

There have been extensive clean up works following the heavy rains and subsequent damage last month, which saw flooding issues in areas where there was no history of flooding. Closest to home, an inspection of the bridge on the B836 Glen Lean, the road to Dunoon, showed it to be significantly damaged. Initial plans to install a temporary bridge over the existing one while it is repaired will not now be possible as the bridge will need to be demolished. Arrangements are being made for a temporary bridge to be installed upstream to allow the road to be reopened while the bridge is replaced.

At the Bute & Cowal Business Day we heard about proposed upgrades to play parks in both Rothesay and Port Bannatyne, with the Community Council to be consulted on these. We also saw a draft roads programme for 24/25, however safety inspections on Bute are still ongoing with further road condition information still to come in, and the full costs of the storm damage will also need to be taken into account so the final roads programme taken forward may change.

I attended a seminar on Empty Property Relief, which has now been devolved to local authorities. It is recognised that empty commercial properties have a negative impact on towns and there are proposals to change the rates relief that are available, to standardise the system so all owners of empty properties are subject to the same rules and encourage owners to bring empty properties back into use to help reinvigorate town centres.

Robertson Construction, who are working on the Pavilion, have been engaging with the local schools and will be supporting the Rothesay Academy Careers Fair to give students an insight into careers in the construction industry from both management and construction perspectives and what qualifications/training they might need to enter the industry. They have also been working with Primary 5 pupils to cost and design a bug hotel, with the winning design to be built in the school grounds, supported by Robertson Construction staff.

The Council Customer Service Centre on Bute has moved from Eaglesham House to 37 Victoria Street (Old Royal Bank Building.) This multi-purpose facility is designed to include both public reception and customer support; with interview, meeting and collaboration spaces.

I also attended meetings of the PPSL committee and Civic Government Hearings; the Dumbarton and Argyll and Bute Joint Valuation Board; the Argyll Islands Sounding Board; the COSLA local leaders network seminar on Gypsy/Travellers; and Fyne Homes Staffing Committee.

Councillor Peter Wallace  
Isle of Bute Ward  
Argyll and Bute Council