

Item 4: Convener's Report for the period December 2021 to April 2022.

Having only become the Convener in December 2022 there should not be a lot to report, but alongside the usual scrutiny of planning applications and various consultations we seem to have been extraordinarily busy.

First of all I would like to express the Community Council's thanks to Jim Duncan for his service as Convener over the last four years. I would also like to welcome our recently co-opted members John McGall, Alastair Moore and Laura Freeland, and Thomas Baylem who is also joining the CC this evening.

The first six months have been dominated by forestry issues. The new forestry schemes at Letrault and Stuckenduff and the forthcoming continuation of felling of Highlandman's and Torr Wood once again raises the ongoing issue of timber transport through the village. The consultation and provision of information regarding Letrault and Stuckenduff, including a recent representation on new in-forest roads damaging archaeological sites, has been woeful and the CC is currently compiling a formal complaint to Scottish Forestry on a number of issues arising from the commercial forestry schemes on our doorstep. Recent illegal felling of ancient woodland at Torr Farm is current with a public meeting on a proposed forest management plan this coming Friday.

Elsewhere, Aldonaig Farm continues to be a cause of concern in the community. The Bowing Club site continues to be a difficult issue and efforts to enter into constructive dialogue with the owners has been rebuffed. Addressing a flawed grant of planning permission for a new development on Manse Brae in Rhu is ongoing. Unlicensed Air BnB establishments also continue to be a cause for concern with Argyll and Bute Council opening enforcement cases. We were pleased to see enforcement action by the Council over the use of Invergare for short term commercial rentals upheld by the Scottish Government Reporter.

A small campaign on road safety last winter, in parallel with one run by the Rhu Bay Facebook page, has resulted in a number of issues being identified, which will be collated into a report to be submitted to our Councillors.

The Local Development Plan 2 is currently under consideration by the Reporter at the Scottish Government, and we are grateful to Jim for his continued monitoring of LDP2.

I am also grateful to the CC Members for their time and efforts in examining consultations, such as Empowering Educators and planning matters. Thanks are due to Linda Duncan for her scrupulous management of our finances and Andrew Nicolson for his wise and experienced counsel as our Vice Convener. I would particularly like to acknowledge the unstinting and dedicated work undertaken by our Secretary, Jean Cook. Being a CC secretary is a hugely time consuming task juggling many different balls at once. I am sure all CC members wish to record our thanks to Jean for her hard work on our behalf. Thank you all for your support and contribution to our community.

I would also like to formally record the Community Council's thanks to George Freeman, who represented us as Councillor for our ward on Argyll and Bute Council, for his many years of service and efforts on our behalf.

Fiona Baker