

**Islay Community Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Service Point, Bowmore – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 18:30**

| Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
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| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Present &amp; Apologies</b></p> <table><tr><td><p><b>Present:</b><br/>Islay McEachern (IME), Convenor<br/>Garry MacLean (GML), Vice Convenor<br/>Jim Porteous (JP), Secretary<br/>Kevin Hobbs – CEO, CMAL<br/>Sgt Valerie Gray (VG) - Police Scotland<br/>Colin Fraser (CF), Joint Treasurer<br/>Frazer Campbell (FWC), Joint Treasurer<br/>Richard Mansbridge (RM)<br/>Tommy Rumgay (TR)<br/>Chris Abell (CA)<br/>Sandy Taylor (ST)<br/>Lucy Schwind - (LS) Minute Taker</p></td><td><p><b>Apologies/Absent:</b><br/>Scott Currie (SC)<br/>Alyson MacGillivray (AMG)<br/>Jim MacCalman (JMC)<br/>Councillor Anne Horn (AH)<br/>Tom Skinner (TS)<br/>Councillor Dougie McFadzean (DMF)<br/>Councillor Alastair Redman (AR)</p><p><b>Members of the public:</b></p></td></tr></table>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Present:</b><br/>Islay McEachern (IME), Convenor<br/>Garry MacLean (GML), Vice Convenor<br/>Jim Porteous (JP), Secretary<br/>Kevin Hobbs – CEO, CMAL<br/>Sgt Valerie Gray (VG) - Police Scotland<br/>Colin Fraser (CF), Joint Treasurer<br/>Frazer Campbell (FWC), Joint Treasurer<br/>Richard Mansbridge (RM)<br/>Tommy Rumgay (TR)<br/>Chris Abell (CA)<br/>Sandy Taylor (ST)<br/>Lucy Schwind - (LS) Minute Taker</p> | <p><b>Apologies/Absent:</b><br/>Scott Currie (SC)<br/>Alyson MacGillivray (AMG)<br/>Jim MacCalman (JMC)<br/>Councillor Anne Horn (AH)<br/>Tom Skinner (TS)<br/>Councillor Dougie McFadzean (DMF)<br/>Councillor Alastair Redman (AR)</p> <p><b>Members of the public:</b></p> |  |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>CMAL Update from Kevin Hobbs</b><br/>KH provided an update of the situation to date: 4 ships were ordered from Cemre 4 years ago. However, due to several circumstances the process has been severely delayed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ukraine/Russia war: Ukraine was the source of marine steel. This is now coming from China but the disruptions have set the project back.</li><li>• Earthquake in Türkiye: This affected many of the workers who lost family members.</li><li>• Closure of the Suez Canal due to Houthi rebels</li><li>• Iranian war</li></ul> <p>CMALs lawyers advised best way to secure the ships was to buy the hulls outright. The best estimate for completion (not delivery) is: Loch Indaal, September 2026, Lochmor – December 2026, Claymore end of Q1/March to April 2027.</p> <p>RM advised that the main frustration has been the lack of communication from CMAL. KH: This was due to sensitivities for the shipyard that could adversely affect the future of the shipyard. CalMac are now starting to assemble their teams for the Loch Indaal.</p> <p>CF: Who is paying for the defects on the IOI. KH – this is being paid for by the yard and their suppliers. When purchased, the ships retain a £% for correcting any defects. The current decision to bring IOI into dry dock was to repair the bow ramp and any other defects that had been identified. The timing of this was decided on to try and reduce the overall impact on the summer timetable.</p> <p>RM: Have there been lessons learnt from IOI such as the limited toilets, lack of showers, reduced quiet areas. Has there been any redesign based on feedback?<br/>KH: for these modern ships there is also more equipment required which reduces the footprint of what can be done inside. For example, extra space has been taken up for the regeneration of heat (which helps to reduce the carbon footprint). Therefore, it is not possible to make any changes to the interior designs<br/>FC: MCA dangerous goods – will this be the same on the new vessels?<br/>KH: No change, older ships have grandfather rights but at some point, all vessels will have this in place (as older ships leave the network).<br/>GML: Is there no way to design around this on future vessels?<br/>KH: IMDG code (international) that must be followed<br/>JP: Reports of vibration on the vessel.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |

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|   | <p>KH: there is a 'sweet spot' for vibration, and it takes time to learn where this is. It is probably more noticeable when the ship first arrived. The crew now know when this happens and will run through it.</p> <p>The engine management system and power management are remotely monitored throughout the day. If this remote team see anything they will let the ship know. They can diagnose and reprogramme whilst the vessel is in operation.</p> <p>RM: As a member of the coastguard, he doesn't want to see a repeat of the flooding in Port Ellen. When the terminal development team gave the presentation all the modelling was done around the marina. Will the spill from the dredgers affect the modelling?</p> <p>KH: No it shouldn't, in fact it may help. It is being dumped in deep water and approximately 30,000 cubic meters will be removed from the harbour. The access to the marina and bay will be a lot deeper than previously. The reality is that weather events are becoming more frequent and more ferocious and hit hard. The situation will continue to be monitored (for a number of years). The dump site being used was always under consideration and was just awaiting consent to be issued and is the same site as the 2011/12 project.</p> <p>They are currently setting up the site cabins in the harbour and are working with local fishermen to find solutions for them.</p> <p>CF: Flooding in Frederick Crescent. Can some of the machinery be used to scrape the shoreline of the bay to try and mitigate the flooding?</p> <p>KH: can speak to the contractor and see if this is possible but doesn't know whether this would require an environmental study etc. KH will ask to see if this would be possible and speak to their Environmental Manager.</p> <p>KH offered to attend meetings to update the committee every 6 months or so.</p> |                       |
| 2 | <p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                       |
| 3 | <p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b></p> <p>The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by GML and seconded by ST.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                       |
| 4 | <p><b>Matters Arising/Action Points</b></p> <p><b>Waste Bin at Uiskentuie (July 2024):</b><br/> <i>June Update: No update on this. GML reported that Port Mor and also Port Charlotte Shop have now had their bins removed. DMF is aware and trying to get Port Mor put back although they do have use of the commercial bins but was unaware that the bin outside the shop has also been removed. He will investigate this and the continuing lack of provision at Blackrock.</i><br/> <i>July Update: GML: understands that the Port Charlotte and Port Mor bins won't be re-instated as the land is privately owned. GML to check with the owner</i></p> <p><b>AOCB:</b><br/> Mobile Library on Islay (Dec 2025)<br/> <i>June Update: DMF – the job vacancy is now going out for the third round of advertising. The library vehicle is repaired</i><br/> <i>July Update: It is understood that the job vacancy is still being advertised. Update at next meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Beach Cleaning (Sept 2025):</i><br/> <i>April Update: AH will chase up regarding the community service.</i><br/> <i>May Update: AH not available to update</i><br/> <i>June Update: No update</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>GML</p> <p>DMF</p> |

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|   | <p><i>July Update: No update</i></p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management (May 2025):</b><br/> <i>July Update: Brief update from CA – DMF was to contact Mark Calder. DMF has sent a press release about a flood alleviation study in Tobermory. DMF has also sent an email to Mark Calder and requested an update on Port Ellen. This has been acknowledged by Mark Calder, but nothing further has been heard. CA will check with DMF to see if he has written to Andrew Summers. JP – suggested including Jenni Minto into correspondence and ask for her support – CA will write to Jenni and ask her to assist – GML proposed the email is sent to the head of service and cc DMF and Jenni Minto.</i><br/> <i>FC – would it be worth getting a copy of the 2011 report to CMAL.</i><br/> <i>CA will draft a summary of where we are with this and send to JP who will circulate and members can then take a view on next steps.</i></p> <p><b>AOCB – Machair Wind Project</b><br/> <i>June: Will be covered later in the meeting</i></p> <p><b>Police Report (June 2026)</b><br/> AR has received several complaints from constituents regarding the amount of time it took for the police to respond to this crime. VG: Asked if AR can provide a synopsis of the concerns raised to him and the context of this so there can be a meaningful communication with senior officers.<br/> <i>July Update: Action closed</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>AH</p> <p>CA</p> <p>CA</p> |
| 5 | <p><b>Police Report</b><br/> Sgt Valerie Gray – provided an update on the recent activity.</p> <p>There were 2 acquisitive crimes Islay/Jura last month. One was stealing a parcel delivered to someone's address and the other, moving yellow 'reduced' stickers in the co-op (fraud).</p> <p>Vehicle/Traffic incidents included seizing a vehicle that was not insured and the driver has been charged for dangerous driving and insurance breaches. The vehicle is now insured and has been reclaimed by the driver. They will continue to address any future concerns.</p> <p>There were two assaults reported. One of which was within a family setting and the second, more serious assault involving knives in a public space. Charges have been made.</p> <p>Amy and Donald were called to Jura on Tuesday and also helped with rescue at a walk in conjunction with the coastguard and community.</p> <p>Some of the team spent a morning in Port Ellen to deal with incorrect fishing vessel docking.<br/> Amy has met with the RSPB regarding joint work on prevention activities.<br/> VG is looking to start regular engagement with the local newspaper, the Illeach and is keen to re-establish special constables on Islay and Jura. There is also a recommendation that Colonsay becomes part of their responsibility (with an extra police officer).</p> <p>Megan has now completed her secondment and left the island and Georgia will also leave in a couple of weeks. They are expecting a new officer from Aberdeen who arrives on 20<sup>th</sup> August as a secondment.</p> <p>JP: Traffic management at Port Askaig have they had to deal with any congestion issues with this on the hill and road down? VG: not specifically, they have been trying</p> |                               |

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|    | to be visible at the port and there have not been any issues they needed to respond to.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |
| 6  | <b>Councillor A Horn</b><br>Apologies received from Councillor Horn – report is attached in Appendix D                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |     |
| 7  | <b>Councillor D McFadzean</b><br>Report is attached in Appendix C<br>Of note: The McTaggart leisure centre AGM has been delayed as there were insufficient members in attendance – can members all ensure they join the next AGM meeting date to enable this to be completed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |
| 8  | <b>Councillor A Redman</b><br>Report is attached in Appendix B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |
| 9  | <b>Treasurer's Report</b><br>FC: bank balance as of 22/06/2026 is £2206.50<br>Funds for ICAP have not yet been returned to A&B Council.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |
| 10 | <b>Community Council Election – 20th August 2026</b><br>Results of this have been published                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |     |
| 11 | <p><b>ICC Ferry Committee</b><br/>See Appendix A for the full report. This has been circulated by JP.</p> <p>Three main issues – one of which is the winter timetable (this has been published by CalMac without consultations and has significant potential problems). The ferry committee has challenged this with CalMac and as a result, a senior CalMac management team is visiting Islay to discuss with ICC and ICCFC members on Tuesday at 12:00 at the Service Point.</p> <p>The other issue is the current temporary timetable. ICCFC were advised that IOI would be going in for repairs for 2 weeks and will be replaced by IOA during this period. CalMac have checked existed bookings and believe there will be sufficient capacity. They omitted to say they were also altering the timetables which affects about 50% of the bus connections. This has not been discussed with the community. They have responded to JP's communications and provided an improved timetable, which requires feedback. JP requested committee members to review and provide feedback on the revision.</p> <p>CF – 6pm sailing on Sundays, cancellation is a big issue.</p> <p>The third issue is the carriage of 'restricted' dangerous goods which affects the passenger capacity on the vessels. ICCFC have requested that the rules are clarified, volumes clearly identified and to review details of how CalMac are proposing to manage capacity and timetabling.</p> <p>ICCFC are now able to test the 'capacity utilisation' with CalMac to make sure that the bookings system and actual usage match (or not).</p> | ICC |
| 12 | <p><b>Islay Community Action Plan (ICAP)</b><br/>CA summarised progress to date:<br/>Published report phase 1, 2024. Phase 2 results agreed. The report including this information was being updated by GML.</p> <p>There is now a substantial set of information and interpretation that the ICC can move on to create the action plan - two major things to consider for this would be: what will it look like and what is going to go in it. Once there is draft community action plan a decision can be made on how this will be taken forward i.e. consultation with the community to engage partnership working</p> <p>CA/ST and RM have all shared the 5 essential things that should be headlined in the action plan. ST the three lists of suggestions capture the various suggestions and priorities that were submitted by the community.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |     |

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|    | <p>JP – need to sift out the community feedback from the data and establish what the key areas are that they have requested, before an action plan is concluded. Important to prioritise the top community demands in any lists.</p> <p>ST and CA will not be on the next community council but if it would be useful for the future ICC they are happy to present what they have done and where the process is at.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| 13 | <p><b>Planning Reports</b></p> <p>RM – The deadline for the consultation for the Machair Wind Project has been extended beyond 29<sup>th</sup>/July to 15<sup>th</sup> September. Any public and community council comments need to be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> August 2026.</p> <p>A hard copy of the Environmental Impact Analysis is available for people to read at the Service Point (although this is a sizeable document). Iona has already done a considerable amount of work on this and identified that any environmental risk has been graded as ‘negligible’.</p> <p>RM requested a position from ICC to submit. ‘Object Now’ is an organisation that Iona have been involved with. They can analyse planning documents and identify any areas that can be used to form an objection. Iona has very positive feedback about them. RM requested agreement for the position of ICC and funding to engage Object Now to prepare an analysis based on the Islay perspective, of £340.00. There was unanimous consent from all 7 committee members.</p>                 |  |
| 14 | <p><b>CNI (Carbon Neutral Islands) Project</b></p> <p>No update</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| 15 | <p><b>Bowmore Hall Update</b></p> <p>No update – DMF report states in his report that they are planning an ‘open day’</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| 17 | <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication from Portnahaven that they are planning on erecting a poster board in the bus shelter which will provide local information. This has been checked with AR and planning permission is needed</li> <li>• Emergency planning group meeting is due to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, from 11am to 1pm. RM will attend this meeting on behalf of the ICC.</li> <li>• Artist who wants to talk to the ICC regarding a project called ‘Collective Home’</li> <li>• An ongoing query regarding the spelling on the Isle of Islay in Gaelic. Advice was sought from a Gaelic expert who advised that both ways of spelling Isle of Islay are correct</li> <li>• Japanese twinning – IME has had a meeting with one of the distilleries who was interested in this. RM will take the lead in the short term. RM to send a holding message</li> <li>• Community resilience fund next round – need a representative on a call next week. All encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more.</li> </ul> |  |
| 18 | <p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>15/09/2026 next date for McTaggart Leisure Centre AGM</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| 19 | <p><b>Date/venue for Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Next meeting TBC</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |

## Appendix A – ICC Ferry Committee Update

ICCFC - last regular meeting 7th July, next due on 17th August. Draft Minutes posted in ICC website.

Other meetings: 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June CalMac Customer Steering group. 29<sup>th</sup> June IME/JP with Chris Wilcock and others from TS re Islay road funding. 2<sup>nd</sup> July CalMac Customer Steering group. 3<sup>rd</sup> July IME/JP with A&BC Hugh O'Neill and others re roads. 6<sup>th</sup> July IME/JP with CalMac Neil Hunter re Waitlist pilot.

Ongoing problem with Isle of Islay's bow ramp, forcing vessel to dock stern first, with some vehicles having to reverse. Vessel removed from service 14<sup>th</sup> July for two weeks for repairs. Isle of Arran temporarily substituted. An IOI sewage problem on 2<sup>nd</sup> July caused the cancellation of two sailings.

Sailings have been shown as full or unavailable in the booking system at regular intervals but then subsequently reported as having vacant vehicle space. ICCFC has again pursued this with CalMac and CalMac has produced a snapshot of utilisation for some sailings that were reported as full. They have offered to do this again on request, to assist investigations. Calmac has sent an update of vessel configurations, which has been circulated within the ICCFC. There has been no news regarding ICCFC's proposal for a summit meeting to discuss the Islay ferry service, hosted by MSP Jenni Minto.

Kennacraig's gangway has remained out of service weeks and CalMac have said that an update regarding repair is due at the end of this week.

Portinruan distillery has raised a problem of shipment of a large crane due to Port Ellen's closure. ICCFC has asked CalMac to reach out to Elixir.

For Islay show day, 13<sup>th</sup> Aug, CalMac has agreed an extra sailing at 7 am from Kennacraig to assist.

Block Bookings - stats showed take up of 93% in May, which is slightly down on April. CalMac thinks partly due to sailing disruptions and that June should reflect a more stable situation. Hauliers are being charged for 'no shows' and booking allocations are being adjusted taking account of usage.

Bookings system - Long awaited fix for the Islay 2-port booking system for ports staff still to be implemented. CalMac say this is now due soon.

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. A paper from CalMac is awaited with a summary of the proposals, for discussion within ICCFC.

New vessels - CalMac has committed to hold a community event when Loch Indaal joins service. ICCFC has insisted that this must be open to the entire community. It may involve one or more short vessel trips.

There has been some negative feedback regarding IOI in that it has no passenger showers, no coffee bar and a reduction in toilet and shop space, compared with Finlaggan. Lack of breakfasts on 7 am sailings from Kennacraig has been again questioned with CalMac and they have agreed to investigate further and revert.

IME and JP have again chased up Transport Scotland regarding ICCFC's request for additional funding for road improvement between Port Ellen and Port Askaig to assist with added pressures during the closure of Port Ellen ferry terminal. TS originally said they are awaiting information from A&BC - hence the recent meetings with A&BC to try and make progress. ICCFC has now requested a meeting of all parties and TS is trying to arrange a date and time.

Port Ellen Development - Concerns were raised locally on social media about a change in the arrangements for dumping dredged materials from the port area. It is claimed that instead of at Port Askaig as originally planned, the material (up to 62,000 tonnes) is now being dumped around 900 metres from the shore at Port Ellen. There is a worry that that this could later be washed back to the shore in

certain wind and tidal conditions, thereby increasing the existing risk of flood damage to properties through blockage of outlets. Also causing a possible need for further dredging. ICCFC has asked CMAL for assurances that this has been properly assessed. CMAL has responded to the effect that it has been and that the costs of taking the material as far as Port Askaig would be considerably higher. CMAL's chief executive is visiting the island on the 16th. It is hoped that he will attend the ICC meeting to provide an update on progress and an assurance on dumping of dredged materials.

Carriage of Dangerous Goods (DG) - Awaiting further feedback from CalMac. The rules call into question the practicality of using two new vessels or operating with only one new vessel plus Fin. ICCFC has asked CalMac to check volumes and 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.

CalMac has said that the 'Oilfast' arrangement does not in their view breach any of the current rules. ICCFC has advised that if this were to proliferate, there would have to be a more serious investigation.

Winter 2026/7 - CalMac has published a timetable without prior discussion of the detail with ICCFC, contrary to previous assurances. A strong protest was made to CalMac and complaints forwarded, including questions about removal of some important sailings. These were summarised for CalMac who have subsequently apologised for their failure to consult. At ICCFC's request, they will now meet members on Tue 21st at Bowmore to discuss. Hopefully as many as possible ICC/ICCFC members and Councillors will attend, to provide support and help reflect the extent of concern.

Apart from other inadequacies, issues include the accommodation of restricted DG, which was raised months ago. Also, the ongoing dissatisfaction with refusal of ICCFC's request for the 7 am Saturday sailings from Islay scheduled direct to Kennacraig instead of via Colonsay, to facilitate sports and other activities.

Other - Ferries Community Board - has appointed a replacement chair, Mary MacInnes from South Uist. Another member has resigned and there are some board member vacancies. JP has been co-opted to a subgroup which will engage with CalMac regarding statistical output. During the 6+ hour meeting on 5th June, JP asked about:

Vessel capacities - whether lane meterage configurations are now correctly recorded. Information on this has recently been circulated.

Utilisation - whether figures could be made available as they were in the past.

Captains - whether CalMac has sufficient for resilience cover with adequate certification for all routes.

## **Appendix B – Councillor A Redman – report**

Dear Community Councillors and Residents,

Please find below a summary of the core issues, casework, and advocacy work I have undertaken on behalf of Kintyre and the Islands over the past month.

As your Independent councillor, my priority remains standing up for our rural and island communities against decisions made by central bodies that threaten our local resilience, transport links, and safety.

### **1. Opposing Planned Coastguard Cuts & Safeguarding Safety**

This month, I have fiercely raised my opposition to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) proposals to scrap hourly emergency call-out payments for our local crews and transition them to an expenses-only model.

Our Coastguard Rescue Teams across Islay, Kintyre, and the wider Argyll and Bute coastline are an absolute lifeline, not a luxury.

Leaked figures show that up to half of our island rescue officers could be forced to step down if these changes go through, directly threatening emergency response times for our fishing, farming, and tourism sectors.

While intense public backlash has forced a temporary pause from central government, I am publicly demanding a permanent cancellation of these dangerous cuts to protect the crews who protect us.

### **2. Demanding Action on CalMac Ferry Timetable Cuts**

The publishing of the CalMac winter timetables has sparked significant, justified anger across our islands.

The schedule features deep cuts—including the loss of the critical 18:00 Sunday service—which directly isolates our islands, disrupts families, and damages local groups.

Worse still, CalMac management flatly ignored explicit assurances to consult the Islay Community Council Ferry Committee (ICFC) before publishing the schedule.

Key, expert local representations—such as our request for a 7:00 am Saturday sailing from Islay to Kennacraig—were completely rejected.

I have sent a formal letter to CalMac management demanding they answer for this total disregard of islanders' voices, and I stand firmly with our hard-working ferry committee to push for a fair, reliable transit schedule.

I have also been receiving justifiable concerns from my constituents about the busses and our ferries not always linking up.

Thus is simply unacceptable, we need more joined-up thinking from Cal Mac's management.

### **3. Celebrating the Official Opening of the Port Ellen Development**

On a very positive note, it was an absolute honour to attend the official opening ceremony for the brand-new Port Ellen Playing Fields Pavilion and Motorhome Site.

This milestone is the culmination of nine long years of dedicated fundraising and hard work, raising an incredible £2.8 million to replace the old 1953 infrastructure with a state-of-the-art facility.

It was wonderful to bring my own family along to share in the community celebrations and watch May Carmichael officially cut the ribbon.

This development will provide a fantastic economic boost while offering top-tier services to both local residents and visitors.



I would like to extend my warmest thanks and congratulations to the South Islay Development (SID) Board, its chairman Dr Pat McGrann, and every single organiser, contributor, and volunteer who laboured tirelessly over the years to bring this brilliant project to life.

#### **4. Tackling Overgrown Grass Verges and Road Safety on Islay**

I have been actively addressing serious concerns regarding unmaintained roadside grass verges in several areas across the island of Islay.

The lack of regular cutting has allowed vegetation to overgrow significantly, creating severe visibility issues and compromised safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike on our narrow island routes.

To resolve this, I have formally raised these safety concerns directly with the relevant council officers and the appropriate departments.

I am pushing for an immediate operational intervention to clear these sightlines before an avoidable accident occurs, and I will continue to track this issue closely to ensure our roads remain safe.

#### **5. Raising Strong Opposition to the Machair Wind Offshore Proposal**

I am standing firmly alongside local constituents in raising deep concerns regarding the proposed Machair Wind offshore wind farm development, slated for the waters west of Islay and Kintyre. While renewable projects are important, they must not come at the expense of our established local economies or our irreplaceable natural heritage.

This vast development threatens to encroach on vital, historic fishing grounds, presenting a direct risk to our local marine sectors and maritime livelihoods.

Furthermore, the immense scale of the turbines risks severely impacting the pristine natural beauty and coastal scenery that defines Islay and Colonsay.

In my view, there is a distinct lack of tangible, long-term economic benefits returning directly to our local communities from this project.

I am formally registering my opposition to ensure our islanders' voices and core industries are protected.

I have also signed this petition. Please back our islands, protect our seas, and add your voice.

Sign and share the petition today. <https://www.change.org/p/please-support-our-hebridean-islands-say-no-to-machairwind>

#### **6. Voting Against Duplicative Visitor Levy Consultations**

During the recent full council meeting, I voted directly against the proposal to launch a secondary consultation regarding the introduction of a visitor levy or tourist accommodation tax.

Our local communities and businesses have already engaged extensively with the legislative process and made their views perfectly clear.

In my professional view, repeating the exact same consultation process is an unnecessary use of taxpayer funds that could be better spent on front-line local infrastructure.

It creates an impression that public feedback is being sought repeatedly until a specific preference is achieved.

I believe we must respect the feedback already given by our hard-working tourism operators and residents, rather than burdening them with redundant bureaucratic exercises.

#### **7. Local Infrastructure and Pressing Casework**

\* Laphroaig Road Resurfacing Disruption:

Following urgent complaints from Islay constituents regarding dangerous, steep transitional ramps left behind by unfinished road resurfacing works near the Laphroaig Distillery entrance, I formally intervened with the Council Roads Department.

I have demanded a swift inspection and smoothing of the area to prevent mechanical vehicle damage and protect local drivers.

An official acknowledgement has already been logged under Incident/Question Reference: 260711-000035. I will share their full response with you all as soon as it comes through.

**\* Road Maintenance and Potholes:**

I am continuing my ongoing pressure on the roads department regarding our core transport corridors and rural single-track roads.

I am pushing for proper, long-term resurfacing solutions rather than temporary patching that quickly breaks down.

**\* Advocating for Social Housing Standards and Accessibility:**

A significant portion of my casework this month has focused on the living conditions within our local social housing stock.

I am actively engaging with housing associations to push for the swift installation of wheelchair ramps to guarantee proper access to homes.

Furthermore, I am addressing concerns regarding bathroom adaptations, firmly advocating that housing providers allow traditional baths for residents who require them rather than enforcing a rigid, shower-only standard.

## **8. Championing Our Primary Producers:**

Farmers, Crofters, and Fishermen

Our rural economy relies entirely on the strength of our primary industries.

I want to emphasise my unwavering support for our local farmers, crofters, and fishermen, who form the very backbone of Kintyre and the Islands.

These sectors are facing unprecedented financial pressures, from rising supply costs to logistical hurdles caused by unreliable transport links.

It is vital that we fiercely protect their way of life and safeguard food security.

I will continue to use my platform to lobby for robust support, fair regulations, and the local investment needed to ensure that our agricultural, crofting, and marine sectors remain viable for generations to come.

## **9. Backing Our Small, Local, Family-Run Businesses**

In the same vein, our small, local, family-run businesses are the lifeblood of our high streets and villages.

From independent shops and tradespeople to local cafes and hospitality providers, these enterprises do far more than provide services—they keep our economy moving and provide essential local employment.

Running a family business in a rural or island setting comes with unique challenges, particularly during the off-season.

I am deeply committed to championing their interests at every level of council.

We must foster an environment that helps them thrive, including resisting counter-productive taxes and ensuring our infrastructure actively supports, rather than hinders, small-business growth.

## **10. Broad-Based Strategic Oversight and Local Campaigns**

### **\* Summer Tourist Infrastructure:**

With peak visitor numbers arriving, I am keeping a close eye on local infrastructure to ensure our bins are emptied regularly, public toilets are maintained, and waste disposal points for campervans are operating smoothly.

There are also concerns about the removal of bins in Port Charlotte and other areas.

This is very much the wrong approach in my opinion.

We need more bins, larger bins and more regular uplifts especially in our busier months.

### **\* Protecting Rural Education and Healthcare:**

I remain a staunch defender of our local public services.

I am committed to fighting any potential central budget reductions that could impact our rural schools, teacher numbers, or local healthcare provisions.

Our remote communities deserve the same high standards of education and medical access as the rest of the country.

### **\* Digital Connectivity:**

I am continually lobbying providers to address persistent mobile signal blackspots and push for a faster rollout of reliable broadband to our most isolated households.

As always, I operate completely independently of any political party, working strictly for the people of Kintyre and the Islands.

Please contact me directly via email or phone if you require assistance with any local council matter.

## Appendix C – Councillor Dougie McFadzean Update

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. The date is still TBA.
- I attended the Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation board, representing Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands where I expressed my concerns re mistakes being made when evaluating the rates for several small businesses in Islay and beyond. These issues are being addressed.
- I was also honoured to attend the official opening of the Port Ellen Pavilion. This is a fantastic community facility which will benefit Islay for many years to come. I wholeheartedly congratulate all the staff and volunteers from South Islay Development who fought for and delivered this amazing project.
- I have had more discussions 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. Indeed, a few weeks ago I witnessed some dangerous driving on Islay which has resulted in a male driver being charged with numerous offences. I was also very disheartened to hear reports and see the video of an adult male appearing to cause a disturbance in Bowmore, which may have a relation to anti-social driving. I'd like to thank the local police for their decisive action.
- Attending the meeting of Full Council on your behalf, in person at Kilmory, we discussed the Visitor levy consultation plans. I would encourage all residents, visitors and business owners across Argyll and Bute to complete the online survey, which can be found on the Council website.
- Being on the board of IJCE (MacTaggart Leisure Centre), I was delighted to see the celebrations take place commemorating the centre's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It's a constant battle to find the funding required to keep the centre open and I warmly welcome the £100,000 donated by Suntory Global Spirits to the centre. These funds are being used to pay for very many improvements to the building and its equipment, including a whole load of new gym kit.
- 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. It'll be rebranded as The Promise Board, in line with the Scottish Government policy. I have chaired several meetings recently driving this new direction.
- 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. UPDATE – Additional funding has been allocated to Islay and around 61,000 square meters of road will be resurfaced/treated etc, along with verge and drainage work and improvements to signage. We are now looking at over £1.5 million of scheduled work. The works have now commenced and I am making sure that our communities across Islay are kept up to date as to when work is due to start near them, and any restrictions in place. Please be assured, contrary to some social media posts, a common sense approach will be applied, busses will be let through, local access will be maintained and emergency vehicles will always be unhindered!
- I am on the board of West Highland and have been actively encouraging the association staff to visit Islay as often as possible, as well as continuing to build new homes (Port Charlotte and Port Ellen currently). I will continue to encourage more building on Islay, and have recently been in talks regarding options in the north of the island as there is a need for new housing in the Kilmeny area. It's important we reinvigorate our whole island.

- I continue to help Islay residents secure their 'forever homes', which despite the new build houses now being completed is still proving a challenge. I have been contacted by more constituents trying to secure a home recently. I have also been informed of abuse of social rented houses where they have appeared on booking websites for holiday use. I have reported this and the homes have been removed from the sites. I'll continue to monitor and report abuse.
- 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. The first engagement meeting with the community on Jura takes place next week.
- I'm involved in the design of the HSCP Islands Strategy and have had detailed discussion with the NHS Highland planning team. I'll try and get a strategy designed which will benefit all of our islands, taking into account their varying needs and demographics.
- I continue to be a Trustee of the Islay Link Club, a mental health support group, and was pleased to welcome two new Trustees to the committee last week, so welcome to Chin and Joylon to our wee group of volunteers.
- I continue to work with several groups on Islay and Jura re new funding opportunities and talk with the council funding team very regularly. There are some very exciting potential projects in the pipeline.
- 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 fully support Islay Ferry Committee's position on the winter timetable and am in dialogue with Calmac and others on this issue.
- Cllr Horn and I have recently been appointed to the board of Islay Development Initiative which will allow us to support that community organisation. It will also allow me to more formally monitor and direct progress on the Bowmore Hall project, which I can report is proceeding well, and I am still anticipating it being open around November. IDI are planning an open door event to consult our community regarding the final fit and finish within the hall. I would hope this would take place in early September all going well.
- Additional local issues I'm dealing with include road conditions, littering, grant applications, support for students, social work and social care provision, motor home use and bus stops. I have also recently been helping sort long waits for medical appointments and social work assessments which have caused undue stress to families 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.

## **D – Councillor Ann Horn Update**

It is good to know that the extra funding that Councillor MacFadzean and I have campaigned for has been approved and that the vital repairs for Islay's roads can proceed

I am pleased that works have started, and I have asked that any traffic delays are dealt with and avoid any undue delays.

I have been approached by several constituents with regard to waste uplift and have forwarded the enquiries to appropriate officers for a speedy resolution.

There will be a public meeting next week regarding the new Jura Ferry.

I have had a busy inbox from all round Ward 2 regarding errors in Rateable Valuation. I have had several resolved and working with the Valuation Board to resolve the others. I appreciate this has caused distress to business owners.

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the new Pavillion, this is a fantastic new community facility and will be an asset for many years to come.

It was very interesting to attend my first meeting of the Islay Development Initiative, and I look forward to visiting Bowmore hall when I am over next week to see the work already completed. I am keen to work with and support the Board to help take forward their plans.