

**Islay Community Council Meeting
Minutes
Service Point, Bowmore – 14th May 2026 at 18:30**

| Item | | Action |
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| 1 | <p>Present & Apologies</p> <p>Present: Islay McEachern (IME), Convenor Garry MacLean (GML), Vice Convenor Jim Porteous (JP), Secretary Richard Mansbridge (RM) Chris Abell (CA) – Video Link Sandy Taylor (ST) – Video Link Scott Currie (SC) Councillor Dougie McFadzean (DMF) Frazer Campbell (FWC), Joint Treasurer Georgia Panting – Police Scotland Lucy Schwind (LS) Minute Taker</p> <p>Apologies/Absent: Councillor Anne Horn (AH) Councillor Alastair Redman (AR) Alyson MacGillivray (AMG) Colin Fraser (CF), Joint Treasurer Jim MacCalman (JMC) Tom Skinner (TS)</p> <p>Members of the public: Jean Knowles Jean McLelland Tommy Rungay</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Declarations of Interest None</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Minutes of the previous meeting 16th April 2026 The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by RM and seconded by JP.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Matters Arising/Action Points</p> <p>Waste Bin at Uiskentuie (June 25): <i>May Update: DMF – no update on this. Keep on as an action. Now considering the possibility of placing a waste bin near Cross Houses.</i></p> <p>Islay Community Action Plan (ICAP): <i>May Update: GML updated the committee – data has been reviewed and AMG has now been working on this. An ICAP meeting will take place to finalise any actions. CA requested that any comments should be submitted in writing. (Date agreed for next ICAP meeting 4th June, 6.30 pm at the Service Point.)</i></p> <p>AOCB: Mobile Library on Islay (Dec 2025) <i>May Update: DMF updated the committee. The post for librarian has been re-advertised, and the mobile library vehicle will be repaired.</i></p> <p><i>Beach Cleaning (Sept 2025):</i> <i>April Update: No update on this. FC noted that there was a beach cleaning operation taken up by a cruise ship recently. AH will chase up regarding the community service.</i> <i>May Update: AH not available to update</i></p> <p>Solar Powered Signage: <i>May Update: JP and IME visited Elixir Distillery and spoke to Georgie Crawford regarding their support which she is happy provide and she has passed the information onto the senior team to make the final decision. Several local organisations (particularly distilleries) have also committed their support. The proposed locations for the signs are: Keills, Ballygrant, Bruichladdich, Port Ellen DMF was at Keills primary school recently talking to pupils about the speed limit and plans to reduce it. It is likely the speed limits will be reduced next year from 30 to 20.</i></p> | <p>DMF</p> <p>DMF</p> <p>AH</p> |

Correspondence:

Loganair Action:

May: IME and JP met with the director online on 29th April – Simon McNamara (Head of Government and Corporate Affairs). There have been lots of staff changes within the organisation recently. They will start sending statistics on performance as well as updates on any future plans. They propose to meet quarterly with ICC and the next meeting date has to be confirmed as well as a plan to visit Islay in the future. When statistics are received ICC will update the Ilead so this can be communicated out. A future topic for discussion will be the suitability of facilities for patients' medical transport, both at the airport and on their flights.

ST – advised there is now a 'quiet room' at Glasgow near Gate 17, which the Cancer Support Group on Islay have managed to secure for all patients travelling back to Islay.

Flood Risk Management:

CA has written to Mark Calder three times with no reply and has cc'd councillors – CA and ST will speak to DMF/AH and AR again to see if they can help move this along.

May Update: CA/ST – there has been no update/response. DMF advised that Mark has been liaising with the team responsible for the new pier development. This action is still sitting with Mark Calder.

CA: has received no response to 4 emails.

CA to email again and cc DMF in the email.

CA

Councillor A Redman Update

AR was asked for his support for projects which have halted on the Island e.g. Bowmore Square, Bowmore Pathway, Bowmore Hall. AR can add further pressure and has given a comment to the Ilead regarding Bowmore Square.

May Update: AR has raised these concerns – see report in Appendix A.

DMF understands that work on Bowmore Hall is now progressing and that Bowmore Square's raised beds are being replanted by IDI who have also taken on the care and maintenance of these beds. The council will pay for the plants that have been put in so far and IDI have a contract for the continued maintenance. He understands some small trees will also be planted in the beds.

The council's road team have been assisting to complete the paving work on Bowmore square.

GML: Is there any news on the works taking place on the High Road and when it is expected to reopen? DMF – doesn't think Scottish Water have the answer.

However, it must be done within 3 months. DMF: it appears that the work could be running a week behind schedule.

RM –There is a problem on the road in Port Charlotte by the new houses where there are two 30mph signs which are skewed and need repositioning. DMF has now reported this, job number: 260514-000655

AOCB – Machair Wind Project

ICC members to consult with as many members of the public as possible to garner opinions for or against this across the whole island

RM to respond to Iona CC

RM to contact Colonsay CC

May Update: RM updated the ICC. He has sent out numerous emails to affected parties including RSPB, Nature Scot, SPR, Jura CC, Colonsay CC, Commonwealth War Graves and had many online and face to face meetings. Questionnaires have been created but feels that this project needs be part of an inter-island working group. The main areas of concern about the impact of the project are: tourism, habitat/wildlife, economic damage, decarbonisation. So far, Iona, Tiree and Mull have said a solid 'no' to the project. Others have yet to clarify their response.

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| | <p><i>SID have said they want to see more economic benefits to Islay, and they are proposing to set up a group to focus on this. There is the potential that this could include representatives from IET, SID, IDI, ICC but there is still no clear Islay direction on this proposal. The planning application is due to be submitted in June and there is an inter-island meeting scheduled for Tuesday 19th May. If Islay wish to pursue the economic and decarbonisation benefits then this needs to be a joined-up approach and focus on what the required outcomes are. It will need the support of all local councillors and our MSP.</i></p> <p><i>RM: requested a clear mandate on what ICC want to do.</i></p> <p><i>FC: has been asking locals coming into the shop on their opinion. 15 out of 20 didn't know anything about it. When he explained the project to them, 8 were for and 19 against.</i></p> <p><i>SA: feels this will go ahead whatever ICC do and that the community benefit currently offered is insufficient. There should be a push for more compensation and the advantage of electricity if can be achieved.</i></p> <p><i>GML: should we be approaching to the Scottish Government as carbon neutral is a big initiative for them?</i></p> <p><i>IME: this needs to be taken to the highest level. He has spoken to some of his employees who also don't know about this. The proposal would be to take this to the highest level of Scottish government with evidence of what the feeling is within the community.</i></p> <p><i>CA: the important question 'what is the island viewpoint'. How do we approach whole island questions? Could we have an all-Islay meeting?</i></p> <p><i>DMF: Scottish Power would have to go through a public consultation exercise. JP has already circulated the consent application which will be submitted in early June. At the next stage of the process documents will be made available for the public in the Service Point in Bowmore.</i></p> <p><i>RM: Proposed a subgroup comprising of ICC, SID, IET, IDI, local councillors and ensure there is a good representation of the island population. Main elements to focus on would be: Community benefit and Power to Islay/Carbon Neutral Islay. The committee unanimously agreed that RM has the mandate to pursue conversations with key individuals.</i></p> <p><i>Jean McLelland – why not get First Minister Swinney to come to Islay and the Energy Minister – All agreed.</i></p> | RM |
| 5 | <p>Police Report Georgia Panting provided an update for the past month.</p> <p>There have been 30 calls from both Islay & Jura and 10 crimes, which have all been dealt with. There were no acquisitive crimes reported in April There were 9 Road Traffic Offenses; some cautions and charges, and reports have been submitted. The team will be implement some new speed awareness initiatives over the next few months and they will update ICC when they have more information. There was 1 violent crime reported and 4 public protection calls – but no public protection crimes.</p> <p>Reporting of incidents. Georgia stressed that the police can't deal with incidents unless they are formally reported to them and evidence submitted</p> <p>Rural Watch Scotland is a new initiative where users can get an alert on their phone of any nearby incidents, so it is possible to track what is happening within the community – this might be helpful for farmers.</p> <p>DMF: Noted that the children at Keills Primary School are very keen for Joe Tuohy to go and visit them.</p> <p>Staffing: There will be a new sergeant in place, Valerie Gray for up to 12 months brining the team up to 6. Also, a new full-time officer, Kevin, will be joining the team</p> | |

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| | <p>soon. Both Georgia and Megan will be leaving the island in July and August respectively.</p> <p>SC: Has anyone been booked for parking in the coned off area on Shore Street in Bowmore? DMF to email a copy of the local order for this to Georgia.</p> <p>CF: Staffing for Feis Ile. Georgia: This is still a point of contention. Planning has been given to the mainland. However, the mainland team don't seem to grasp the need for an increased team during this week. Hopefully the new Sergeant will help to resolve this. Georgia to email DMF if they want him to also help.</p> | DMF |
| 6 | <p>Councillor A Horn</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Horn – see Appendix C for her report</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Councillor D McFadzean</p> <p>A copy of DMF's report is included in Appendix C</p> <p>DMF has been working on numerous projects including: The completion of housing at Port Charlotte Bowmore Primary School visit Keills Primary School – speed reduction campaign He noted there have been lots of requests for benefit support and food bank referral requests Council roads - £1.1m has been allocated to Islay. Materials will be arriving by barge and work starting early June JP: a copy press release sent by Anne Horn stated £1.1m for Islay <i>and</i> Jura but also that there may be additional money for resurfacing (£900k). It is understood that Jura will have some roads resurfaced but that £1.1 is for Islay. Chris Wilcox did get in touch regarding additional funding for the road network as a result of the closure of Port Ellen Ferry Terminal. IME and JP met with Hugh O'Neil of A&BC on 8th May, following an earlier meeting with Clr John Armour on 28th April. Another meeting is scheduled to take place on 8th June.</p> <p>IME: should ICC be writing to the council about to highlight inconsistencies in funding. SC with assistance from DMF and IME will ask these questions</p> | SC IME DMF |
| 8 | <p>Councillor A Redman</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Redman. An update report is provided in Appendix A</p> | |
| 9 | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>FC bank balance as of 15/05/2026 £2569.75</p> | |
| 10 | <p>ICC Ferry Committee</p> <p>See Appendix B for the full report. This has been circulated by JP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP; Port Ellen closes 2nd June. He attended a CMAL meeting yesterday where they discussed the issue for the fishing fleet who can't land their catch. CMAL were meeting with representatives of this group but have communicated the outcome of this. ICC support the fishing fleet's need to have a facility where they can land their catch. The grain terminal is being kept open and in use throughout the project so it's only fair that the same flexibility is given to the fishing fleet. • Timetable – for summer 2026. ICCFC are continuing to chase CalMac for actual utilisation v booking system data. • Block bookings – improving now at 83% in March • The 2-port booking system continues to cause problems for the port teams. • New vessels – there was no event for the launch of new ship Isle of Islay so the local school children will now be taken on board and shown their pictures (from a previous competition) | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous Goods issue identified by ICC: This will have a significant impact on passenger numbers if dangerous goods are on board. ICCFC have been clear with CalMac that unless this is sorted they don't want two vessels that have this restriction. They have also discovered that empty Calor Gas cylinders being returned to the mainland are classed as dangerous goods which adds further sailings which will be impacted. This issued, coupled with the maintenance period during the week will start to create a significant impact. The onus is now with CalMac to prove their case. It was suggested that the Thursday maintenance day also needs to be revisited with hauliers and contractors. • It was noted that Oilfast are advertising on Facebook and stating they can carry dangerous goods and guarantee the space using Mundells slots and can offer a better service than Gleaner. This has been reported to CalMac. • CalMac – winter timetable will be a combination of Isle of Islay/Finlaggan or Isle of Islay/Loch Indaal. The ferry committee are waiting for response regarding capacity and frequency. • SC: Recently sailed on the new ferry and it appears CalMac have removed the Gaelic announcements. JP will raise this with CalMac • IME: Other issues that have been raised are the lack of toilet facilities, and lack of showers as well as no hot food for the early morning sailing. • The Islay/Jura promotion video is also not being shown on the TV monitors | |
| 13 | <p>Islay Community Action Plan (ICAP)</p> <p>Next ICAP Meeting: Thursday 4th June 18:30, Service Point – JP to check with Julie Chalmers for minute taking.</p> | JP |
| 14 | <p>Planning Reports</p> <p>SC updated the committee. There are still a lot of peatland applications (The Oa). Portintruan – application for changing the water supply to boreholes and holding tanks Port Ellen Playing Fields – approved Ardbeg seawall - approved St Johns Church changes – approved Laggan Moss peat harvesting application was withdrawn</p> | |
| 15 | <p>CNI (Carbon Neutral Islands) Project</p> <p>SC updated the committee. The funding to double the size of the solar array was removed, as CNI didn't spend it in time (awarded November 25, expired March 26). They are unable to re-bid for funding until after the election, so he is assuming they will now be able to re-bid for funding.</p> | |
| 16 | <p>Bowmore Hall Update</p> <p>DMF - contractors are on site, working on the roof. There are no updates on the asbestos removal. IDI remain confident they will complete on budget.</p> | |
| 17 | <p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe from Police Scotland, requesting support for road markings outside the fire station. This has been picked up by DMF and a job has been raised. This will be completed when the road marking vehicle is on the island • MAKI meeting – next meeting 27th May 2026 • Circular was sent out requesting community views on forestry in Scotland and a Scottish water survey. JP has responded. | |
| 18 | <p>AOCB</p> <p>RM – A sea mine was washed up on Machir Bay. After the controlled explosion there was a large amount of shrapnel on the beach which has now been removed. FC – Community Council elections open in June if anyone wishes to put themselves forward for this. There is also a co-option policy for interested parties.</p> | |
| 19 | <p>Date/venue for Next Meeting</p> <p>Next meeting 18th June 2026 at 18:30, Service Point, Bowmore</p> | |

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Appendix A – Councillor A Redman – report

Firstly, I would like to thank members of the Islay Community Council for their continued work on behalf of the local community. As always, a significant amount of local concern continues to centre around ferries, roads, infrastructure, public services, and the wider pressures facing island communities. Over recent weeks I have continued attending council meetings, responding to constituent concerns, raising enquiries with council departments, and engaging with a range of local and national issues affecting Islay and the wider ward.

Morrison Court, Bowmore

I continue to receive substantial correspondence regarding the ongoing works at Morrison Court in Bowmore, with frustration locally remaining extremely high.

Further information has emerged regarding concerns reportedly raised by sub-contractors before and during the works process relating to the appearance and quality of aspects of the project. I have also been contacted directly by individuals connected to the works who expressed concern that professional warnings were not properly listened to.

While I want to thank the front-line workforce for continuing to carry out their duties professionally, serious questions remain regarding the wider management and oversight of the project.

Many residents remain deeply disappointed that approximately £80,000 of public funding has resulted in an outcome that falls well short of expectations. I will continue pressing for accountability and answers.

Visitor Levy Concerns

At the last meeting of Argyll and Bute Council, elected members discussed possible exemptions relating to the proposed visitor levy and accommodation tax.

My own position remains unchanged. I continue to oppose the visitor levy in principle and believe the best exemption would be to scrap the proposal altogether.

Tourism businesses across our islands already face major pressures from rising costs, ferry disruption, and economic uncertainty. I do not believe additional charges are the right approach for rural and island communities.

Path and Pavement Concerns – Port Ellen

Following concerns raised by residents, I submitted an urgent councillor enquiry regarding heavily overgrown vegetation affecting the path and pavement toward the Port Ellen Distillery.

I understand works have now been carried out to clear the route, and I would like to thank the front-line roads and amenity workers involved.

However, concerns remain regarding the condition of the path and pavement surface itself, including uneven sections and general deterioration. I will continue engaging with officers regarding longer-term improvements.

International Day of the Midwife

I was also pleased recently to mark International Day of the Midwife and recognise the hugely important work carried out by midwives and family support staff across Islay.

My wife Nicole and I recently attended a local parent and baby support session with our newborn son, Eli, and it was encouraging to see the positive role these local initiatives play in supporting families and helping parents connect within the community.

I would particularly like to thank Tina Cunningham, Midwife, Isle of Islay, and Greta McLellan, Family Support Worker, Isle of Islay, for the important work they do supporting local families.

The care, professionalism, and support provided by those working with young families across our island communities makes a genuine difference and is greatly appreciated.

Food Price Cap Proposals

I have been following proposals relating to potential price caps on essential food items with growing concern regarding the impact on farmers and crofters.

Farmers do not set supermarket prices, and there are understandable fears that pressure could simply be pushed further down the supply chain onto food producers already dealing with rising fuel, fertiliser, transport, and operating costs.

Representatives including NFU Scotland have already raised concerns, and I will continue supporting practical policies that protect rural producers and local food production.

Fertiliser Import Charges

I have also raised concerns regarding proposed carbon-related charges on imported fertiliser expected to come into effect from 2027.

There is growing concern across the agricultural sector that these measures could significantly increase costs for farmers and crofters at a time when many businesses are already under severe financial pressure.

In rural and island communities such as ours, these additional costs are often felt more sharply due to transport and logistical challenges.

Wool Market Update

There has been some welcome news for the agricultural sector, with British Wool confirming the strongest member returns seen in the past decade.

After several difficult years for wool producers, this improvement will be encouraging for many farmers and crofters locally and may help restore some confidence within the sector.

I hope this marks part of a broader strengthening of support for rural industries and local agriculture.

Bus Shelter Updates

I have received updated information from Roads and Infrastructure Services regarding bus shelters in Port Ellen and Port Charlotte.

In Port Ellen, the Charlotte Street shelter has now been identified for full replacement following safety concerns. Officers have advised that works are being grouped together with other island projects to improve efficiency.

In Port Charlotte, the West End shelter remains under review, with both in-house repair capability and contractor works being explored. I will continue monitoring progress on both matters.

Ferry Services

I recently received a formal response from Transport Secretary Fiona Hyslop regarding ongoing ferry disruption affecting Islay, Jura, and Colonsay.

While the Scottish Government has acknowledged the impact on residents and businesses, I remain concerned that continual vessel redeployment and crisis management are not sustainable long-term solutions.

Reliable ferry services remain absolutely essential for our communities, particularly during major periods such as Fèis Ìle and the busy tourism season. I will continue pressing for dependable long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes.

Transparency and Accountability

I continue to believe strongly that transparency and openness must remain central to local government. Residents have every right to understand how decisions are made, how public money is spent, and how priorities are determined within the Council.

I will continue supporting greater openness, clearer communication, and stronger accountability across local government and public services.

Supporting Communities Fund

I was pleased to see the opening of the 2026/27 Supporting Communities Fund in my role as Shadow Policy Lead for Economic Growth.

The scheme has already supported hundreds of community-led initiatives across Argyll and Bute, helping strengthen local organisations and grassroots projects. It's fantastic to see this momentum building in Argyll and Bute.

Huge credit must go to the Policy Lead for Community Planning and Corporate Services Councillor William Sinclair for his leadership here; seeing over 850 projects supported to date shows exactly the kind of grassroots economic impact and local capacity building we need to see across our wards. Eligible not-for-profit groups can apply for grants of up to £1,500, and I would encourage local organisations across the wards to consider applying where appropriate.

Roads and Potholes

Road conditions and potholes continue to be among the most common concerns raised with me by residents across the ward.

While I appreciate the pressures facing roads teams and the scale of the network involved, many residents remain frustrated by deteriorating road surfaces, recurring potholes, drainage issues, and short-term repairs that often fail quickly.

Reliable roads infrastructure is essential for island communities, local businesses, tourism, agriculture, and daily life. I will continue raising reported issues and pressing for long-term investment and sustainable repair solutions.

Local Infrastructure Update

I was pleased to check in on the ongoing infrastructure work across the island.

It's encouraging to see positive progress on projects like the Gartbreck civic amenity site surface upgrades and the footpath works in nearby areas.

I have also been discussing plans for future road reconstruction as part of the council's 2026/27 capital programme with local constituents.

These projects are a vital step in improving our island's resilience and connectivity.

Supporting Rural Industries and Local Businesses

I continue to believe strongly that our farmers, crofters, fishermen, small businesses, and self-employed workers remain the backbone of our island and rural economy.

Across Islay and the wider ward, these sectors do far more than simply provide employment. They help sustain local communities, support families, preserve skills and traditions, and keep our rural economy functioning year-round.

Many of these businesses are currently operating under growing pressure from rising costs, transport disruption, labour shortages, regulation, and wider economic uncertainty. In island communities, those pressures are often magnified further by geography and infrastructure challenges.

Whether it is agriculture, fishing, tourism, hospitality, retail, haulage, or local trades, I believe there must be far greater recognition of the contribution these sectors make to daily life across Argyll and Bute.

I will continue supporting practical policies that strengthen local industry, encourage economic resilience, and help ensure rural and island businesses are able not just to survive, but to grow and succeed into the future.

Thank You for the Kind Messages and Support

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has sent kind messages, cards, gifts, and well wishes to my wife Nicole and I following the birth of our newborn son, Eli.

The generosity and warmth shown by so many people across the community has been genuinely appreciated by our family, and we are extremely grateful for all of the support and kindness we have received during this very special time.

Finally, I would again like to thank members of the Community Council for their ongoing work and engagement on behalf of residents across Islay. As always, should members or residents wish to raise issues with me directly, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Appendix B – ICC Ferry Committee Update

ICCFC - last regular meeting 22nd April. Draft Minutes posted in ICC website.

Other meetings: 28 April IME & JP with Clr John Armour re Islay road funding/PE closure and 8 May IME & JP with A&BC roads manager to follow up. 11 May PE Terminal Development (reference group) meeting with CMAL, A&BC & CalMac representatives;

Key issues:

Remaining Summer timetable: to 17th May, IOI + LOTI (Fin drydock). 18th May to 1st June, IOI + Fin. 2nd June to 18th Oct, IOI + Fin via PA only. (PE closed from 2nd June).

Sailings have been shown as full or unavailable in the booking system at regular intervals but have been reported as sailing with vacant vehicle space that could have been used. There have been many complaints regarding difficulty/inability to book. ICCFC is again pursuing this with CalMac.

(PA was closed 18th to 20th April for Linkspan work. All sailings were via PE. (Further power cabling work is due and although this may cause some disruption, will not result in closure of the port).

Block Bookings - showed an improvement in take up to 83% in March.

Bookings system. Long awaited fix for the Islay 2-port booking system for ports staff is due to be included in CalMac's June amendment update.

Former Waitlist procedures are under review, with Islay and Little Minch due to be used as pilots to test a revised process which CalMac is planning during a four week period in May/June - ICCFC has insisted on consultation before finalizing for the Islay route.

New vessels. Despite an earlier commitment from CalMac, there has been no event to introduce Isle of Islay to the Islay community. A brief visit is being made on 21st May by CMAL representatives to see the school children who won the painting competition and show them where their pictures will be displayed on board. ICCFC has expressed disappointment at the lack of follow up.

IME and JP have chased up Transport Scotland regarding ICCFC's request for additional funding for road improvement between Port Ellen and Port Askaig to help cope with increased traffic volumes during the closure of Port Ellen ferry terminal. TS say they are awaiting information from A&BC - hence the recent meetings with A&BC to try and make progress.

Carriage of Dangerous Goods (DG)

Awaiting further feedback from CalMac. The rules call into question the practicality of using two new vessels or operating single vessel with one new vessel. ICCFC has asked CalMac to run a comparison of capacity available based on IOI + Fin v IOI + LD, taking account of space reductions due to DG and ship maintenance stoppages. Based on the current picture, ICCFC's preference is for IOI + Fin.

On 5th May, CalMac accepted restricted DG traffic on the IOI, contrary to previous agreement with ICCFC.

This caused the 18.05 sailing ex PA to become prematurely full due to the severe reduction in passenger capacity. ICCFC protested to CalMac and CalMac apologised saying it was a staff error which would not happen again.

ICCFC has highlighted to CalMac an apparent breach of fair business practice which is being publicly advertised by a company called 'Oil Fast'. They say they can offer a better fuel delivery service than others (including the current main provider) due to a partnership agreement with a major haulier which

enables them to use that haulier's booked slots. Additionally, the haulier qualifies for a rebate for slots booked in their name. CalMac are investigating.

Winter 2026/7. CalMac has sent timetable proposal options to ICCFC based on:

1. Isle of Islay + Finlaggan
2. Isle of Islay + Loch Indaal

ICCFC has asked CalMac to look at how best to carry restricted DG and to consider the earliest Saturday am sailings from Islay going direct to Kennacraig instead of via Colonsay, to facilitate sports and other activities.

Other -

Ferries Community Board - still seeking a replacement chair. There are some board member vacancies. Further meetings are due. JP has been co-opted to a subgroup which will engage with CalMac regarding statistical output. JP is due to attend a Customer Steering Group meeting with CalMac and other FCB members on 14th May to discuss 'customer service'.

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Appendix C – Islay Community Council – Councillor Dougie McFadzean Update

Islay Community Council – Dougie McFadzean Update May 2026

Since the last community Council meeting, some of my Islay related activities (over and above the more routine enquiries) have included –

- Robin Currie Way, Port Charlotte – I am currently helping arrange a formal opening event for the new houses, with particular significance in the naming of the street. The delay in organising this is to allow the road to be finished with tar which will allow the Council to adopt the infrastructure for maintenance purposes.
- It was great to be invited to Bowmore Primary school to help showcase the amazing work the pupils and staff there have been doing over recent months. The event was part of an assessment process attended by senior education managers.
- I was also delighted to be invited to Keills Primary school to listen to the pupils concerns about speeding outside their school. The pupils, supported by teachers and parents have started a campaign to have the speed limit outside their school reduced, a reduction that I fully support. I returned a few days later and handed one of the pupils a bright yellow jacket, so there may be a yellow-jacketed scarecrow at the side of the road to help slow down traffic coming soon.
- I have attended several meetings pushing for the Project 20 team to start working in the MAKI area, including Islay. This project will help bring in reduced speed limits in our towns and villages.
- I have been arranging an increasing number of benefits support appointments and supporting island residents in securing the most financial support they can get, along with continuing to signpost people to our amazing foodbank. I don't see signs of this alleviating in the near future. I'd like to thank our Foodbank and all of the others I have tapped into for help.
- On the back of meeting with the Trustees of The Schroeder I have been helping support requests from individuals from Islay seeking some help.
- I am currently re-designing the Corporate Parenting Board which has responsibility to ensure our cared for young people have the best lives possible. There are quite a few people on Islay supported by the Board and my aim is to make it better, more visible and more engaging.
- I have been in discussion with senior management from the Council Roads and Infrastructure Dept helping identify the areas on Islay most in need of road repairs. I am delighted that Islay is to benefit from well over £1.1 million pounds of road repairs this financial year. We should really see a difference in our roads this year coming. The work will include resurfacing around 5000 m² of the A847 south of Port Charlotte, which is much needed. The materials are being delivered by barge to ensure they get here.
- I am helping the community of Port Charlotte deal with and address the ongoing, and urgent coastal erosion issues in the village. There is no easy solution to this problem and it looks like significant funding will be required. It doesn't help that the land does not belong to Argyll and Bute Council – discussions continue!
- I'm continuing to help Islay residents secure their 'forever homes', which despite the new build houses now being completed is still proving a challenge. Today I spent several hours with a constituent who told me her story about trying to get a house, where eviction by a private landlord looms over her head through no fault of her own.
- The first batch of funding for a new Jura ferry has been secured from the Scottish Govt. The final batch will be delivered next year and a new ferry will be built. I will ensure community consultation take place.
- I spent the 1st of May with Jenni Minto taking her round some specific constituent's houses where she could discuss national issues. I further spent the 8th May with her at the Scottish Election count at Lochgilphead where I was pleased she managed to get re-elected for a further 5 year term.
- On the 4th May I spent some time with a representative from the Scottish Power Renewable Machair Wind team to discuss the progress of the project and how it could impact Islay. They are anticipating a planning application will be submitted in June 2026. I am endeavouring to secure as much benefit for Islay, Jura and Colonsay as possible.

- I am working with several groups on Islay and Jura re new funding opportunities and talk with the council funding team very regularly. I am meeting them on Friday on the mainland re a number of projects.
- I have been in very regular dialogue with senior management at Calmac regarding our poor ferry service and have been advocating strongly for additional vessel deployment and resilience. This is an ongoing situation as the Islay Ferry Committee knows very well.
- I am also in dialogue with Officers from the Scottish Govt re the broken fibre cable serving Islay and am pleased to say it is scheduled to be repaired next week. ***An update is that the cable has now been fully repaired***
- I attended a Social Housing Investment Plan meeting in Dunoon where we discussed and developed strategy and partnerships to increase social housing provision for Islay and beyond. There was focus on housing for our key workers (hospitals, Police, Social Care etc).
- I have attended further meetings regarding a new planned timber haulage scheme on Islay.

As always, I am here to help and support the Islay community and will continue to do so, in a positive and constructive manner.

Thanks,
Dougie

DRAFT

Appendix D – Islay Community Council – Councillor Ann Horn Update

Please find my report for Islay CC and my apologies for being unable to attend the meeting

Islay and Jura Mobile Library service

I offered to pursue this looking for progress with the reinstatement of the service following work done by Councillor MacFadzean. I was informed by Live Argyll Officers that the post of librarian had been readvertised as there had been no suitable application. I was also informed the mobile library van is to be repaired and the intention is to reinstate the service.

There were several housing issues raised with me and I progressed them with the appropriate housing association.

I am delighted to hear of the progress of Portnahaven Church and continue to work with the committee to help bring the plans for the future to fruition.

Waste and Recycling collections

Issues were raised with me and I forwarded the concerns to officers for advice and resolution of the issue.

Morrison Square

I have been reassured that Argyll and Bute Council will now complete the works and return the area to an attractive seating area. I will continue to speak with officers to ensure there is no further undue delay.

Please don't hesitate if I can provide further information or take forward any issues

Best wishes

Anne

Councillor Anne Horn
Kintyre and the Islands
07555013484