

Craignish Community Council

Annual report for the year ending 31st March 2008

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 on the notice-boards at the Ardfern and Craobh Haven shops and the Ardfern Road-end, and via an email list of over 70 members of the community. The Council members debate issues on the agenda and subsequently the meetings are open for public discussion.

Throughout the year, George Bevan has served as Chair, Don Philips as Deputy Chair, Colin Smith as Treasurer and Mary Smyth as Secretary. Other councillors are Simon Bevan, Sandy MacKilligin and Sandy Ritchie.

Planning

Planning applications are discussed at regular Council meetings, and the Planning Sub-committee meets if an application is received between meetings. During the course of the year the Council considered 19 applications and made representations on 3.

Because of the number of representations made about the application to build two houses on the land behind the Galley of Lorne, a public hearing was held by Argyll and Bute Council Planning Department at which the Community Council made representation, reiterating its objection.

The Council is in dispute with Argyll and Bute Council over the guidelines on Neighbour Notifications, which the Community Council believes are being misinterpreted. This is on-going.

Housing Policy Statement

The Council has developed a Housing Policy Statement, which, following widespread consultation with the community, was approved at the meeting on 6th February. The Statement lays out the Council's position on the housing situation in Craignish and the associated infrastructure concerns. It will be used as a reference to guide future Community Council decisions, and in any negotiations or discussions with Argyll and Bute Council or other official bodies. It can be read on the Council's Website.

Affordable housing

The Community Council has continued to support the Kirk Session and the Community Company in their efforts to provide affordable housing in Craignish. The Council has organised several joint meetings with the Community Company and the Kirk Session, and also a meeting with Jim Mather, MSP, which was attended by our 3 Argyll and Bute Councillors and other interested parties. This meeting gave everyone hope that things were

moving forward, and we are therefore disappointed to hear that Fyne Homes has pulled out of the development on the Glebe.

Notice-boards

The 3 notice-boards are now in situ and are being well used. There has been positive response to the maps which are popular with visitors. The Community Council would like to thank local businesses and individuals who contributed to the cost of the notice-boards. Council members undertook a tidy up at the road-end, which will now need to be repeated regularly throughout the year.

Roads

The Community Council has regularly complained to Argyll and Bute Council about the state of the B8002. Temporary pot-hole repairs are made regularly, but it is proving difficult to persuade the Council to make lasting repairs.

School

A good relationship has been established with the school, and the Council has been in correspondence with Argyll and Bute Council about future capacity and possible alternative sites. There has been an offer to Argyll and Bute Council of additional land for the school from Robin and Rosemary Turner which was welcomed.

Scrap Cars

Following the last clean up scrap cars began to accumulate again and the Council arranged another clear up.

Scottish Water

The Council has maintained pressure on Scottish Water 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, though we await details.

Website

Liz MacInally relinquished responsibility for the maintenance of the Council's Website, and was thanked for her hard work over the years. Laura Neville has taken over the responsibility and the new look website was launched in March. www.craignishcommunitycouncil.org

Mid Argyll Partnership

During the course of the year councillors attended regular meetings of the Mid-Argyll Partnership, which is a forum for all Community Councils in Mid Argyll to meet local councillors, other relevant officials of Argyll and Bute Council and other bodies.

Other Meetings

During the year Councillors attended a Development Management Forum run by Argyll and Bute Council, a planning workshop run by Friends of the Earth, the annual meeting with the leader of Argyll and Bute Council, and a consultation on the future of the A816. There has been correspondence and an informal meeting with Colin Lindsay-Macdougall of Lunga and it is hoped that this positive relationship can be continued.

Other Correspondence

The Council wrote to Scottish and Southern Energy about the frequency of power outages during the winter, and has responded to consultations on changes to planning procedures.

Finally

The Council would like to thank Councillors Alison Hay, Donnie MacMillan and Dougie Philand for their support throughout the year, Alison Younger 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.

4th June 2008