

Chair's report 2024

Our approach

We're committed to being transparent, democratic and inclusive on the island, so we put in time to get the island's opinion on key issues.

2024 work

This year's key project has been the development of the Place Plan. We undertook a digital survey in March – April which gathered 545 responses. To support the survey, the Community Council and members of The Cumbrae Forum held drop-in sessions for those who wanted to complete the survey in person on 9, 11 and 13 April. An open community consultation for the whole island was held on Saturday 13 April and a stakeholder consultation was held on 19 April.

In general, respondents felt positive about Cumbrae in relation to safety, community, and views. Respondents were negative about the ferry service, North Ayrshire Council, business opening hours, some aspects of tourism and the proposed solar farm. They expressed a desire for improved amenities, fewer cars and motorhomes and more people visiting the island as foot passengers.

The draft was shared with elected members and North Ayrshire Council, additionally a public consultation was held to review the draft proposals on 5 October. The final document will be available by the end of the year.

Flood defence works

Following the completion of the works, in October Cumbrae Community Council issued a detailed snagging list to North Ayrshire Council to support the finalisation of the project.

Solar farm planning application

We were disappointed with the Reporter's decision in January. We met with North Ayrshire Council Planning Team and sent a letter asking for clarification on one of the Conditions included in the Planning Permission. There has been no development on this issue since.

New speed limits

We held a consultation in March-April, gathering views from islanders and stakeholder groups. We fed this information back to North Ayrshire Council.

Overnight parking issue

After an extended period, North Ayrshire Council installed 'No parking overnight' signs in laybys around coast road. The signs which have been removed are being replaced, and there is a discussion ongoing about additional measures that might be necessary.

Japanese knotweed

The majority was sprayed in 2023, however some stands were missed and there has been regrowth. We chased North Ayrshire Council in 2024 but no respray took place. We will pick this matter up in 2025.

Marina

The development of the marina project is ongoing with input from island groups CCC, CCDC and MPHUG.

Collaboration

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

- Elected Members
- Thomas Reaney, Head of Waste / Roads / Streetscene

We represent the island at North Coast Locality Partnership meetings and Island Plan 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 2024 we have the following team in place

- Alex Harvie (Chair)
 - Keith Hammond (Secretary)
 - John McHenry
 - Angus Campbell
 - Duncan Fraser
 - Gregor Harvie (Adviser)
 - Graham Wallace (Adviser)
-
- John Riggins retired due to ill health in November and we wish him a speedy recovery.

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 2025

As the place plan finalises, key projects will come out of it. These are likely to be:

- Handling the overnight parking issues on the island.
- Aiming to get solar panels added to buildings in the conservation area, so we can get people's utility costs down.
- Getting young people involved - supporting them in putting in a bid for a skate park.
- Supporting the Cumbrae Forum in getting a study undertaken to look at the feasibility of a care home.

Finances for 2024

Our finances

Cumbrae Community Council has not received any funding from North Ayrshire Council since 2022-23. We currently operate two accounts – a Project Account and an Administration Account.

Project Account

As of 31 October 2024, this had £187.77 with an outstanding insurance payment pending of £97.20, so a balance of £90.57.

Treasurer's Account

As of 31 October 2024, this had £63.22.

We have a total balance of £153.79

These figures will be submitted to NAC for audit as required by our constitution.