

# **Know. Prepare. Act.**

## **for a Resilient Rhu & Shandon**

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### **1. Background**

In December 2025, I presented an outline approach for developing a Community Emergency and Resilience Plan for Rhu & Shandon, with the aim of building long-term community resilience to emergencies. Since then, I have been progressing this work largely independently, due to limited capacity and the difficulty of establishing a formal planning group.

### **2. Work Undertaken Since December**

Since December, the following work has been completed:

- Review of Ready Scotland guidance and resilience templates
- Review of Argyll & Bute Council's community resilience materials
- Review of redacted HMNB Clyde emergency guidance
- Mapping of key routes and facilities using GIS
- Review of SEPA flood risk mapping and coastal flooding risks
- Attendance at the Community Resilience Meeting (28 January 2026)

This work has focused on building a detailed understanding of local risks, infrastructure, and preparedness.

### **3. Planned Engagement (February–March 2026)**

During February and March, I plan to meet with key local organisations to understand their preparedness arrangements and how they can support this work, including: Rhu Primary School; Blairvadach Outdoor Centre; HMNB Clyde; Wilson's of Rhu; ABCAN; Other Community Councils and relevant organisations. These discussions will support coordination and partnership working.

### **4. Emerging Approach: Community Campaign**

This work is developing into a community-wide campaign for release in May:

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Most likely emergencies will result in similar impacts on individuals and households in Rhu and Shandon, including: Severe weather (storms, snow, flooding, landslides); Grid failure, cyberattacks, contamination, and service disruption; National crises (economic shocks, incidents at the base, wider security events); Health emergencies (epidemics and pandemics) The campaign will focus on practical actions under three simple principles.

**KNOW:** People in R&S knowing risks, information sources, and local support networks.

This includes:

- Knowing the main local risks identified in the Community Risk Register and Emergency Plan
- Knowing where and when official updates are issued
- Knowing how the community will share information if networks fail
- Knowing who nearby may need extra support
- Knowing basic emergency numbers and contacts

**PREPARE:** People putting simple and realistic arrangements in place in advance.

This includes:

- Keeping a basic emergency kit, with clear guidance on contents
- Keeping phones and power banks charged
- Storing key documents safely
- Having a simple family emergency plan
- Making arrangements for pets
- Checking in with vulnerable neighbours

**ACT:** People responding calmly, safely, and in coordination with others.

This includes:

- Following official guidance and prioritising personal safety
- Understanding what support to expect from services
- Knowing how to report issues and request help
- Checking on neighbours where appropriate
- Using agreed community communication channels

## **6. Key Challenge: Capacity and Community Consultation**

A major challenge is limited capacity and the absence of established, widely used community communication channels. Without a formal working group, regular engagement mechanisms, or sufficient volunteer support, it is difficult to build sustained involvement.

I therefore propose continuing to develop a draft plan independently, working with the CC until May and then presenting it for discussion and feedback through a community consultation or public event in May along with Community Councillors.

## **7. Support Requested from the Community Council**

To support this next phase, I am seeking Council guidance and assistance on:

- The most effective ways to communicate with the whole community
- If a consultation event, how best to organise and promote it?
- Whether funding is available for associated costs, (e.g. flyers in the Community Advertiser; Posters at key locations (Village Hall, Brae Shop, noticeboards); Printing and venue costs
- Under #3 – are there any other key local organisations I should engage with?