

## Your weekly news update Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Hi All

Here is our weekly news from the Community Council and the village hall.

### Ardentinny Community Council News

#### Possible new vehicle ferry – Dunoon-Gourock

The Dunoon Gourock Ferry Action Group (DGFAG) have requested to tender a new vehicle passenger ferry service from Dunoon to Gourock

The Dunoon Gourock Ferry Action Group (DGFAG) is a group of residents of Cowal who are very keen to see the reintroduction of a vehicle ferry service between Dunoon and Gourock, to replace the current CalMac passenger service. This is **in addition** to the current Western Ferries Service from Hunter's Quay to Mclnroy's Point. As a first stage of this, DGFAG would like an Expression of Interest request to be sent to operators to see if they would be interested in bidding for such a service.

Ardentinny Community Council attended a presentation by DGFAG on Tues 10 Oct 2023 to hear more about their ideas. DGFAG have asked for the support of Dunoon Council, who in turn have asked the affected community councils (including Ardentinny) if they would support the idea. We need to respond by Nov 15th.

DGFAG's reasons for replacement of the CalMac passenger service with a vehicle ferry service are multiple, and include: Reliability: DGFAG believes the current service is much less reliable than it should be, and much less reliable than the previous vehicle ferries that ran this route in previous decades. Part of the reason is that the passenger ferries are small vessels and more susceptible to adverse weather. Vehicle ferries are generally larger vessels, and heavier (especially when loaded) so are more tolerant of rougher weather. DGFAG believe the unreliability of the passenger ferries has had a knock-on effect: less people commuting, some people moving out of the area; less visitors coming to Cowal.

Currently there is a proposal to replace the passenger ferry service with another passenger service but DGFAG do not believe this is the best approach. They also have some concerns with the procurement methodology as it stands: the terminal at Gourock will be upgraded by CMAL; the Dunoon terminal will have some upgrades by another party; Transport Scotland will provide ferries (originally due in 2022 not delayed until 2026); CalMac will be the operator. These parts have not yet been bought together into one scheme. Also, the scheme needs to obtain a second funding approval from Transport Scotland, and is subject to a needs-based assessment yet to be performed.

DGFAG would like to see the whole operation be bought together into one scheme that would be tendered to private operators and would include: long term (30+ years) operation to allow reasonable investment in ferries to be made; better control of the ferry terminal costs; larger ferries which would be less susceptible to adverse weather and could carry vehicles and foot traffic.

A question raised at the meeting was whether there are sufficient vehicular customers to make a second car ferry route economically viable – if either Western Ferries or the suggested new operator could not make their route work we could end up again with just one operator, or worse. It is also not known whether any operators would respond positively to an Expression of Interest.

**As Ardentinny CC needs to go back to the DGFAG with our support or otherwise, we would be keen to hear your opinions on the above suggestions. If you would like to share your opinion, please email it to the Ardentinny Community Council at [ardentinnycc@gmail.com](mailto:ardentinnycc@gmail.com) before 14 November 2023.**



### GP Relocation Project Community Engagement Event NEW DATE

This has now been rescheduled to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 12.00noon to 6pm at Burgh Hall Dunoon. This is a drop in style with display visuals. There will be light refreshments served with healthy snacks, platters of sandwiches and a vegetarian/gluten free option served from 12.30pm for approx. 45 people

## Beach Clean Rescheduled

### NEW DATE

This will now take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

All volunteers are welcome. Please meet at the Church car park at 11.30pm – litter pickers and bags will be provided. Hot drinks provided afterwards at the Village Hall courtesy of the Village Hall Management Group.



### Defibrillators

At the community council we have been looking for ways to add further new defibrillators around the village. We have been looking into both funding and locations. A defibrillator plus storage box comes in at £1821

The next one will be located at Ardentenny beach area, due to the fact the forestry have agreed to pay install and electric for it. We just have to provide a unit and storage box. We have contacted the British Heart Foundation regarding their funding for defibrillators which opens in October.

The other area we are trying is around the Ardenfield area, although we are running into more issues regarding location here. Due to not being able to find a site with electricity we can use, we are looking into solar powered options but would appreciate it if any residents from that area could suggest appropriate locations within Ardenfield we would take them into consideration.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Point

Danielle Markey from the Ardentenny CC had a meeting with Mark Calder and Victoria Weir regarding adding Ardentenny as a future spot for a council Electric Vehicle Charging Point. They already have 55 points they want to implement in Argyll and Bute but listened to our concerns regarding distance between Ardentenny, Dunoon and Strachur (which are 2 of the already listed places) and the amount of visitors we have to the beach and caravan parks, they said they would definitely consider us as a future charge point. However, they said although they have these places planned funding is not coming quickly to actually implement the charge points so the wait could be substantial. They said they were happy to help us and discuss other ideas. If we decide to apply for any funding to install our own Electric Vehicle Charging Point they would be willing to work with us.

We will continue to update you as to any progress we make on this.

### ROADS UPDATE

Weather disruption UPDATED Friday 13th October 16.30 hours

We are making good progress getting roads reopened and services back on track following the extreme rainfall last weekend.

We have crews and contractors continuing to assess the road network, clear debris and carry out repairs as required.

### CLOSED ROADS

The following roads are closed:

U18 Kilmore to **Glen Lonan** (road undermined)

We had to close this road at 1400hours Wednesday.

There is around 30metres of the road surface which has been damaged – we need to excavate the damaged material then reinstate it.

We are planning a temporary solution with a stone surface here to get the road reopened. We poured concrete on Friday lunchtime and need to give it time to set.

We expect the road to reopen on Monday, then will go back later to fully reinstate the surface with asphalt.

### A816 at Ardfarn (landslip)

Over the weekend our specialist contractor Geo Rope has carried out a drone survey of the area.

Three separate landslides have blocked a 200m section of the A816. The landslides have started from approximately 120m above the road. The volume of debris currently on the road is estimated to be around 3000m<sup>3</sup> (6000 tonnes), with further unstable material on the slope above the road.

There are large potentially unstable boulders (some estimated to exceed 70 tonnes) high on the slope.

We are currently undertaking further assessment after Tuesday's predicted heavy rainfall.

Works will start with removing or stabilising potentially unstable boulders to make the area safe for clearance works.

We are planning to begin working on the site this weekend.

Current estimates are that the road will remain closed for at least 4 weeks, subject to any further weather impacts. There is a diversion in place which is via the A83 - A819 - 85 or vice versa.

### **B836 Glen Lean (partial bridge collapse and landslip)**

This road will remain closed until we can plan for a bridge replacement/repair. Following an inspection on Monday morning the bridge is confirmed as damaged with the potential to fully collapse.

We are working through options at the moment one of which may be a temporary bridge (sometimes known as a Bailey Bridge)

### **B840 between Eredine and Blarghour (landslips)**

This road is closed due to a landslip. We began to clear this on Wednesday, after clearing the landslip further down the B840 on Tuesday. There is also a culvert which was damaged in the landslip – we are having this assessed at the moment ahead of taking forward repair works.

### **C30 West Loch Awe (landslips)**

This road is closed because of a landslip. We are making good progress with clearing the debris. Once this is done we will move on to reinstating the embankment supporting the road. We have cleared the first landslip and are now moving on to the second, larger one.

We are going to need to install around 700 tonnes of rock armour to reinstate the steep embankment which supports the road.

Realistically this work will take at least 3 weeks.

### **B828 Glen Mhor (landslip)**

This road is closed due to a landslip. We are progressing with site clearance and investigating slope stability. These investigations are ongoing.

## **REOPENED ROADS**

### **A814 Glen Douglas between Whistlefield and Arrochar (landslip)**

This reopened on Sunday evening after our stand-by crew cleared debris. The road is passable with care.

### **A815 Loch Eck (flooding) between Strachur and Benmore**

We managed to clear flooding here and re-open this road around 2030hours on Sunday. The road is passable with care.

### **B840 between Ford and Eredine (landslip)**

This landslip was cleared on Tuesday and this section of road is open. There is no through road to the A819 (Cladich) but residents can travel down the B840 to the A816.

The road remains closed beyond Eredine so there is no through road.

### **A815 north of St Catherine's to A83 junction (Dunoon road end)**

At around 1500hours Wednesday, working with colleagues at BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland, we opened the A815, in conjunction with BEAR reopening the A83.

This now allows normal access from the Cowal Peninsula to the trunk road network.

There was between 500 and 550 tonnes of debris on the road which, with the assistance of local contractors, we've managed to clear over the past few days. We also had to do some work on re-profiling roadside ditches which were damaged by the landslip.

We have had the slopes checked by our specialist contractors – it is safe to reopen the road, and the site will be regularly monitored going forward

## **SCHEDULED ROADWORKS**

We have ongoing works at Cladich on the A819 where the road is currently subject to traffic management. We're looking to push on with that job so that we can remove the traffic control, given the volume of traffic going that way with the A83 being closed. We're planning to have these roadworks completed by the middle of next week to allow the traffic lights to be removed.

We had a capital scheme planned at Electric Cottage on the A819 which would have reduced the road to one lane. Given the issues across the network we've stood that job down to allow unimpeded traffic flow.

## **BIN COLLECTIONS**

The disruption to the road network and the clean-up operation may affect some scheduled bin collections and we would ask you to bear with us while we try to get services back on track.

**For the moment the standing advice is to present your bin as normal and if it isn't lifted on your scheduled collection day leave it out.**

Sorry rather a lot of information this week, hopefully things will get back to normal soon.

Regards

Mark Rowthorn

Secretary

## **Ardentinny Village Hall News**

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all well and were not affected too much by the heavy rain over last weekend.

I have added some information from a mid-week update I received from the Community Council to make sure the information gets to as many people as possible so my apologies for those of you who are on one or more of the mailing lists.

Hospital investment & GP Relocation Project - 12.30-16.30 on October 11th at the Burgh Hall Dunoon

The GP Relocation Event that was planned to take place on the 11th of October in Burgh Hall in Dunoon was cancelled. This will be rearranged for a later date.

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The disruption to the road network and the clean-up operation may affect some scheduled bin collections and we would ask you to bear with us while we try to get services back on track.

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## **Commercial glass collections**

Due to the travel challenges, we are standing down this service and will review the situation again on Monday 16th October. If you were expecting a glass collection this week we apologise for the disruption. We'll be in touch with commercial waste customers directly about next steps.

## **CLEAN UP OPERATION**

There is lots of debris in places where roads were completely submerged so we have our road sweepers out and about – we are also looking at hiring in additional vehicles as required. We are also out inspecting and clearing gullies in flood affected areas.

We also have crews attending to any issues caused by the flooding like roadside drains being washed out, road surface damage etc.

## **October**

### **Bowling Club**

28th October Hallowe'en Party 7pm at the bowling club.

### **Beach Clean**

Sunday 22nd October 11.30am

This was cancelled due to adverse weather and flooding and will have been rescheduled for the 22nd October to meet at the car park next to the church.

### **Hallowe'en Quiz Night**

Saturday 14th October (Tomorrow)



Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Members: Free entry

Table £5

Fancy dress is optional, although, I will be dressing the part 😊

Bring your own drinks, snacks, glasses.

Prize for the winners to be determined on the night.

A fun way to spend an evening and display or improve your knowledge.

Can anyone interested, please let me know if you are coming so I can buy the pumpkins for carving. Thank you.

### **Sausage sizzle on the beach (weather permitting)**

Dates and times to be confirmed.

## **November**

### **Saturday 11th November**

#### **Music Quiz by Mike Loochin**

Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Members: Free entry

Table £5

### **Wednesday 22nd November**

#### **Decorate the hall.**

Decorate the tree outside.

**Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre** to be held at the Outdoor Centre.

### **Saturday 25th November 11am-2pm £10 a table**

The village residents have first option to book a table until the end of October, when the information will be sent to other stall holders who have attended in the past. These get snapped up very quickly so please be sure to book early and guarantee your place.

People from the village are already asking for tables, so you may not wish to leave it too long.

The centre will be open for stallholders to set up any time after 2pm on Friday 24th November.

Please contact [ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com](mailto:ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com) if you would like to book a table.

Santa will be at the outdoor centre where he can be seen by everyone and have their photo taken for a small donation.

## **Wreath Making**

Saturday 2nd December 11.30

£7.50 per person

Warm drinks provided.

This was a success last year and was requested again for this year.

Places are being booked already which is great. Thank you to those who have booked so far.

## **Kilmun Hall**

Friday 8th December

Concert by Cowal Handbell Ringers and Strone Primary School.

Time to be confirmed but 1.30'ish until 3.00

### **Friday 15th December 5pm**

#### **Ardentinny Christmas Sing Along**

Thank you everyone for supporting all the groups, events and functions.

As a thank you and to celebrate Christmas, the Hall Management Group would like to invite the village to a sing along at the Ardentinny Bistro.

There will be live music, Christmas carols and other songs.

A free buffet will be provided from 6pm and the bar will be open for you to buy drinks until closing at 11pm.

Although this is a closed function for the village for the night, any guests who may be visiting you over the festive period are very welcome to come too.

This is a chance for everyone to get together and have a good time and basically, another excuse to have a party.

## **Hogmanay**

Doors open at 7. £6 entry per person to be paid on the night.

Fun and Games until 10.

Elderly Brothers from 10 until the bells and beyond.

Live music by the Elderly Brothers

Quizzes and Games. Some of these could be for a small fee so you may need to bring some money with you.

Boozy Christmas Raffle and Prizes

Any guests who may be visiting you over the festive period are very welcome to come too.

41 places have been booked already which is great and thank you to everyone who has already booked.

If anyone would like to pay before the event, please let me know if you would like to pay or have paid straight into the hall account or drop the money to me where I will give you a receipt. Thank you.

Bring your own bottle and snacks.

Boozy Christmas Raffle. (To be drawn on the night at Hogmanay)

We are hoping to be able to have 5 prizes so if anyone would like to donate a prize for this, it would be much appreciated. The more donations, the bigger the 5 prizes will be.

### **Ukulele/Music group**

Please join us on Mondays from 18.00-19.30.

Following our successful live debut at the bowling club, we are currently running a beginner session.

All abilities welcome, spare instruments available.

£2 per session, tea/coffee included.

Email us at [ardentinny.ukulele@gmail.com](mailto:ardentinny.ukulele@gmail.com) for further info.

### **Requests**

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](mailto:ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com) or just grab us around the village anytime.

Kind Regards,

Dee. Ardentinnny Hall Management Group Secretary