

# Craignish Community Council

## Annual report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007

The Community Council held meetings in the Village Hall 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 in the Ardfern and Craobh Haven shops and via an email list of over 60 members of the community. The Council members debate issues on the agenda and subsequently the meetings are open for public discussion.

At last year's AGM Sandy MacKilligin tendered his resignation as Chair due to ill health, though he will remain a councillor. (We are delighted to see Sandy restored to health and continuing to take an active part in Council meetings.) Lix Armstrong was subsequently elected Chair, but in January 2007 Lix stood down and resigned from the Council as he was leaving the district.

Simon Bevan was the only nominee for the ensuing vacancy and was elected unopposed to the Council, and at the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007 George Bevan was elected Chair of the Council. Throughout the year, Don Phillips was Vice Chair, Mary Smyth was Secretary and Colin Smith was Treasurer.

### **Planning**

Because responses to Planning Applications have to be received by the planners within 14 days and the Council only meets every 2 months, it was agreed that a Planning Sub Committee should be set up with powers to make representations on planning applications and to report back to the full Council. Initially this sub-committee consisted of Colin Smith, Don Phillips, Mary Smyth and George Bevan, but it was later agreed that it should be a sub-committee of the whole council. The Planning sub-committee has met several times and its decisions reported and minuted at the subsequent full Council meeting. If a planning application has wider implication for the whole community, then the Council will ask the planners to delay its decision until after the next full council meeting to allow public discussion, and they are prepared to do this.

The Council made representations on several planning applications received during the year, and also made strong representation about the misuse of non material amendments, retrospective planning applications, and neighbour notification procedures.

### **Local Plan**

The Community Council is still unhappy with many aspects of the Local Plan; particularly the land set aside on the Ardlarach Road for 30 houses, and the lack of consideration given to the wider implications in respect of infrastructure of this level of development. The Council has made a written submission to the Public Local Enquiry and the full submission can be read on the Council's Website.

### **Lunga Estate**

During the course of the year many residents on the Lunga Estate were given notice to leave illegal caravans or dwellings by Argyll and Bute Council. At a meeting with Alison Hay and Richard Kerr of the Planning Department the Council pointed out that Lunga residents felt there was a lack of communication, and it was agreed that everyone affected would be given a summary of the current situation. As a result of these notices, the provision of affordable housing became an even more pressing issue and the Community Council facilitated 2 meetings between the Community Company and the Kirk Session.

### **Coastal and Marine National Park**

It was learned that Craignish is included in the Argyll Islands and Coast potential National Park area. Community Councils were not part of the consultation process, however following several meetings Craignish Community Council and North Knapdale Community Council made a joint representation to the Scottish Executive. We await the final decision.

### **Scottish Water**

The Council maintained pressure on Scottish Water and on George Lyon about the water and sewage situation in Ardfern and it is understood that Ardfern is now in Scottish Water's development plan for both water and sewage, although we do not have any detailed information as yet.

### **Police**

The Community Council arranged a visit by Inspector Dearie from Lochgilphead Police Station to discuss the policing situation in Ardfern following several incidents in the area. On-going dialogue continues and Simon Bevan has undertaken to be the Council's main liaison with the police.

### **Abandoned Cars**

Following a concerted effort by George Bevan, 48 abandoned cars were removed from the peninsula and this has made a significant improvement to the look of the area. Colin Macdougall is also to be

thanked for getting a large number of abandoned cars removed from the Lunga Estate.

### **Pollution**

The Council has continued pressure on SEPA to deal with the pollution of the Mill Burn and also the issue of septic tank emptying and pollution in the lagoon.

### **Roads and Roadend**

The road-end project continues, however the end is almost in sight. The area has been levelled and seeded, bulbs have been planted and the notice boards are about to be erected.

The Council was in regular contact with A&B Roads Department about the state of the roads especially potholes on the B8002.

### **Footpath from Village to Hall**

Following the opening of the Pre-Five unit in the Village Hall the danger of children and parents walking on the single track road has become apparent. The council received a very negative response to a request for a footpath; however discussions and a potential fund-raising campaign are on-going.

Following pressure from the Council countdown to 30 signs have been erected just before the hall.

### **Other issues**

During the course of the year Council members attended several meetings of the Mid Argyll Partnership, a drop-in sessions about Core Path Planning, the inaugural meeting of the GRAB Beach Forum, a meeting with NVA about the Dunnad project, a meeting of the Mid Argyll Public Partnership Forum, a meeting with Land Management Consultants about forestry work on the Lunga estate, and a Meet the Funders' Roadshow.

The Council has responded to questionnaires and lobbied about Rural Post Offices, and responded to Scottish Executive consultations on 'What can we do to help Community Council's fulfil their role' and on 'All our futures, planning for a Scotland with an Aging Population.'

### **Finally**

The Council would like to thank Councillor Alison Hay for her continuing support, Deirdre Forsyth at A&B Council for help and advice, and also all the members of the community who have attended the meetings over the course of the past year.

**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007**