


Agenda for Bute Community Council	
Date	2024 February 21 st , Wednesday at 1900 in United Church of Bute
Online at	butecommunitycouncil.wordpress.com
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance/Apologies 2. Declarations of Interest 3. Police Report 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 19 January, 2024 5. Co-option of Gloria Fears as BCC Councillor 6. Guest speaker: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Richard Whitcomb, Bute Community Forest b. Julie Semple, Bute Advice Centre 7. Matters Arising <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any advance on offer by CHall to use Coffee Stop once a week for teen only hot chocolate and chat session:CHall b. Any advance on receipt of report from Shona Edwards on results of consultation she carried out at Rothesay Joint Campus: JMoffat c. Report on community engagement Meeting held in Port Bannatyne Village Hall on 15 February: FMartin and JOsborne d. Survey on fish farms: T Nelson e. Update on Arden Craig Gardens and Rothesay Pavilion: R Macintyre 8. A&B Councillor Reports 9. Community Councillors' reports 10. Public Questions 11. AOCB 12. Date of Next Meeting: 20 March, 2024
Following Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Report • Cllr Report – Reeni Kennedy-Boyle • Cllr Report – Peter Wallace



Community Council Debrief
Dates Between: 16/01/24 – 14/02/24
Location & Beat: Bute – LB53/54
Reporting Officer: PC James Convery

Between the dates of 16/01/24 and 14/02/24, the number of Incidents and Crime Reports respectively are 128 and 42	
 <p>SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME</p>	<p>You identified drug dealing / drug misuse as a priority</p> <p>We identified human trafficking as a priority</p>
	<p>There has been 1 crime recorded in for possession of Class B drugs. This was detected and dealt with by way of recorded police warning.</p>

<div data-bbox="204 524 480 748">  <p>ACQUISITIVE CRIME</p> </div> <div data-bbox="491 524 917 629"> <p>You identified homes being broken in to as a priority</p> </div> <div data-bbox="491 645 917 748"> <p>We have also identified fraud as a priority</p> </div>	<p>There have been 3 crimes recorded regarding thefts. These are all ongoing enquiries.</p>
<div data-bbox="204 1111 480 1357">  <p>ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME</p> </div> <div data-bbox="491 1111 917 1216"> <p>You identified road safety as a priority</p> </div> <div data-bbox="491 1232 917 1357"> <p>We identified drink / drug driving and reducing road casualties as priorities</p> </div>	<p>There have been 5 crimes recorded regarding road traffic matters, including, no MOT, defective vehicle, fail to update registered owner/keeper and no insurance. These are all detected.</p>
<div data-bbox="204 1559 480 1783">  <p>VIOLENT CRIME</p> </div> <div data-bbox="491 1559 917 1664"> <p>You identified violent crime as a priority</p> </div> <div data-bbox="491 1680 917 1783"> <p>We have also identified domestic abuse as a priority</p> </div>	<p>There have been 3 crimes recorded regarding assault. 2 of these are undetected and the other has been detected.</p>



You identified protecting children and adults at risk of harm as a priority

We identified missing persons, sexual crime and the management of registered sex offenders as priorities

There has been 1 crime recorded regarding wasting police time. This has been detected.

There have been 5 calls recorded regarding misuse of the 999 system. 3 of these are detected and the remaining two are ongoing enquiries.

There has been 1 crime recorded regarding trespassing on land with a firearm. This has been detected.

There has been 1 crime recorded regarding being unauthorised to carry firearms. This has been detected.

There have been 3 crimes recorded regarding vandalism, 2 of these are undetected with the other detected.

There has been 1 crime recorded regarding malicious mischief, this is an ongoing enquiry.

There has been 1 crime recorded regarding failing to leave a licensed premises, this is detected.

There has been 1 crime recorded regarding possession of a knife in a public place, this has been detected.

There has been 1 crime recorded regarding livestock worrying, this is an ongoing enquiry.

There have been 5 crimes recorded regarding communications offences, these are all ongoing enquiries.

There have been 10 crimes recorded regarding threatening and abusive behaviour. 9 of these are detected and the other is an ongoing enquiry.

Useful Links/Contacts

Crimestoppers – [Crimestoppers in Scotland | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#)

Distress Brief Intervention - [Distress Brief Intervention - Connected Compassionate Support | DBI.scot](#)

Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime - [Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime | Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime \(scottishparc.co.uk\)](#)

Women's Aid - [Home - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](#)

Citizens Advice – 08081646000

Trading Standards - 08081646000

The upcoming budget has dominated the Council agenda in the last month, and I have attended a seminar and several meetings in relation to this. In October last year the First Minister announced a Council Tax freeze without any consultation with local authorities, promising full funding.

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) have said “Disappointingly the Scottish Budget has not provided our local authorities with a fully funded council tax freeze as expected. The Scottish Government has set aside £144m stating this will ‘fully fund’ a council tax freeze – this would only provide the income equivalent to a 5% rise.

However, Local Government’s core revenue budget was cut by £63m from the outset, essentially leaving just £81m compensation for a council tax freeze. As a result, Local Government is faced with the reality that the funding offered for a council tax freeze only equates to a 2.8% rise.”

This leaves the Council with a choice between going against the freeze or putting essential services at risk.

I attended a site visit with Fyne Homes to the former Rothesay Academy to see how the site could be repurposed for housing. The site is included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan, and work is in the very early stages but could bring much needed additional housing to the island.

I attended the AGM of the Bute Ferry Committee and heard about issues facing ferry users across the network. I am delighted that one of the lifts at Rothesay Pier has been fixed and is operational again. The public consultation on the next generation of contract to operate the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service is underway and is open until 8th March. Everyone can put forward their views by completing the document online at: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/consultation/public-consultation-for-the-next-clyde-hebrides-ferry-services-contract/>

I attended the Scottish Night at Rothesay Joint Campus, which was a fantastic evening of food, entertainment and displays which demonstrated the wealth of talent at the campus and I congratulate everyone who was involved in putting on the event. I also attended the Parent Council meeting and heard about the academic and community achievements and success by pupils across the campus.

I had the pleasure of attending a Citizenship Ceremony in the new Council Offices in Victoria Street and witnessed the individual making their affirmation of loyalty to our country on being granted British Citizenship. I also was pleased to be able to attend a reception at Downing Street with colleagues from across the country.

I also attended a number of committee meetings and civic government hearings of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee (PPSL) including a site visit to Connel.

Councillor Peter Wallace
Isle of Bute Ward
Argyll and Bute Council

Since the turn of the year, my focus has very much been on constituency work as there have been no strategic committees sitting during January.

Subjects that have been explored include Council Budget, Rothesay Pavilion, Broadband Connectivity on Bute, Library Services, Provision of Amenity in relation to Ardenraig Garden and Rothesay Esplanade and a number of individual issues.

During February I will be attending Policy & Resources on 15th February, full Argyll and Bute Council meeting on 22nd February, there is also a special meeting planned on the same day about Rothesay Pavilion.

The budget process has been made more difficult as a result of Westminster budget announced on 27th December 2023. This of course has the domino effect on Scottish Government, which operates within a legal framework that requires it to deliver a balanced budget annually, and then to local authorities. Not only was the timing unhelpful the continuation of an austerity agenda and reductions in capital budget has meant it there is a very difficult landscape for local authorities. At this time Tory/LibDem and Independents (TALIG) Administration are working through a number of options for presentation. The Opposition Group will seek to work constructively on this process, but inevitably there will be areas where we would seek to do things differently. This process is ongoing, the public papers should be published on 15th February however there may be items which are not presented until 22nd February full Council meeting.

Rothesay Pavilion – it will be extremely challenging to get this project over the line, however this major asset, which has international interest, must work for this community. We are currently benefiting from the construction work that has continued over the winter with contractors taking up beds, spending money locally and moving the project closer to completing phase 1. There are have great efforts by the Charity to raise the funds to complete the project and have Rothesay Pavilion open for business in the summer of 2026. I fully support the project, and I guess the question is this – if this project does not progress to completion what ideas do TALIG have for the economic regeneration of Bute?

With regards to Broadband on Bute we are experiencing issues, and Openreach have recently confirmed that whilst Rothesay Exchange is in the plan for upgrade there are no confirmed date for delivery. This could also impact on decision making for those considering moving to our area. I think this is significant and I will be following up through within the committee environments that I attend however I think there is an urgent need for Argyll & Bute Council to understand the potential impacts for service delivery and, although non-statutory, economic development activity.

An interesting question has arisen about the service provision of libraries. Argyll & Bute Council transferred management of libraries to Live Argyll in the last Council term. A constituent raised the issue of provision of local newspapers which was a library service pre-COVID19. This service is no longer provided on Bute, and the response received indicated that that decision would only be revisited if demand was established. I raise here for feedback and support from Bute Community Council to reinstate this service.

I have been following up on implementation of the policy to reinstate nursery services at Ardenraig Gardens and have included Cllrs McCabe and Wallace in correspondence. I asked for an update on the procurement of plants and the growing plans to service the region following the restoration of

nursery services at Ardenraig Gardens. I expressed my hope that this would be a good news story for Bute and the wider region this year.

The response I received on 25th January is below:

“We are currently going through a procurement process for the plugs and expect this to conclude in the next couple of weeks. The plants will be brought on at Ardenraig Gardens for planting out on Bute in early summer.”

On 7th February I raised further questions “I note that the notice for procurement was published on Public Contracts Scotland on 22nd January 2024 and the deadline for quotes being 5th February 2024. Hopefully there have been successful bids.

An update would be appreciated and an outline of any contingency plans in event of market failure. Thank you.” I have not yet received a response.