**Islay Community Council Meeting**
**Minutes**
**Service Point, Bowmore – 26th October 2026 at 18:30**

| Item | | Action |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Present & Apologies**<br>**Present:**<br>Islay McEachern (IME),<br>Jim Porteous (JP)<br>Councillor Dougie McFadzean (DMF)<br>Tommy Rumgay (TR)<br>Tom Skinner (TS)<br>Andrew Lindsay (AL)<br>Colin Fraser (CF)<br>Petra Pearce (PP)<br>Richard Mansbridge (RM)-Video Link<br>Sgt Joe Touhy – Police Scotland<br>Kevin Mitchell – Police Scotland<br>Lucy Schwind - (LS) Minute Taker<br>**Apologies/Absent:**<br>Greig Morrison<br>Alyson MacGillivray (AMG) – Treasurer<br>Councillor Anne Horn (AH)<br>Robert McEachern (RME)<br>Lukasz Belina (LB)<br>Garry MacLean (GML)<br>Councillor Alastair Redman (AR) | |
| 2 | **Declarations of Interest**<br>None | |
| 3 | **Minutes of the previous meeting – 21st September 2026**<br>The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by TS and seconded by AL. | |
| 4 | **Matters Arising/Action Points**<br>Mobile Library on Islay (Dec 2025): *October Update: No update.*<br><br>Ferry Committee: DF – raised an issue regarding last minute ferry bookings which is not possible within a 2.5-hour window before the sailing time. JP will mention this to CalMac, but it is generally accepted that a foot passenger would be able to get onto the ferry. However, this would be affected by the DG sailings which reduces the total number of foot passengers significantly.<br>*October Update: Response from CalMac: If it is not a dangerous goods sailing (as this has restricted numbers for foot passengers), then foot passengers should still be able to get onto the ferry.*<br><br>JP CalMac is supposed to liaise with City Link regarding bus connectivity – this is a commitment within their contract. The ferry committee will take this up with CalMac<br>*October Update: CalMac have spoken with City Link and should have an update this week*.<br><br>JP – meeting with the CalMac and David McBrayne board at RNLI, Port Askaig on 30th September at 10:00 – 11:30. Anyone interested in attending to let JP know by close of play 22/09/2026.<br>*October Update: This did take place.*<br><br>*Planning & Licencing*<br>PP advised having this pm sent JP some further info and event details for 14th October to pass on to the full committee.<br>*October Update: This action has been completed*<br><br>*Roads*<br>GM will lead the subgroup for roads. JP will forward papers to GM for tomorrow's meeting with A&B Council and report back after the meeting<br>*October Update: This action has been completed*<br><br>*AOCB* | DMF |

DRAFT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Iki City: JP will send out the proposal to the new committee members<br>*October Update: This action has been completed. RM/JP updated the committee about the Iki City proposal to visit Islay and potential twinning.*<br><br>*TS Machair Wind – the application is still sitting with the marine directorate. It is now a case of 'wait and see'.* | |
| 5 | **Police Report**<br>Sgt Joe Tuohy updated the committee:<br>The report for September has been circulated. There have been a few issues. Crimes reported across the region are: Bowmore/Jura: 6, Port Ellen: 3 and Port Charlotte: 2<br>There have been no reports of anti-social driving in the last month.<br><br>There has been further engagement with the schools to break down barriers and develop the relationship.<br><br>A reminder that crimes can be reported through Crime Stoppers if they wish to do so anonymously. They can also fill in a form online at Police Scotland.<br><br>There is a current focus on information gathering particularly around drugs and how active a problem it is. Allowing the information to be gathered enables the police to act on the picture.<br><br>They are supporting the new Islay Emergency Resilience Plan and would like to invite the Community Council to attend the next meeting which will be on 24/11/2026 11:00am at the airport. If more ICC members are interested, can they let Joe know so he can add them to the shared document drive and they can review the plan for the winter ahead.<br><br>The current members of the group include representatives from: fire and ambulance service, NHS, Health & Social Care, third sector emergency services (Coastguard, RNLI), CalMac, ICC. Local councillors will also be invited<br><br>PP would like to attend on behalf of the third sector and can also represent the ICC if necessary. TS is in the same position.<br>Richard Mansfield is the ICC representative | |
| 6 | **Councillor A Horn**<br>Councillor Horn passed on her apologies.<br><br>Report is attached in Appendix D | |
| 7 | **Councillor D McFadzean**<br>Report is attached in Appendix C<br><br>Highlights of which are:<br>• A meeting in Port Wemyss regarding repairs to the coastal path, (which has been damaged badly in storms). They are looking to raise funding for repairs which is likely to be in the region of £40-50k.<br>• Meeting with Tom Murphy and Mark Calder – to highlight the roads that are in a poor condition.<br>• Meeting with Mike Clark at meeting at Kilchoman church to look at how they can save the church (the initial priority will be stabilising the walls), and setting up a possible charitable trust – the council have agreed that if it would be possible, they can knock a hole in the back wall to allow access to ancestral graves.<br>• Has been working closely with the social work department regarding the lack of social work resilience on Islay and severe delays in getting young people ASN assessments. | |

DRAFT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | • Weekly meetings with Bowmore Hall to keep this ongoing<br>• Housing applications – lots of applications received<br>• Attended a disabled persons forum for Argyll &Bute, this will be an advocacy body to attract funding, change policies and open up opportunities for disabled people.<br>• Attended an event with Petra, Health & Social Care Partnership aimed at breaking down barriers between third sector groups.<br>• Attended the Seabed Event at the Gaelic Centre | |
| 8 | **Councillor A Redman**<br>Councillor Redman was unable to attend the meeting due to technical issues with the video link.<br><br>Report is attached in Appendix B<br><br>TS/JP: It was noted that the proposed works on the A83 was one of the items. A letter from Brendan O'Hara has been circulated across the region which includes a link to a petition. There are two or three different options which were rejected by Transport Scotland, no reason has been given as to why these were rejected and the existing plan has been selected. This includes traffic diversion to a single lane route via the Old Military Road for a period of 4 years.<br><br>TS: Flooding in Port Ellen was also mentioned. TS has been doing some work on this - the only organisation that recognises Port Ellen as a flood zone is the Scottish Flood Forum. SEPA will not be reviewing coastal flooding until 2028. TS will follow this up and hopefully be able to gather sufficient evidence to give to the Scottish Flood Forum for them to then push this with SEPA.<br><br>DMF can provide the details from ACHA regarding the costs of flooding damage in the last 10 years. | |
| 9 | **Treasurer's Report**<br>Bank balance as of 23/6/2026 is £2201.75<br>Action: To get bank account signatories updated and accounts reconciled. | AMG/ CF |
| 10 | **ICC Ferry Committee**<br>See Appendix A for the full report.<br>JP updated the committee.<br>• The last meeting was held on 17th September, and the ferry committee will be meeting again this week on 28th October.<br>• Finlaggan now has a problem with one of her gangways. So, passengers currently need to use the car deck. This should be fixed in the next couple of days.<br>• Block bookings statistics from CalMac are unreliable at present - a fix is due for the winter timetable. Monthly figures are showing a downturn in commercial vehicle bookings take up compared to last year. Utilisation stats for the month show that commercial vehicles have reduced year on year, whereas car and passenger bookings are up.<br>• Wait list procedures are still under review, and a pilot is taking place in Little Minch currently. CalMac will send through a proposal when they have seen how the system works on the Little Minch route.<br>• The new vessels will now be able to sell copies of the Ileach on board. The Ileach has provided a suitable stand, and this is now being utilised on the IOI.<br>• Port Ellen Development is still going reasonably well and ahead of schedule<br>• It has been confirmed that Finlaggan will be on the Islay route for the whole of the winter timetable. Compared with using 2 new ships, this reduces a problem from maintenance stoppages and prevents DG carriage causing passenger number restrictions.<br>• Representatives from the ferry committee met with Transport Planning **xxx** last week and discussed a number of options for the summer timetable. Both | |

DRAFT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | new vessels will be utilised for the summer timetable. They are now down to three options for consideration and review. Current statistics show that Sundays and Tuesdays are quieter days and therefore may be most suitable for maintenance.<br>• JP expressed disappointment that no-one from Tourism and Marketing attended the meeting.<br>• Colonsay don't have any power right now, this coupled with forecast bad weather may entail the need to remove a sailing on Friday to support a sailing to Colonsay<br>• Have asked CalMac to explore what the impact of this will be on Friday bookings<br>• Approached by Brian Currie from Barra who is looking to set up a survey to establish current satisfaction levels with CalMac with a view to creating a committee group. After discussion, the general consensus from the committee is that it is not felt it would provide any additional benefit for Islay<br>• CalMac Community Fund - £175k of funding across the network. £1K to £10k, closes 16th November 2026. | |
| 11 | **Planning and Licencing Reports**<br>TS updated the group<br>Applications for licences – 0<br>Planning – 10 new applications of which 5 are of interest.<br>2 from CalMac for Port Ellen Pier (1 substation and underground cable and 1 x single storey ferry building.<br>1 for a dwelling near Rockside Farm<br>1 for the demolition of the Old Post Office garage building<br>1 for the formation of a vehicle access, timber stacking and turning area north of Port Charlotte by RDS Forestry Ltd. The route will avoid Port Charlotte village. There have been 5 objections to this already.<br>IME: has concerns about the impact on the road of heavy vehicles. DMF is speaking to Mark Calder about this. | |
| 12 | **Islay Community Action Plan (ICAP)**<br>IME – feels should move on with this and proposes that at the next meeting ICC schedule a date for an ICAP meeting to review what has been done so far and what needs to be done next. | IME |
| 13 | **Roads**<br>JP: There has been no update from Transport Scotland regarding ICC's request for extra funding to help cope with the Port Ellen closure. They were due to engage with A&B Council and Hugh O'Neill. Hugh was writing a proposal for Transport Scotland which included both short term and long-term plans. This has been submitted. JP is still liaising with Transport Scotland to move this forward.<br>DMF the funding committed to roads this year has been ring fenced and will be carried forward into 2027. | |
| 14 | **Facebook**<br>Andrew has been updating Facebook as he now has admin rights and can post items/articles. Posts are created as information only and not for comment. If residents have questions they can be sent via email to ICC or they are welcome to attend a council meeting in person. | |
| 15 | **CNI (Carbon Neutral Islands) Project**<br>No updates since last meeting | |
| 16 | **Bowmore Hall Update**<br>DMF updated the committee – work is progressing but there have been a few issues with the contractors which is being addressed.<br><br>There continues to be a weekly meeting which includes A&B Council representatives along with various stakeholders. This is followed by a weekly meeting with the main contractor. | |

DRAFT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | CF: There have been no public updates for the community for several months so there is a lack of understanding on what progress has been made.<br>DMF: The hall opening date has been moved several times and they are negotiating firmly with the contractor and the legal teams on the opening date. DMF is determined the hall will be open by Christmas.<br>It is likely that the external rendering will be delayed until April 2027 when the weather conditions are more suitable.<br>They have managed to source additional £90k for the building work, the total funding pot now is £520k to complete all works.<br>Once the hall is open Inspiralba are working on the building plan for how the hall will be used once it is open. | |
| 17 | **Local Place Plan**<br>PP has previously circulated some links for information and online training on 14th November (through Planning Aid Scotland). They have a planning help line where you can get advice. TS has attended a LPP training course recently which he found very useful<br><br>A local place plan is a planning and development tool and focuses on engaging the community on what they'd like to see happen on Islay. PP will send a link to a video of the planning session TS attended – which all can view if they wish to.<br><br>This activity can then feed into the Local Development Plan – it is another way of ICC engaging with the community.<br><br>Planning Aid Scotland are willing to mentor PP through the process. Anyone from ICC can attend the meetings if they wish.<br><br>PP would like to get a timeline and engagement strategy in place ready to start this over the winter and to engage with the schools and attend local events.<br><br>Themes: PP is considering housing, transport, community facilities, nature protection, jobs and business. Once the plan is created and feedback reviewed, there will be a final consultation with the community before the plan is lodged with the council. The activity is a great way of gauging what the community think and gives people the opportunity to put in anonymous comments<br><br>PP will come back to the next meeting with an engagement strategy, memo of understanding and a timeline<br><br>JP: will everyone on the island be given the opportunity to engage with this?<br>PP: the aim to try as many different avenues of communication as possible<br><br>JP: Wouldn't want this to be a duplicate of the questions already asked for the ICAP consultation.<br>PP: it will look and feel different and will ask different questions. PP welcomes involvement from any of the community council members and will send JP details to circulate. | PP<br><br>PP |
| 18 | **Correspondence**<br>• JP – it would be good to establish how many representatives from Iki City intend to visit the island<br>• 4th November 2026 – a meeting is being held with Loganair to review performance, services, fuel tax, and to review future plans, as well as what is causing issues<br>• JP has circulated an email from the Lord Lieutenant proposing a national memorial for the late Queen Elizabeth, around the coastline of Scotland. It was agreed that a positive response would be returned | RM |

DRAFT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | • Short Term Let proposal information, which has been circulated | |
| 19 | **AOCB**<br>RM update on<br>• Machair Wind – nothing to report. There will be a consultation meeting about the cables next Friday in Gaelic Centre<br>• Iki City – they have come back with dates in late March (Easter) which is not great timing. He will ask them if they can move their visit to after Easter.<br>• As part of his role for Commonwealth War Graves Commission RM has been asked to host the US Consul General from Edinburgh next month for 2 days.<br>CF – has been receiving complaints about the lack of playparks in Bowmore in particular. The existing one is poorly maintained.<br>CF has also been approached regarding the lack of clear pathways in the Bowmore area. In particular, the coastal route from Bowmore Distillery, behind the school and past the battery. Is it possible to re-instate/install a path through to Gartbreck that is accessible to all?<br>JP believes this was part of the distillery planning application – ICC could approach Chivas to see what their plans are.<br>PP suggests that CF also try both Islay Community Action Group and Bowmore Community Association. PP happy to help look for funding.<br><br>TS: Royal Mail – is there any way of putting pressure on Royal Mail to get more staff onto the Island to resolve the consistent backlog of letters in particular?<br>AL: Why are we not using emails instead of letters for medical appointments. DMF will take this forward – this is a policy decision by NHS Scotland who are not willing to change it<br>AR has written to the Chief Exec of Royal Mail. DMF suggests that complaints are sent directly to the Chief Exec rather than using the complaints address on the Royal Mail website.<br>DMF will write to Royal Mail on behalf of the community council<br>AL – roads. There have been a couple of accidents at the small bridge at Spring Bank which is currently heavily overgrown and wooded, which blocks the view and has created a blind spot. He suggests that clearing of the verges would give a better line of site. heavily wooded which blocks the view. DMF will take this forward for the council to deal with. **Update: This request has been submitted by DMF – reference 261027-000151** | CF/ PP<br><br>DMF |
| 20 | **Date/venue for Next Meeting**<br>Next meeting Mon 30th November, 18:30 at Service Point, | |

DRAFT

**Appendix A – ICC Ferry Committee Update**

ICCFC - last regular meeting on 17th September, draft minutes to be posted in ICC website. Next meeting 28th October. Other meetings: 22nd Sep, Road funding with Hugh O'Neil A&BC; 30th Sep with CalMac/DML Board members; 22nd Oct, Summer timetable 2027 with CalMac.

Problem with Isle of Islay's bow ramp fixed. Both mezzanine decks continuing to be unusable.

Kennacraig's gangway has been repaired.

Block Bookings - stats are currently misleading due to inability of CalMac's computer system to properly calculate the effect of transfers between Port Ellen and Port Askaig since June. Meeting with CalMac's IT specialist has not yet taken place but we have been assured will be resolved for start of winter timetable. CalMac say they are managing the situation and applying appropriate disciplines.

Bookings system - Long awaited fix for the Islay 2-port booking system for ports staff partially implemented and found to be a substantial improvement.

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 for later in the year. ICCFC has insisted on consultation before finalizing for the Islay route. An update is due from CalMac with a summary of the proposals, for discussion with ICCFC at this week's meeting.

New vessels - the question of onboard Ileach sales has been resolved. CalMac have yet to advise if there is any possibility of providing full breakfasts on 7 am sailings from Kennacraig and this is still being pursued. CalMac will be discussing with ICCFC the possibility of holding an event to introduce Lochindaal in the New Year. Loch Indaal was recently said to be due for handover to CMAL in Turkey this month.

Port Ellen Development - said by CMAL to be progressing well.

Carriage of Dangerous Goods (DG) - The rules call into question the practicality of using two new vessels or operating with only one new vessel plus Finlaggan. ICCFC has met with CalMac to discuss, and they held a public 'drop in' meeting at Port Ellen to further clarify. Between 30 and 40 members of the public attended.

Winter 2026/7 (19th Oct 2026-25th Mar 2027) - ICCFC strongly argued with CalMac for retention of Finlaggan during the entire Winter timetable. A compelling case was made to provide a consistent frequency with maximum capacity and sailings, compared with the inferior service that would otherwise result from two new vessels operating together. CalMac has since agreed that Finlaggan will continue to operate the Islay service throughout the winter timetable period, without maintenance stoppages or DG restrictions.

Summer 2027 - ICCFC has specified key requirements for the Summer 2027 timetable to CalMac, and this is now under discussion.

CalMac Community Fund 2026

Closing date for applications, 16th Nov. Total fund value = £175,000. Grants from £1000 to £10,000.

Already heavily oversubscribed and applications must be sorted into the most worthy, after closure.

Weather Cancellations

Numerous cancellations and timetable disruptions are expected over this weekend due to approaching storms.

DRAFT

## Appendix B – Councillor A Redman – report

I have been actively visiting every corner of the island of Islay and the wider Kintyre and the Islands ward on a regular basis to ensure our rural and island voices are forcefully represented at council level.

## The A83 Rest and Be Thankful Traffic Management Plan

As an elected Argyll and Bute Councillor for the Kintyre and the Islands ward, I am submitting this appendix to my report to formally record my total opposition to Transport Scotland's current interim proposals for Glen Croe.

While I fully recognise that constructing a permanent debris shelter on the main A83 is urgent, the interim plan to shut the main road entirely for four years and force all regional traffic onto the narrow Old Military Road under a permanent, 24/7 convoy system is completely daft and logistically unviable.

I want to make my stance on this matter explicitly clear to the Community Council: I completely support the recent rolling vehicle protests staged by our local hauliers and businesses. I am actively using my position to lobby against this damaging scheme, and I am here tonight to urge this community council to join me in fighting it. My specific objections and the core reasons behind my lobbying efforts are detailed below:

- An Unacceptable Bottleneck: Forcing all mainland and island-bound transit—which is the absolute lifeblood of Kintyre and the Inner Hebrides—into a single-carriageway, traffic-light-controlled convoy 24 hours a day for four continuous years is an unprecedented failure of planning.
- It treats a strategic regional lifeline like a minor, urban roadworks project.
- Severe Community Disruption: Leaving our constituents to endure rolling 30-to-45-minute delays in each direction will unfairly penalise residents trying to access critical healthcare services in the Central Belt, destroy our local tourism sector, and place an unmanageable burden on daily life in Argyll and Bute.
- Economic Devastation: Local haulage, agricultural suppliers, and civil engineering operators have already warned that the inefficiencies of a four-year convoy will result in missed ferry connections and spiralling operating costs.
- This short-sighted strategy risks inflicting tens of millions of pounds in losses on our local businesses.
- Dismissal of Sensible Solutions: I believe Transport Scotland has been incredibly short-sighted in dismissing community-backed alternatives.

We should be pushing for immediate, resilient options, such as properly upgrading the parallel forestry track to create a functional two-way loop or widening the Old Military Road sufficiently to maintain continuous two-way flow throughout the works.

I am firmly of the view that we cannot allow Argyll to be brought to its knees by a single-lane scheme.

I will continue to lobby the Transport Secretary directly to demand an immediate pivot toward a resilient, two-way traffic alternative that keeps Kintyre and the Islands open for business.

## Storm Boelo Emergency Update:

- Widespread Flooding: The primary concern across the region today is the severe impact of widespread flooding caused by last night's gales and heavy coastal surges.
- Property & Vehicle Damage: Beyond the extensive surface water making local roads hazardous, some houses and cars across the area have suffered direct structural and water damage.
- Power Cuts: High winds have resulted in unplanned electricity outages in some areas, with engineering teams actively working to restore connections.
- Debris & Structural Hazards: High winds have caused structural issues across the ward, scattering loose slates, branches, and debris across public footpaths and spaces.

## Community Safety & Malicious Communications

- School Hoax Emails: Following the anxiety felt by families across Argyll and Bute regarding malicious emails directed at our schools, Police Scotland have officially assessed these communications as a hoax.
- Cyber Investigation: I am maintaining constant communication with parents, teachers, and council staff to ensure safety protocols are ironclad.

I have been advised by the police that those responsible reside outside the UK, and I am demanding a rigorous investigation by Police Scotland's Cyber and Fraud Unit to hold these individuals fully to account.

DRAFT

## Port Ellen Flooding & SEPA Classification

• Bureaucratic Impasse: I have received a deeply disappointing response from the Roads and Infrastructure department regarding the persistent flooding infrastructure failures in Port Ellen.
• Funding Denied: The department stated that because the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) did not identify Port Ellen as a Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA) in its 2011 assessment, central government funding (up to 80%) is entirely unavailable.
• Proactive Action Needed: The council's claim that vital drainage and protection works are "unachievable" due to internal budget constraints is completely unsatisfactory.
Our islanders deserve strategic, ring-fenced solutions, not historical excuses.
• Evidential Push: The gully network has been checked and cleared of blockages.
The next SEPA review is not until 2028, so I am urgently requesting that residents gather photos, dates, and records of local flooding to help us build an unarguable case for Port Ellen's inclusion.

## Islay Roads & Infrastructure Updates

• The Oa Road (Oa Potholes & Maintenance): Moving on from Port Ellen to the South of the island, I am continuing to aggressively push council officials regarding the severe pothole damage and necessary maintenance required along the entire length of The Oa Road.

Our constituents rely heavily on this route, and I am pressing the department to ensure this road is not overlooked and receives the urgent resurfacing and repair attention it deserves.

• Bowmore Infrastructure & Campus Safety: Further north into the central parts of the island, I am continuing to pursue critical maintenance updates, including pressing for urgent repairs to tackle the severe potholes on Jamieson Street. Alongside this, I am pushing for safety layout and road quality improvements directly outside Islay High School and Bowmore Primary School—including repairs to potholes on School Street—focusing broadly on the busy road areas, car parks, and drop-off zones surrounding the campuses to keep traffic moving safely for parents and pupils.

• A847 Resurfacing Delays: Westward towards the Rhinns, I pressed council officers regarding the severe traffic disruption, part-time closures, and poor signage during recent resurfacing works on the A847 South of Port Mor.

• Ferry Capacity Impact: Official responses confirm that materials delivery to Bruichladdich Jetty was heavily delayed by CalMac ferry capacity constraints and vessel availability, pushing the works outside the ideal weather window. Ship-delivery operations will be planned much earlier for the 2027-28 capital programme to catch up.

• Emeravale Road Defects & Omissions: Following numerous escalations from local residents on this stretch, I have demanded urgent action regarding the heavily deteriorated and hazardous section of road at Emeravale.

While a portion of the road was thankfully repaired under the new scheme, an adjacent stretch was completely left untouched while contractor machinery was active on-site.

I can entirely understand the community's confusion and frustration regarding this omission, and I have submitted an official enquiry (Incident Reference: 261017-000034) to secure an urgent update on when resurfacing will be extended to make the entire section road-fit.

• Mansefield Road Repairs: I successfully resolved an issue where a constituent's pothole report was marked as "no further action required." The council clarified this was due to a formal works instruction already being raised behind the scenes, and repairs are scheduled.

• The Cladach Road (Backroads Maintenance): Deep in the Rhinns Peninsula, I am continuing to forcefully press council officials regarding the heavily degraded condition of the Cladach Road backroads route running between Port Charlotte and Portnahaven.

This vital rural track is a key link for local agricultural operations and residents, and I am demanding that its structural deterioration be prioritised with a proper maintenance programme.

• Rhinns of Islay Village Potholes: Finally, I am raising severe concerns regarding the sudden and extensive spread of potholes throughout our key village streets at the edge of the ward, specifically across Port Charlotte, Portnahaven, and Port Wemyss.

I am holding council teams to account to ensure that reactive repair squads are dispatched to make these local communities safe for road users.

DRAFT

## Ferry Network & Coastal Infrastructure Assets

• Winter Weather Disruptions: As the winter weather deteriorates, deep concerns remain regarding the fragility of our lifeline ferry network, as highlighted by the ongoing and highly frustrating CalMac delays and disruptions affecting our islands.
• Port Wemyss Pier Success: On a positive note, vital small-scale marine maintenance has been completed at the historic Port Wemyss pier and slipway.

The freshly poured concrete, reinforced seaward wall, and new pier steps represent a massive win for safe access for local fishers and walkers.

## Housing Strategy & Short-Term Let Control Areas

• Hospitality Sector Scapegoat: I am standing foursquare with our business community in robust opposition to Argyll and Bute Council's proposed Short-Term Let Control Areas within our ward.
• Economic Threat: Tourism is the lifeblood of our fragile coastal and island economies.

Restricting tourist accommodation will directly harm local pubs, shops, restaurants, and world-renowned distilleries, putting island livelihoods at immediate risk.

• Flawed Data Consultation: The council has already been forced to issue a public apology for utilising deeply flawed data within consultation documents.

Pushing ahead with heavy-handed regulations exposes the local authority to incredibly costly legal challenges at the taxpayers' expense.

• Genuine Social Housing Solutions: We must address our genuine housing shortage by building high-quality social housing and supporting young families rather than crippling the hard-working self-catering operators keeping our communities afloat.

## NHS Scotland Board Amalgamations & Healthcare Cuts

• Super Board Blueprint: I am actively campaigning against the Scottish Government's reckless, centralising "super board" blueprint that threatens local accountability.

I have written directly to Health Secretary Angela Constance to demand this plan be scrapped.

• Voluntary Redundancies Exposed: Despite ironclad public promises of no job cuts, newly published official workforce guidance reveals a push for voluntary redundancies and staff exit packages.

• Frontline Impact: Frontline medical professionals and major unions (BMA, UNISON, Unite, RCN) have fiercely condemned these centralisation plans.

Fewer staff on the ground will mean longer wait times and slashed services.

Our unique rural geography requires direct investment in frontline rural healthcare and community hospitals, not administrative desk-reshuffling.

## Agricultural Sector & Food Security

• Ministerial Assurance vs Reality: Following my direct demands for assurances that our livestock sector will be protected, I received a written commitment from Jim Fairlie MSP (Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands) stating the Scottish Government has "no policy to cut livestock numbers."

• Mixed Messaging: Despite this letter, Net Zero Secretary Gillian Martin recently stated to Holyrood's Climate Action Committee that slashing Scotland's cattle, sheep, and pig herds is "back on the table" to chase carbon emission targets.

I remain highly sceptical and will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our hardworking crofters and farmers to protect food security and our rural way of life.

## Refuse Collection & Service Disruptions

• Local Disquiet Over Delays: I have received an urgent service update regarding temporary disruptions to our local refuse collections due to an essential small collection vehicle being off-island for maintenance and its MOT.

DRAFT

• Community Impact: I completely share the deep frustration and disquiet of local residents regarding these service gaps on Islay and Jura.

I am keeping a very close eye on this situation and am pressing council officials to ensure that vehicle returns are prioritised and normal service resumes as swiftly as possible.

### Portnahaven Church Community Notices

• Soup Saturdays: On a very positive community note, the Friends of Portnahaven Church are hosting regular "Soup Saturdays" lunches between 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm.

• Upcoming Diary Dates: Please add Saturday 14th November and Saturday 19th December (featuring music, mince pies, and mulled wine) to your diaries.

All donations are warmly welcomed toward the church renovation fund, and I encourage everyone to attend for good food and great local chat.

### Fuel Prices & Rural Cost of Living

• Volatile Pump Prices: Fuel prices across our rural communities are hitting households and local businesses incredibly hard.

• Fairer Deal Demand: Living and working in a rural ward means driving is an absolute necessity, not a lifestyle choice.

I remain fully committed to pushing both council colleagues and central government representatives to recognise our unique geographical challenges and deliver targeted support this winter.

### Social Housing & Property Maintenance Conditions

• Damp and Mould Concerns: I am continuing to receive deeply concerning reports from tenants regarding unresolved damp and mould issues, particularly around poorly insulated windows and cold spots in local social housing stock.

• Neglected External Maintenance: There is growing frustration over the length of time it takes to address basic external repairs, with broken boundary fencing and unserviceable garden gates being left neglected for months on end.

• Demanding Action: Living in safe, dry, and secure housing is a basic right, not a luxury. I am actively pressing registered housing association officials to ensure that maintenance backlogs are cleared and that urgent window replacements and boundary repairs are prioritised before the winter weather worsens.

DRAFT

## Appendix C – Councillor Dougie McFadzean Update

Since the last Islay CC meeting a summary of some of my activity relating to Islay is below –

- I have represented Islay at very many formal committee meetings including;
    - COSLA Health and Social Care Board
    - Argyll and Bute Harbour Board (Responsibility for Bruichladdich and Port Askaig)
    - West Highland Housing Association Board
    - Argyll and Bute Policy and Resources Committee
    - Islay Development Initiative Board meetings
    - HSCP Finance and Resources Committee
    - Corporate Parenting (The Promise) Board and sub group planning meetings
- I attended a meeting with stakeholders regarding the condition and potential improvement plans for the Port Wemyss community coastal path. I invited council officers to this meeting to explore funding opportunities.
- I met with Roads and Infrastructure managers Tom Murphey and Mark Calder on Islay, to discuss ongoing works and issues on Islay.
- I further met with these officers along with several community representatives at Kilchoman Church and graveyard regarding the deterioration of the building and exclusion of visitors from the graveyard. I am working with the community and some new key stakeholders to develop a plan to save the church and bring it back into community use. Please reach out to me if you are interested in helping.
- I attended the care homes consultation event at ICCI where I spoke with community members and Officers from the Health and Social Care Partnership re forming the vision for care home provision on Islay and beyond.
- Due to ongoing issues here on Islay, I have had regular discussion with senior managers within our social work department to try and improve things.
- I have been helping several small business owners develop their businesses and connecting them with the right people within the Council.
- I have had weekly meetings with the Council finance and project delivery teams, along with privately contracted bodies to drive the Bowmore hall development, which continues to progress. There is a stringent monitoring process in place.
- I have been developing a Trauma Informed awareness strategy to help protect people who have experienced or are likely to experience trauma in the workplace or elsewhere
- I continue to help constituents secure homes on Islay by supporting their applications and meeting with housing officers to advocate for my constituents. Very recently several people I have been working with for some time have secured a much needed home. Just in the past 2 weeks I have taken on a further 3 constituents whom I intend to support.
- With my policy lead for care services hat on, I have been working hard to protect island services and ensure our people get the care needed. With this in mind I am working with Becs Barker and other key players to help create and build a Disabled Person's Forum for Argyll and Bute. My vision is to have 4 locality based groups serving across Argyll and Bute, with one over-seeing committee at Council level. The aim is to advocate for and support our disabled residents and give them a local, collective voice. I attended the inaugural meeting of the team in Inveraray which was very well attended.
- I have been dealing with neighbour disputes, financial disputes, electricity supply issues, anti-social behaviour issues, benefit advice and other pleas for help.
- I attended the 'Sea The Connection' event at the ICCI, organised by Emma Baker. This was an excellent event highlighting the damage to Islay's seabeds, and conservation efforts to protect them.

DRAFT

It was fascinating to hear about the wealth of natural resources on our doorstep and the opportunities available to nurture it.

- I have also been gauging public opinion on several upcoming decisions requiring to be made by council, including the visitor levy and short term let control areas.
- I continue to liaise closely with Calmac re their service provision and am in regular communication with their area manager.
- The planning delays on islay are improving slowly and I continue to support individuals and businesses going through that arduous process!
- I attended the first meeting of the small ICC sub-group to develop plans regarding a Local Place Plan.
- In these challenging financial times, compounded by a lack of human resources for some key sectors within health and social care, I was delighted to attend and help facilitate our first 'Flourishing Argyll' seminar last week. This concept was born out of us having to make challenging financial decisions at our last HSCP budget setting meeting. We need to work more collaboratively with the third sector, and this event was an opportunity to share ideas, problems and gain some mutual understanding. This will be start of something very positive for Argyll and Bute.
- Over the weekend I visited several 'at risk' areas across Islay as we experienced the first storm of the season. I spent some time in Port Ellen, specifically Frederick Cr which is at risk of flooding. I spoke with residents there who were frightened of a repeat of last year, took some evidential pictures and have raised this once again with Council Officers for solution to be found.
- Our resilient island has fared reasonably well this time round, but I'm afraid Tarbert, also in my Ward, didn't fare so well. There is significant flooding there and I have been liaising with Council Officers to make sure there is support there. Cllr Horne has been very busy all day in the village offering practical help, whilst also liaising with Officers.

DRAFT

**D – Councillor Anne Horn Update**

DRAFT