

Craignish Community Council
Annual Report for the Year Ending 31st March 2006

Community Council elections were held on the 7th April and Lix Armstrong, George Bevan, Sandy MacKilligin, Don Phillips, Sandy Ritchie, Colin Smith, and Mary Smyth were elected councillors. At the first meeting of the new council held on 3rd May 2005, Sandy MacKilligin was elected Chair, Mary Smyth was elected Secretary and Colin Smith was elected Treasurer. At a subsequent meeting Lix Armstrong was elected Vice Chair. The Community Council held meetings on the first Wednesday of alternate months throughout the year, which were attended by a good cross section of the community. The meetings are advertised on the notice boards of the Craobh and Ardfern shops and via an email list of over 50 members of the community. The council debates issues on the agenda and subsequently the meetings are opened for public discussion. At the beginning of the year meetings were held in the Church, but following the opening of the new Village Hall they have been held there.

Constitution and Standing Orders

A new Constitution and Standing Orders were debated at length and have now been approved by Argyll and Bute Council and adopted by the Community Council. They can be found on the Council's Website

www.craignishcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Local Plan

The Council submitted a response to the final draft of the Argyll and Bute Local Plan, which highlighted the community's concern about the scale of development planned for the Craignish peninsula. The response was prepared following input from the community at a public meeting organised by the Community Council with Mark Lodge from the Planning Department, and via the website. Subsequently the council had a meeting with Fergus Murray and Mark Lodge to discuss this response. The Council was somewhat reassured that the planners are concerned to maintain the rural character of the Craignish area, while recognising that as a thriving and growing community there must be scope for growth.

Reorganisation of NHS Board

The Council responded to the Scottish Executive consultation about NHS reorganisation following the disbanding of NHS Argyll and Clyde. The Council supported the option to join NHS Highland, which has now taken place.

Other Consultations

During the course of the year the Community Council responded to surveys and consultation requests from Argyll and Bute Council on Transport Strategy and from the Scottish Executive on 'What can we do to help Community Councils fulfil their role?'. The Council facilitated response from members of the community to an annual survey by Strathclyde Police on policing priorities.

Planning Applications

The Council has kept a watching brief on all planning applications in the area. Apart from one, the application to build a second house on a plot at Lerigoligan, the Council has not objected to any applications, but has made several representations regarding design, size or water issues.

Roads and Road End

The road-end project has been on-going throughout the year, and has unfortunately suffered from delays. Some fencing and weed spraying has been completed, but the interpretation and notice boards have not. Since the year end, the Council has been informed that the WHELK Leader grant has been withdrawn. The B 8002 was resurfaced during the year, but new potholes continue to appear and the Council is in regular contact with the Roads Department. The Council complained about the number of reflective posts installed along the road. Additional parking at the school, which the Council helped lobby for, has made a welcome improvement to congestion at home time.

Glebe Project

Following a very well attended meeting held by the Kirk Session to outline plans for affordable rented housing on the Glebe, the Community Council was asked to give its support to the plan for Fyne Homes to build between 8 and 12 houses there. The Council agreed to support the Kirk Session in its plans, although water problems may make any development unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Scottish Water

Development constraints caused by lack of water were a feature throughout the year. The Secretary wrote to MSPs and, with Liz MacInally of the Community Company, attended a meeting with George Lyon about the situation. It is apparent that Ardfern is a long way down the list of priorities for Scottish Water and other sources of water will have to be looked at if any development, including the much needed social housing, is to happen. The Council will continue to lobby on this issue.

Situation at Lunga

The Community Council awaits with interest the report of the consultants on the housing situation at Lunga.

Community Council Website

The Community Council is grateful to Liz MacInally, who continues to maintain the Council's website. We are currently looking at alternative ways of running the website which will not rely on the goodwill of a member of the community.

Mid Argyll Partnership

Council members have attended meetings of the Mid Argyll Partnership, which is a regular forum for Community Councils in the area to meet with and raise issues with A and B Councillors, local police, Scottish water, The Forestry Commission, and other bodies. This is a useful forum and well worth attending.

Police

Sergeant Ferguson from Lochgilphead Police attended a Council meeting on November to address concerns about vandalism, burglaries, underage driving, drug dealing and other issues in the area. He asked for ongoing communication with the police and stressed the importance of local information coming from the community.

Other Issues

Fly tipping, abandoned cars, pollution in Mill Burn, a footpath to the Village Hall, 20's Plenty signs at the school are among on-going issues that the Council is pursuing.

Finally

The Community Council would like to thank all members of the public who have attended meetings, made views known, and otherwise supported the Council throughout the year. They would also like to thank Councillor Alison Hay for attending meetings and giving support, and also acknowledge the support from Deirdre Forsyth at A and B Council.