get the local children involved and the primary school have already confirmed they would like to be use the space. There are also discussions around getting a Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme in place in the area to engage the older children. There are no plans to fence this area off as the idea is for it to be community ownership. There are plans to visit other similar schemes to see how they operate; we don't want to exclude anybody and we don't want it to become an allotment scheme.

There has been a lot of interest and a lot of people want it to be a place to meet, not just about gardening.

Millennium garden

Repairs to the Millennium Garden need to be progressed following the crash and partial destruction a few months ago. It was noted that there are plaques on the wall to commemorate local people and they will need to be preserved. One plaque in particular for Mr & Mrs Patterson who were instrumental in teaching children to swim in the community.

Action. Plaques must be preserved.

Lights out in Hermione Terrace

We're not sure if this is ACHA owned or private residents. There are nine flats.

Action. Get a contact number for ACHA.

It was also noted that some of the lights further up the main street are not working, Can we look into this and report back?

Meeting finished at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting date 10th January 2023.