

Chair's report 2023

It's been another busy year for Cumbrae Community Council.

Solar farm planning application

The island has been consistently united in its opposition to this development. Each of the separate applications had an unprecedented unanimity of objections (95-98%). A demonstration in May attracted over 100 people, and a rally in August attracted more than 250 people.

Elected members showed cross-party support for the first time on a planning application and the Planning Committee was unanimously against the proposal.

During the appeal process, North Ayrshire Council refused to accept 240 letters written by members of the community. CCC sent letters to ensure these people were able to participate in the democratic process.

During the whole campaign, CCC secured extensive media coverage.

- Broadcast news pieces x2
- Radio media pieces x 5
- Print media pieces x 15
- Online media pieces x 28

The 270 documents which make up the appeal are now with the Scottish Government Reporter, with an anticipated decision notice coming on 28 December.

Overnight parking issue

Even though North Ayrshire Council agreed to install 'No parking overnight' signs in laybys around coast road in August 2022, only three signs have to date been put up. In October, the Council asked CCC for support providing names of the land owners. We have done this and will pursue this issue next year.

Japanese knotweed

The majority was successfully sprayed in August, however some stands were missed and CCC has have given North Ayrshire Council a map of the missed areas.

Electric vehicle charging point

Works started outside the Premier Store in July 2022. CCC intervened in this location and the proposed works at the war memorial. We consulted with the community to agree a location outside the bank. The Council has agreed they will reinstate the infrastructure outside the Premier as part of the works.

Collaboration

We hold monthly meetings for key groups on the island. Regular external participants include:

- Elected Members
- Thomas Reaney, Head of Waste / Roads / Streetscene
- Robert McLeish representing Mackley and Van Oord (discussing the flood defence project)

We represent the island at North Coast Locality Partnership meetings. We attend the Ferry Users Group with a residents' perspective and we sit on meetings about Hunterston, Peel Ports, the flood defences, the marina and the Carbon Neutral Project.

Community Council membership

We would like to thank those who have volunteered their time to contribute to the Community Council over the last year.

As of November 2023 we have the following team in place

- Alex Harvie (Chair)
- Keith Hammond (Secretary)
- John McHenry
- Angus Campbell
- Duncan Fraser
- John Riggins
- Gregor Harvie (Adviser)
- Graham Wallace (Adviser)

If you would like to join us or volunteer some time we'd love to hear from you. Please email cumbraeccouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.Cumbrae.org

Priorities for 2023

Our finances

Cumbrae Community Council operates two accounts – a Project Account and an Administration Account. In total we have spent £699 this year.

Project Account

This year we have spent funds promoting the Solar Farm consultation. It leaves a current balance of £1,298.37.

Administration Account

This year we spent £544.01 on administration which included:

- £143.88 for Zoom account for meetings (which NAC will reimburse).
- £31.00 on a subscription to Largs and Millport Weekly News.
- £261.95 on postage.
- £25.36 on mailchimp (email newsletters).
- £34.48 for the wreath for Remembrance Day to the RBLS Millport.

We have a current balance of £828.16.

Audit

The end of year figures for 2022/2023 will be submitted to NAC for audit as required by our constitution.