

## Your weekly news update Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Hi All,  
Here is the weekly news from the Ardentinny Community Council and the Village Hall.

### **Ardentinny Community Council News**

#### **Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial - Sunday 10 November 2024 @ 11.30 am**

We will hold the Act of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 11.30am.

#### **Ardentinny Local Place Plan – Drop-In sessions 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November @ Ardentinny Village Hall**

We are holding two drop-in sessions to which all residents, clubs, charities and businesses are invited on the following dates in Ardentinny Village Hall.

#### **Friday 15th November 13.00-16.00 and Saturday 16th November 09.00-12.00**

We are developing a Local Place Plan for Ardentinny Community Council area using your input to the Residents Survey of 2023, plus items from the last Ardentinny Community Action Plan.

This is your opportunity to hear more on what the Local Place Plan aims are, and also to add your own further views (that may have changed or perhaps there are new ones since the last survey) on what you believe Ardentinny needs to remain a beautiful, thriving village.

Those of you who are office bearers/committee members in Clubs, Charities, Trusts and also businesses will receive a specific invite as we are looking to see how we can capture your organisations specific aims and future aspirations within the Local Place Plan.

#### **LAST CALL: Scam Talk – Offer from Police Scotland; Please advise if you are interested to attend**

Constable Cunningham from the community engagement team at Dunoon Police Station has offered to give a scam/fraud prevention talk to groups to help raise awareness and help people spot scams to stop them becoming victims.

Could you advise if this is of interest to you. If so, we can arrange for a talk at some point in the future. Please email us at [ardentinnycc@gmail.com](mailto:ardentinnycc@gmail.com) to indicate your interest. I presume it will all depend on whether we receive enough numbers to see if this goes ahead.

#### **Dunoon Gourock Ferry Proposals - Update**

Attached to the email is a note detailing the latest official notice of what is happening regarding the ferries from the joint Community Councils.

#### **What's On Dunoon and Dunoon Community Development Trust**

If you are interested to know about what is happening in Dunoon and surrounding districts have a look at the [What's On Dunoon](#) website.

#### **Ardentinny Community Council Facebook page and Website**

The Community Council website can be found here - [www.ardentinnycc.co.uk](http://www.ardentinnycc.co.uk)

The Facebook page has been updated, search for **Ardentinny Community Council** and we have an Instagram site under the same name.

Regards  
John



## Village Hall Weekly News

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE – Update on the Heating replacement and upgrade**

As is the case with all old buildings such as the hall, unforeseen issues have arisen which have required us to carry out much more extensive work on the electrics than was previously envisioned. We have had to install a new 3 Phase board and this has meant a lot more work for our Electrician Mark Holmes. We are also waiting for the new thermostat to arrive which means that the hall heaters will only be able to be operated on a temporary manual basis until the system is completed. However, we still intend to reopen the hall for use by Monday evening (5.30pm) on 28<sup>th</sup> October. All regular activities will therefore recommence in the hall. We will in the meantime arrange for the heaters to be switched on for the regular hall users



Please be aware that because all of the heaters are new, they will give off an odour until they settle in. We ask all hall users to be patient and tolerant while we are working to complete the installation.

As we stated previously the installation is taking place in Two Phases – Phase 1 is the installation of new wiring and outlets for all the new heating circuits and the installation of new radiant heaters in the main hall. This work has taken place during the week that the hall was closed. Phase 2 is the installation of new Convecter Storage heaters in the ancillary areas – the date for this is still to be confirmed but we anticipate that this shouldn't require the hall to close.

We apologise for any inconvenience that the heating replacement is causing but we anticipate that it will be worth it in the longer term (especially as the weather turns colder).

### **Advance notice - A number of exciting dates for your diary.**

**WREATH MAKING** - 30th November or 14th December (Date to be confirmed). Neil Robinson will be hosting the wreath making again at the Village Hall. There will be an admission on the door of £TBC. Greenery (plants and leaves etc) to be brought from own gardens and shared out between participants. Bring own embellishments. Blank wreath frames will be provided – event includes hot chocolate and refreshments.

**SING-ALONG** - 21st December - Christmas Sing-along at the Ardentenny for all Ardentenny Village residents (in aid of Parkinsons and Mind). This is the same format as last year – free buffet for all but buy your own drinks. Music will be provided by The Famous Ardentenny Ukulele Band - but you have to **Sing-along!**

**CHRISTMAS HUG** – 25th December This will take place at the Ardentenny rather than on the beach. After several 'bad weather' days in the past it has been decided that the Ardentenny is a better place to meet up. The Ardentenny has kindly agreed that people can come along and bring their own drinks and nibbles (before the Ardentenny opens). This will enable people to meet up on Christmas day in the warm rather than in a force 9 gale on the beach. Time TBC.

### **HOGMANAY - 31st December – Hogmanay at the Ardentenny Village Hall – VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED**

This event was a great success last year and many have asked for it again. Dee Robinson has agreed to act as coordinator for this but needs volunteers for this to go ahead. We have managed to secure the Elderlies Band to play at the event but Dee needs help to get this underway. PLEASE contact Dee on [aldina6166@gmail.com](mailto:aldina6166@gmail.com) or speak to her direct if you can help to get this going. Neil Robinson has agreed to make the Hamper boxes again BUT we need donations to put in them. **We will need to have volunteers in place by 4th November. If you are willing to help then please let Dee know. Sadly, if we don't get enough volunteers to make this viable then we will have to cancel it.**

Below is a list of the regular hall events with contact details. You can also find this on the Ardentenny Community Council web site.

That's all for now

Mark Rowthorn (Chairman), Brian Hillesdon (Secretary), Helen Rowthorn (Treasurer), Elsbeth Brint (Trustee) and Dee Robinson (Trustee)

<b>Weekly Groups</b>	<b>Ardentinny Village Hall</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> Oct – 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2024</b>
<b>Village hall membership information</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<p>Membership £12 per year from 1<sup>st</sup> April each year            Pay directly into the hall account with the details below.            Please write the first line of your address as the reference and email your name and the name of anyone else you are paying for including the reference that this has been done to: <a href="mailto:ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com">ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com</a>            Ardentinny Hall Association            A/c: 00123850            Sort: 80-13-46</p>	<p><b>Ukulele/Music group</b>            Please join us on from 17.30-19.30.            Following our successful live debut at the bowling club, we are currently running a beginner session.            All abilities welcome, spare instruments available.            £3 per session, tea/coffee included.            Email :-  <a href="mailto:ardentinny.ukulele@gmail.com">ardentinny.ukulele@gmail.com</a>            for further info.</p>	<p><b>Ladies Badminton</b>            10.30 am – 12.30pm            £3 per person.            Contact for more info-            Anne Wood            07894 274422</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<p><b>Hobbies</b>            7pm – 9pm            All welcome for a chat and a cuppa and friendly help with your knitting/ crochet/ quilting etc. Anyone who has a hobby or would just like to drop in and meet people, please call in.            Contact Margo Hendry 01369 810262            £3 per person.</p>	<p><b>Carpet Bowls</b>            Blairmore and Ardentinny Carpet Bowling Club            2.30pm – 4.30pm            Contact Gordon Smith on 01369 810218 for new enquiries.</p> <p><b>Tai-Chi</b>            Heavenly Mountain Gate Tai-Chi Chuan (Yang Tradition)            6.30pm – 7.30pm            £5 per person            Contact Bryan on 07813 374879 for new enquiries.</p>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Private Hiring of the village hall</b>
		<p>Contact for more information  <a href="mailto:ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com">ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com</a>            £100 Per day            £50 1/2 day</p>

## **Cowal Community Councils Ferry Proposal**

We have, by far, the most unreliable ferry service in Scotland, one that has mostly destroyed the public transport based commuting that used to be a mainstay of the Cowal economy for many years, until the removal of the safe, reliable and comfortable streakers in 2011

Our proposal works with one presented previously by Professor Neil Kay. However rather than leasing the linkspans to a ferry operator as he proposed, the community councils of Cowal would take control of the berths and then sub lease them to a ferry operator who will supply the boats and run the ferry service. The Community Empowerment Act of 2015 allows communities take over publicly owned property by means of an asset transfer if they can demonstrate that the community can make better use of the asset. In this case if the community did control the berths and brought in an external operator, there could be considerable benefit, not just to the people of Cowal, but also to Gourock residents who face the fairly considerable volume of traffic currently travelling through the town centre to get to Western Ferries. The Empowerment act allows for assets that are owned by Public Bodies to be available for transfer to communities if they can meet the criteria. The Dunoon Berth is owned by Argyll and Bute Council, who are listed as a Public Body, however the Gourock side is owned by Cmal, a wholly owned subsidiary of Transport Scotland. Transport Scotland itself is listed as a Public Body, however Cmal is not. If we were to attempt an asset transfer as it currently stands it would fail. Our argument is that given that Cmal is wholly owned by Transport Scotland, then it should be considered a Public Body under the terms of the act. To achieve this in practice though it is necessary to convince the government to include Cmal in the list of proscribed bodies.

Representatives of Cowal Community Councils have met a couple of times to discuss this proposal. We have had discussions with Fiona Taylor from the Community Ownership Support Service, COSS, who is fairly supportive and willing to assist. She had reservations about the potential financial risk to each community should there be a major defect with the linkspans, but we have pointed out that any lease to an operator would be a full repairing, insuring and renewing one, taking the risk away from the community. Fiona also expressed concern that any community benefit was being given by the ferry operator, not the actions of the community directly. Our argument for this is that when the community tried to obtain Castle Toward any benefit was going to come from the tenant who would be creating the employment and paying the not inconsiderable rent. This we feel sets the precedent for allowing the community benefit to be given by a third part under the control of the community.

We have met with Jenni Minto, our area MSP, and discussed this proposal and have been met with support. She has written to the Transport Minister a couple of times to ask for support in having Cmal declared a Public Body under the terms of the act. The minister has agreed that Cmal is indeed a public body, we just need her to add them to the legislation.

### **Factors to consider.**

**The Government refuse to have Cmal declared a public body.** Should we be unable to persuade the government to have Cmal declared a Public Body in order that the Act can be used for an asset transfer request, then other options could be considered. There could be a long term contract entered into with Cmal for example, allowing berthing of a vessel on the Dunoon route, and the community taking control of the Dunoon Linkspan. While this is feasible it still leaves 50% of the route under the control of a commercial body.

**It may not be possible to attract another operator to take on the lease.** We hope though that the amount of traffic currently being carried, along with a potential increase in population as commuting becomes a realistic possibility, would make the route an attractive and commercially viable option. Other factors such as the Dunoon Project should greatly increase the traffic to and from the area. Dunoon Presents has shown through some of the events they have held, that Dunoon is a popular destination for mountain biking, which is increasing the publicity the area is receiving. All of which is making the area an attractive prospect for people wanting to relocate.

As part of the Asset Transfer process, we would look for Stage 1 funding from the Scottish Land Fund. This would be used to assess the viability of the project, prepare business plans, and explore with ferry operators the appetite for some or any to tender for the route.

**Risk to the community.** Should the process demonstrate at any stage that the risk of the project is too great for a community body to take on, then we just walk away. At no point will this group commit the communities of Cowal to a non-viable project. As we are looking to lease the infrastructure rather than buying though, there is no large capital outlay required,

**Next steps.** All the Cowal Community Councils involved so far in the process are supportive of the proposal, as all can see the effect that an unreliable ferry service has on the area. We will be commencing the formal process of setting up the necessary SCIO to allow us to formally start the process, and there will be a new community survey. The survey will be far less generic than the last one, which was only to show that there was a desire for an improvement in the town centre service, and the survey result will be a very important part of the application.