

CROC TALK

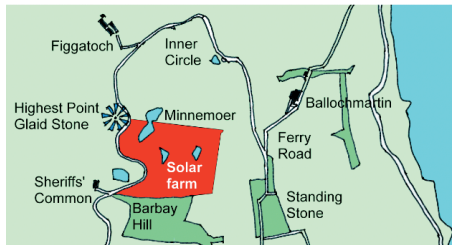
CUMBRAE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Millport Support Group

Solar Farm Application

There were over 200 responses to the proposed Solar Farm development on Cumbrae submitted through the feedback forms distributed to households last month. Two supported the development, 196 were against and two were not sure. Another 40 responses were submitted directly to North Ayrshire Council. The information sheet was designed, researched and written by Cumbrae Community Council volunteers, was delivered by the Millport Support Group and local businesses and organisations stepped in as collection points for completed forms so that everyone in the community was informed and could have a say.



The application has now been withdrawn and the planners state that they "expect a new planning application will be made in future, but this would be a matter for the applicant and (they) cannot advise on any likely timescale."



The Cumbrae WAVE initially responded to the community's wish to gain ownership of the former National Watersports Centre. A Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the centre and associated land was supported by 98% of the participants of the online survey conducted in April 2021.

The charity, created in December 2021, put all its effort into modelling a business plan that would allow the group to sustain financial stability whilst offering charitable activities. However, following thorough market research, primary numbers and a pre-feasibility study, it became clear that there was a significant gap between potential income generation and the needs of this financially demanding site. Unfortunately, the CAT couldn't be secured within the timeframe given by SportScotland and in June 2022, SportScotland put the site up for sale.

As a result the charity, The Cumbrae WAVE, will be made dormant and the role of Project Development Officer, funded by North Ayrshire to support the mission, was terminated on the 30th of September.

The Cumbrae WAVE has widely shared and discussed the results of their work, research and different consultations, hoping to create the momentum for developing the ideas generated by the community in other groups on the island. For more information, visit the website www.thecumbraewave.org.



CUMBRAE GARDEN CLUB
A TASTE OF HARVEST
Thursday, 20th October at 7 pm
in the Newton Lounge
ALL WELCOME
Non-Members can join on the night
Annual Membership £10




The Cumbrae WAVE team would like to thank everyone who has supported and been involved in the project and who participated in the various meetings, consultations and workshops.

OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL HERE TO OFFER SUPPORT!

IF WE CAN GIVE HELP OR JUST A LISTENING EAR CALL 01475 789179

Our aim is to make the views of residents on the island heard. We've had a busy year so far. Here are some of our key activities and achievements. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this work.

Check out the website at www.cumbræ.org for the minutes of our monthly meetings, for more information on the range of work we do and to sign up for our regular newsletter to keep in touch with island news.

September 2022

Solar farm planning application: after consulting the island and publicising issues, the applicant withdrew their application in September. More than 200 of you took the time to share their views. Many volunteers gave their time to creating and distributing the leaflet. Thank you

Out of control campervan parking: in August, following incidents with waste and a lack of respect for the island, North Ayrshire Council agreed to install 'No parking overnight' signs in laybys around coast road.

Japanese knotweed: some was sprayed in August but much still needs spraying and we will continue to lobby North Ayrshire Council.

Parking bays around the island: North Ayrshire Council began tarmac and heavily white-lining parking bays around coast road in July, the Community Council intervened, and this work was stopped pending further discussion.

CCC planning and licensing application policy: our document outlining how we will approach applications on the island was approved in June – you can find it on our website.

Electric vehicle charging point: Cumbræ Community Council contacted North Ayrshire Council when works started outside the Premier Store in July. We told the Council we did not agree with the location as parking spaces should prioritise people with accessibility needs to access essential shops. The charging point will now be moved.

Collaboration:

- We hold monthly meetings for all groups on the island. These are attended by North Ayrshire Council and Elected Members.
- In July we invited Thomas Reaney, Head of Waste / Roads / Streetscene from North Ayrshire Council to attend to discuss the issues regularly raised by the community which sit within his area of responsibility.
- 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.

Ten year plan: we provided detailed comments and edits to the North Ayrshire Council team ahead of their launch in March.

Website: our resident-focused website www.Cumbræ.org launched in January.

January 2022

Join us please!

We are looking for volunteers with Accountancy and Financial management skills.

If you have other skills which you think might be of use, or a few hours to spare, please get in touch with us at Cumbræcouncil@gmail.com

Ferry Access Consultation

The outcome of the consultation to improve access at the Largs and Cumbræ ferry terminals has now been published. The consultation was held during April and May 2021 and generated 176 responses. Cumbræ Option A proposed to extend the existing ferry queuing lane approximately 300 metres to the south with realignment of the existing carriageway to the west, short multiple queue lanes on the slip and provision of a shared cycleway/footway. Option B involved adding up to 3 additional queuing lanes on the roadway within 100m of the terminal, also with a new shared cycleway/footway. The responses showed Option B to be the most popular, with 62.5% in favour.



The Largs proposals involved an extra queuing lane on Fort Street and relocation of the coach drop-off area, with Option B adding a one-way restriction on Bath Street to resolve the conflict of traffic from Bath St turning right into (and sometimes 'skipping') an existing ferry queue. Option B was preferred by 54% of respondents.

North Ayrshire Council has recommended that Cumbræ Option B is taken forward to detailed design for up to 3 lanes, while Option A at Largs is to be progressed, with proposals to restrict right turning vehicles from Bath Street into Fort Street being considered. Variable Message Signs on the main approach routes to Largs are also to be considered during the detailed design phase. Details of the proposals and a full analysis of the results can be found on the North Ayrshire Council website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/news

Millport Curling Club



The season is under way for the Curling Club, who play at Greenacres Curling Rink on Wednesday mornings.

Anyone who would like to join the club, or just give curling a try, is warmly invited to come along and have a go. Equipment can be supplied or hired and we can organise transport for you. Just contact Susan Forrest on 01475 530806 for more details.

Community Resilience



There will be times when you may be affected by an emergency but your life is not in immediate danger. During this time, individuals and communities may need to rely on their own resources to ensure they are able to cope with the consequences of the emergency. Many communities already spontaneously help one another in times of need, and Cumbrae is a fantastic example of this. Previous experience has shown that those who have spent time planning and preparing for this are better able to cope, and recover more quickly.

Volunteering and helping one another doesn't need to be organised by central or local government. Local people who are prepared and able to respond effectively and recover quickly from emergencies has shown us how successful community resilience can be. This activity is most successful when in partnership with local 999 emergency responders. A resilient community is not only better prepared to respond at the time of an emergency, but better equipped to recover in the long-term.

Weather Ready?



Are you ready for the weather this Winter? Thinking ahead and preparing for what the weather may bring this winter can make a real difference. There are some simple steps you can take to stay safe and healthy at this time of year from preparing your home or business to, importantly, taking care of yourself, your family and neighbours. Cold weather can be a risk to your health particularly if you are over 65 or have health conditions. Ideally your home (and those of elderly relatives and neighbours) should be heated to at least 18°C. If you have a heating boiler consider getting it serviced before the cold weather arrives. It's also important to know where your stopcock is and to check it regularly to make sure it is working. This will enable you to turn off the water to your home quickly should there be a problem.

Not everyone is able to access the help or information they may require to keep them safe and well in winter. It's nice to be neighbourly and the human contact with others can have really positive effects for everyone. You may be able to help your neighbour with an important job to prepare for winter, or your neighbour may be able to help you. Just taking time to make contact will be appreciated. Further information on a wide range of things we can all do to prepare for winter is available at:

www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/10-things-you-should-do-now-to-prepare-for-winter

WeatherReady Advice

The pages provide up-to-date, expert seasonal advice from carefully selected organisations to help you prepare for and respond to the weather, to stay safe and protect yourself, your homes and businesses.

You can scan this code with the camera on your mobile device to access the WeatherReady advice.



Cumbrae Forum

It's been a busy time since the last CROCTALK. Our charity shop volunteers have been really busy and we thank all who have donated to the shop. We couldn't do what we do without you and our volunteers.

The **Lunch Club** has started again and if you would like to join us at The Newton for lunch every Wednesday at 12.30, then please come along.



Forum lunch club regulars at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lunch

The **Hub** is getting busy. As well as being our office we host local groups who need a place to meet. For non profit groups we ask only for a donation for our running costs.

Simply Support has been quietly working in the background. If you need help with anything or just need a chat please drop in any Thursday between 2 and 3.30 pm. It's all in confidence.

Our **AGM** was held on the 14th October and anyone wishing to join "The Forum" may do so now for this next year. There are some exciting surprises coming over the winter so don't miss out, come and join us! The Cumbrae Forum - for our community!

Friends Weekend at the Cathedral of the Isles



THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ISLES
and College of The Holy Spirit
Diocese of Argyll & The Isles • Scottish Episcopal Church

Friday 21 October: Talk in College Library by A. Chisholm on old Millport, 7.30 pm

Saturday 22 October: Annual General Meeting in College Library, 10.30 am

Saturday 22 October: Choral Evensong in the Cathedral, 3 pm.

Sunday 23 October: Sung Eucharist in the Cathedral, 11 am

Celebrant and Preacher : Bishop of Argyll & The Isles

ALL WELCOME

If any of you have ever owned a polytunnel you will know how nervous a time winter can be, especially in an exposed area on elevated land on an island. So it has been with the Plant to Plate garden polytunnels at the Parish Church which have suffered much damage in their short lives. In seeking a solution we discovered Polycrubs. Designed and made in Shetland to withstand the worst the Scottish winter can throw at us.

With a successful bid for a grant from the Kelburn Windfarm Trust we have purchased our own 6.4 x 4m Polycrub and it is on its way from Shetland as the CROCTALK is being edited. There is much planning and excitement among the Cumbrae Primary schoolchildren as we await its arrival. There has also been much activity from the volunteers as the area is cleared, taking down one of the existing polytunnels and clearing the area for the new polycrub. Thank you all. It looks pretty barren on site now. But just wait till Spring.



It's been a busy time at the Parish Church planning for our winter groups. The Church is now open every Wednesday from 1.30 - 4.30 to provide a warm space and a cuppa. But it's much more than that. The Playgroup and Nursery school join us too. We just started at the end of September so its early days, but those who have come along have really enjoyed themselves. So if you are looking for a place to go, a bit of fun and warmth then come and join us. There is no set format, it is what you make it. All are welcome.

On the 28th October Friday Fun starts. There will be 2 groups: P 4-7 from 6.30 - 7.45pm and for the older age 8pm -9.30pm. We plan to have crafts and musical fun with the younger group and a Gods Gogglebox for the young adults. Again, all are welcome within the age ranges.

For all you quiz fans Tearfund are holding a Big Quiz Night on 19th November. Cumbrae Parish Church will be one of the nationwide hosts for this and you are all welcome to form a team..but book soon as it's going to be a fun night and space is limited. You can book by calling Linda on 07747808962.

And not forgetting we meet every Sunday at 11am. All are welcome.



The Society meets over the winter months at 7pm in the Lounge Bar of the Newton, usually on the second Monday of the month. The season kicked off on 10th October with a talk on Millport Steamers, using photographs compiled by the late Ian Duncan, and presented by Alastair Chisholm. The next presentation, on Monday the 14th of November will be by Keith Hammond, and is entitled 'Palestine-History Denied'. Everyone is welcome to come along.



*Cumbrae Scottish Country
Dancing Association*

**SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCING CLASSES
FOR FUN &
FRIENDSHIP**

**START FRIDAY, 7TH OCTOBER
10.30 AM - 12 NOON
IN THE DA HALL**

**BEGINNERS WELCOME
FIRST TWO CLASSES
FREE!**

COME AND JOIN US!

Scan this code with the camera app on your mobile device for a digital version of Croc Talk that you can enlarge for easier reading



We're always happy to receive suggestions for future content or articles to include in the Croc Talk. Please send to:

cumbraecs@gmail.com

