

Weekly news update from 28th April 2023

Hi All,

Here is our weekly news from the Community Council and the Village Hall. It is a lengthy one, so you may want to grab a coffee!

Ardentinny Community Council

Progress on Residents Survey Items

At the March public meeting we shared the list of items that we would follow up on based on your feedback, so we are pleased to say that we have started to work our way through the list of key items below;

1. Ardentinny Community Emergency Plan

We have updated the existing village community emergency plan, and the revised one can be found on our website at www.ardentinnycc.co.uk plus an electronic copy is attached with this weekly note for the residents on the community council email list. Hard copies will be provided to those not on social media and a hard copy will be left in the Village Hall.

You will see that we have an Emergency Management Team in place. We also have a group of volunteers (known as Emergency Community Coordinators) who have offered assistance to the Emergency Management Team, their information is not shared publicly, but retained by the Emergency Management Team with a copy shared only amongst the volunteers. Thank you to those who volunteered.

2. Fire Hydrant Testing in the Village

This was one of the safety items that we have addressed regarding the fire hydrants;

- All hydrants to be inspected annually. This involves checking signage, valves, cover visibility and operation.
- Every five years flow tests are carried out.
- Our village hydrants are checked by a contract firm from Ayr. (Strathclyde Fire Safety)

We will continue to keep up posted on ongoing items from the survey as we progress with them in the coming months.

CPR and Defibrillator Training (Saturday 29th April @ 10am - Session 1, 11am - Session 2 in the Village Hall)

I have contacted those directly who should come at 11am, otherwise we will see the rest of you at 10am.

There will be tea and coffee, and if you would like to leave a donation to St. John Scotland at the end, they would greatly appreciate it.

Beach Clean 30th April – Volunteers Please

The beach clean is on for Sunday 30th April at 12 noon, meeting at the Church Car Park. We have received some litter pickers from the Council and rubbish bags. If you have your own pickers please

bring them, and wearing gloves may be advisable. The plan is to start from the church car park and end up at the picnic site where we will leave the rubbish beside the bins for the Council to pick up.

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) Update - Beach Picnic Site and Car Park

We have had further talks with FLS regarding the beach, their response has however been rather disappointing.

Firstly, we made a formal request to FLS to provide free parking passes to all residents of pension age. However, that was rebuffed by FLS as the cost of a season pass for Ardentinnny is £25 which is lower compared to their charges in Central region (£40), telling us it was only a cost of 48p per week to buy a season pass. Blue Badge holders are free. Furthermore, FLS were keen to point out that the income from car parking is used to help maintain and improve facilities and look after the forests and wildlife and helps to fund the seasonal rangers who keep our forests clean, tidy and our visitors safe.

We also received feedback on camping regulations, overnight camping, fire regulations and the powers of the seasonal rangers, the following is a summary of their reply;

"Camping within Scotland falls under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code with access rights extending to wild camping. The FLS rangers can only give guidance and advice to campers at the beach at Ardentinnny encouraging them to act responsibly and within the SOAC – we have no enforcement powers to move campers on."

"Fires are also covered in the Access Code which suggests that any fires are kept small, under control and supervised."

"Any behaviour that is deemed not responsible can be reported to the police as antisocial behaviour."

"Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide 24 hour supervision of the site. We have just undertaken some recruitment to employ a Seasonal Ranger for the Argyll Forest Park to support our permanent ranger in his role. Subject to HR checks and training we hope that she will start prior to the summer."

It is our view that FLS is showing no desire to accommodate a minimal cost for free vehicle passes for residents, which would only cost them (if for example 20 residents took up the offer of a vehicle pass) - £500 per annum. Not a lot in the grand scheme of things but FLS clearly just want to make money from us.

Also, they are effectively going to use two rangers for Ardentinnny, but they have to cover many other locations in the National Park as well, which will simply not work since all the "fun and games" at the beach usually start late evening. There would appear to be little interest in helping us, the residents, who have to put up with the issues generated by the minority who spoil it for all at the beach with their behaviour. FLS are leaving us to report issues to the Police rather than FLS taking responsibility.

We will continue to engage with FLS in a constructive manner on all of the above topics. We will be looking into the fire regulations and its relationship to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code where we see some discrepancies in their application of the rules, plus the number of motorhomes they are trying to squeeze into the site.

If you are ever at the beach and see issues, please tell us via our email address ardentinnnycc@gmail.com or Facebook page and if possible, send photos which we can use to inform FLS of any issues.

National Park Partnership Plan

The [Draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024-29](#) has been published today for consultation and to guide this conversation over the next 12 weeks. The National Park Partnership Plan guides how all of those with a role to play in looking after the National Park will work together to manage the Park and achieve a shared vision for the area:

We have the opportunity to give our views on how we see the National Park working and being used in the future, so do have a look and respond to their Plan.

Ardentinny Community Council Facebook page and Website

Just to let you know we continue to revamp the existing Community Council website which you can find here - www.ardentinnycc.co.uk

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

Regards

John

Ardentinny Village Hall

Hi Everyone,

Loft and underfloor insulation in the hall were completed this week so hopefully, we should notice a difference when the next lot of cold weather hits.

Neil has been sent some photographs from the installer and will put something together for next week's update as he is away until tomorrow.

Please see below for the rest of the information he sent last week which is the next job on the list and hopefully will be completed in the near future.

New instantaneous hot water systems in both the kitchen area and WC areas the old system will be removed.

New lighting in all areas including under the stage, these will be dimmable in the main hall.

A full electrical check and repairs on some of the poor electrical aspects of the hall this will also include the provision of an outdoor socket which will enable us to do more outside the hall.

A local electrician has been appointed to carry out the electrical works.

Future works include the installing of internet facility's this is not part of this fund and the hall has raised the capital to fund this installation which we hope will be up and running shortly just waiting on the BT engineers to do their bit.

Going forward we do have plans to refurbish and re-instate the kitchen area so we can once again look to use this facility and once a fund has been found we will look to renew the heating system in the hall.

Neil

Thank you to Babs Marshall who has volunteered to collect hall membership fees from Ardenfield.

Please see the attached document which gives more information about hall fees. If anyone can't access this, please email Dee at ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com I will be happy to copy and paste this in a reply to you.

We are looking for volunteers to clean the hall on a rota basis. This could be on a 4- or 6-week rota depending on how many volunteers there are.

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Please note below the following events over the next few months

Hall Management Group AGM

The new treasurer taking over from Susie will be announced at the AGM on Tuesday 2nd May at 7pm in the village hall.

Can anyone think of any ideas for an event we could hold to mark the King's Coronation on the weekend 5th-7th May. This could be anything and does not necessarily have to be held in the hall.

Grassed Area Tidy Up

Thank you to everyone who took the time from their day and volunteered to tidy the grassed area opposite the outdoor centre. This is looking much better.

We are looking for volunteers to finish this on **Saturday 13th May at 10am - 12 noon**. Teas and coffees will be provided in the hall afterwards.

Summer combined event

The village hall has been liaising with the outdoor centre prior to the Christmas break, for those that are unaware the outdoor centre is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. With this in mind we have decided to band together and run a large summer event over one day at the outdoor centre and on the beach area.

This will be held on Saturday the 29th of July

To make the event happen we do require a number of volunteers to help us coordinate and run certain parts of the day.

We have volunteers to do the burger stand, however, this could change due to holiday commitments.

More on this when we have finalised all events which are taking place.

New group for the hall

Ukulele/Music group

Hi Everyone,

The music group has been up and running for a number of weeks. We are learning the ukulele but are not restricting the group to just this instrument.

Other instruments welcomed, but not taught.

Please join us on Mondays from 18.00-19.30. Beginners to George Formby welcomed, spare ukuleles available. £2 per session, tea/coffee included.

Email us at ardentinny.ukulele@gmail.com for further info.

If you would like to organise a village hall event or have a specific theme for a quiz night please get in touch, either by email at: ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com or just grab us around the village anytime

Kind Regards,

Ardentinny Hall Management Group Secretary