

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

Item		Action
1	<p>Present & Apologies</p> <p>Present: Islay McEachern (IME), Convenor Garry MacLean (GML), Vice Convenor Jim Porteous (JP), Secretary Richard Mansbridge (RM) Chris Abell (CA) Sandy Taylor (ST) Councillor Dougie McFadzean (DMF) Councillor Alastair Redman (AR) – Video Link Colin Fraser (CF), Joint Treasurer Frazer Campbell (FWC), Joint Treasurer Sgt Valerie Gray - Police Scotland Lucy Schwind - (LS) Minute Taker</p> <p>Apologies/Absent: Scott Currie (SC) Alyson MacGillivray (AMG) Jim MacCalman (JMC) Councillor Anne Horn (AH) Tom Skinner (TS)</p> <p>Members of the public: Greig Morrison Tommy Rungay</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Interest None</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting 14th May 2026 The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by RM and seconded by JP.</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising/Action Points</p> <p>Waste Bin at Uiskentuie (June 25): <i>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></p> <p>AOCB: Mobile Library on Islay (Dec 2025) <i>June Update: DMF – the job vacancy is now going out for the third round of advertising. The library vehicle is repaired</i></p> <p><i>Beach Cleaning (Sept 2025):</i> <i>April Update: AH will chase up regarding the community service.</i> <i>May Update: AH not available to update</i> <i>June Update: No update</i></p> <p>Flood Risk Management: CA has written to Mark Calder three times with no reply and has cc'd councillors – CA and ST will speak to DMF/AH and AR again to see if they can help move this along. <i>May Update: CA/ST – there has been no update/response. DMF advised that Mark has been liaising with the team responsible for the new pier development. This action is still sitting with Mark Calder.</i> <i>CA: has received no response to 4 emails.</i> <i>CA to email again and cc DMF in the email.</i> <i>June Update: CA – a significant amount of work has been done on this including multiple emails, contact with local organisations and residents and meetings with the</i></p>	<p>DMF</p> <p>DMF</p> <p>AH</p>

	<p><i>council. Since the last meeting with the council, nothing has occurred despite repeated emails and representatives contacting the council, not even an acknowledgement of correspondence has been received. CA feels they are out of options. SID were prepared to give some local support and all residents contacted want to be involved but it is now proving impossible to get a response from A&B Council. DMF has emailed them as well but now suggests that it is necessary to approach the Head of Service. Therefore, any further correspondence should be sent to Andrew Summers and DMF will also do the same.</i></p> <p>AOCB – Machair Wind Project May Update: <i>RM: requested a clear mandate on what ICC want to do. RM: Proposed a subgroup comprising of ICC, SID, IET, IDI, local councillors and ensure there is a good representation of the island population. Main elements to focus on would be: Community benefit and Power to Islay/Carbon Neutral Islay. The committee unanimously agreed that RM has the mandate to pursue conversations with key individuals. Jean McLelland – why not get First Minister Swinney to come to Islay and the Energy Minister – All agreed. June: Will be covered later in the meeting</i></p> <p>Police Report (May 2026) SC: Has anyone been booked for parking in the coned off area on Shore Street in Bowmore? DMF to email a copy of the local order for this to Georgia Panting. June: Works are completed now and the restrictions on Shore Street removed.</p> <p>Councillor D McFadzean (May 2026) IME: should ICC be writing to the council to highlight inconsistencies in funding for road works? SC with assistance from DMF and IME will ask these questions June: Will be covered later in the meeting</p>	DMF/ CA
5	<p>Police Report Sgt Valerie Gray introduced herself and provided an update to the community council.</p> <p>In the last month there have been: 2 x acquisitive crime, 3 road traffic offences. 5 x violent crimes (3 x assaults, 1 x knife, 1 x drunk & disorderly). 1 x sexual assault which continues to be investigated.</p> <p>Sergeant Shaw’s review of policing – a preliminary paper has been delivered to the regional management team for review, and they hope implementation will be in Autumn.</p> <p>Sgt Gray wanted to highlight key initiatives that may be of interest/use</p> <p>The Purple Phone (Scotland wide) – a phone line for anyone who is in an abusive relationship, and they feel unable to leave due to financial concerns. This service provides financial advice to help remove this barrier.</p> <p>Bank fraud: A new number ‘159’ can be used if individuals are concerned they are being targeted/scammed – it connects customers to most retail banks safely and securely and cannot be spoofed or impersonated.</p> <p>The Herbert Protocol – this is a national scheme to help make sure that people living with dementia who are at risk of becoming lost can be found and brought home safely</p> <p>The Philomena Protocol – this is a national initiative aimed at helping locate and safely return children and young people who are at risk of going missing</p>	

	<p>for children in care</p> <p>AR – finds the recent theft of equipment concerning. AR has received several complaints from constituents regarding the amount of time it took for the police to respond to this crime.</p> <p>VG: Feels that this case was handled within not inappropriate timescales with the resources that were available. 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.</p> <p>DMF has also spoken to the divisional commander regarding this issue.</p> <p>FC: Was Feis week a success from a policing perspective? VG – would be interested to hear the community’s opinion on this as Police Scotland felt it was a success (there was very little reporting). VG would be keen to do a follow up with the Feis committee if there is some feedback.</p>	AR/ VG
6	<p>Councillor A Horn Apologies received from Councillor Horn</p>	
7	<p>Councillor D McFadzean Report is attached in Appendix C DMF updated the meeting on activities since last month There has been some further clarity on road spending – which is likely to be sufficient for 61,000 square meters of resurfacing</p>	
8	<p>Councillor A Redman Report is attached in Appendix B</p>	
9	<p>ICC Membership Co-Option Proposal Tommy Rungay, has been proposed for co-option, JP has circulated a document. Unanimous agreement from ICC committee. JP confirmed that TR will need to move to full nomination for election</p>	
10	<p>Treasurer’s Report FC bank balance as of 4/6/2026 is £2346.50 ICAP funds are still to be returned</p>	
11	<p>ICC Ferry Committee See Appendix A for the full report. This has been circulated by JP. Main concerns – Saturday morning 7am sailing, Commercial block bookings and monitoring of this by CalMac. The latest statistics show that August 2025 take up was 55% compared to this year’s figures for May which was a 97% take up by the hauliers. There continue to be issues with the computer system. CalMac are investigating this and will respond to the ICCFC. Isle of Islay: to rectify the problem with the bow ramp (and other snagging) she will be taken out of service on 14th July 2026 for 2 weeks. Isle of Arran will be brought into service to cover this period. Dangerous goods: This is being considered in timetable discussions. AR – has received some complaints about IOI vibrating too much, have ICCFC had reports of the same? JP – to begin with yes, but not recently. CA – pleased to see there is still an office in Port Ellen. This is good for locals and visitors but why a van and not a portacabin? JP – CalMac were looking at installing a portacabin but there was no adjacent safe space to locate this. The vehicle is there on a 6-month trial and usage will be reviewed. RM – as the new vessels have a weekly servicing will this negate the need for a drydock period? JP – no it doesn’t. The aim is to reduce the amount of maintenance work that is required during the dry dock and to improve reliability.</p>	

12	<p>Islay Community Action Plan (ICAP) A discussion took place to review the latest ICAP Phase 2 report produced by GML. It was broadly agreed that this now provided a clearer and more accessible summary of the consultation findings and together with the Phase 1 report, it offers a strong evidence base for understanding the priorities and concerns of the Islay community. Subject to a few further changes, it was agreed to adopt this Phase 2 report.</p> <p>The purpose of Phase 2 was clarified as validating the themes identified in Phase 1, broadening demographic representation through additional consultation, including schools and strengthening the findings.</p> <p>Members agreed that priorities should be determined by the consultation results and supporting statistics, with transport emerging as the highest priority.</p> <p>Discussion focussed on developing a realistic and achievable action plan based on the community's identified priorities. It was agreed that proposed actions should reflect the consultation feedback rather than the perceived ability to deliver them. The plan should also identify the organisations or groups responsible for taking each action forward.</p> <p>The next stage is to identify key actions, distinguish between those that can be achieved relatively quickly, including any that may already be in hand, and those that will require longer term effort and/or external partners.</p> <p>It was suggested that ICC should aim to have a Draft Community Action Plan in place before the end of this term and to commence this process, ICC members should identify five priority actions for inclusion, based on the highest ranked priorities identified through the previous community consultations.</p>	
13	<p>Planning Reports JP has circulated details of the proposed Bruichladdich development for 29 new houses. Main issues identified are: no footpath linking the development to the village, the entrance to the development is close to a blind hill on a 60mph road, multiple driveways/housing access onto the main road.</p>	
14	<p>CNI (Carbon Neutral Islands) Project DMF No update since the last ICC meeting</p>	
15	<p>Community Council Elections – Nomination deadline for Returning Officer 25 June JP has some forms for any potential nominees. 4 members have identified that they no longer wish to serve on the ICC which will reduce numbers to 6.</p> <p>Nomination packs are on the website and can be printed off. Potential nominees need to provide a 100-word statement plus two signatures of residents of Islay are required as well as their electoral role numbers. These must be submitted and on the desk of the Returning Officer by 4pm on 25th June 2026.</p> <p>Two terms is the statutory limit for office bearers (unless the council is short on numbers in which case they will need to get an exception agreed by A&B Council).</p> <p>FC informed ICC that he will not be putting himself forward at the next election</p>	
16	<p>Bowmore Hall Update DMF provided an update – IDI put a request to the council to have 2 x councillors appointed to their board. It was agreed that 2 x councillors could be appointed – these are DMF along with Cllr Anne Horn.</p> <p>An update on work at the hall shows that the asbestos has now been removed, the skylights have been replaced, roofing work is still ongoing to plan and the project is running to timetable.</p>	

	<p>CF said that although this was positive news, it was concerning that earlier work had not been carried out to required safety standards and had thus potentially exposed employees and members of the public, including community councillors to a risk of contamination.</p> <p>DMF is happy to act as the link between IDI and ICC</p> <p>JP – one thing that ICC asked from Fergus Murray (council) was a progress update at regular intervals, this has not been happening.</p>	
17	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads – a meeting will be held with Transport Scotland and A&B Council on 29th June 2026. In particular ICC are keen to raise the wear and tear on the roads due to the closure of Port Ellen ferry terminal. ICC have already spoken to Transport Scotland who said they were waiting to know what A&B Council’s plans were. Hugh O’Neil at the Council has met with IME and JP. And they now have a further meeting with Hugh and Transport Scotland to re-start again this discussion on additional funding to improve the roads. • ICC have been contacted by Nippon Travel Agency who were originally in touch with Islay Jura Marketing Group and have been referred to ICC. They are proposing a memorandum of understanding with Islay. A meeting has been held with them and was attended by RM, IME, FC, CA and JP. xxx. Overall it was felt to be a positive proposal with opportunities across the community. IME and RM to follow up on this meeting. • GML – the show committee want to speak to relevant parties at ICC regarding the upcoming show • Post Office at Bowmore – accessibility consultation, has been circulated 	
18	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Machair Wind – RM provided an update. The plan has been submitted for validation and will become publicly available in a couple of weeks’ time. There has been a focus on this from Mull, Iona and Tiree and an article in last week’s Herald. RM was contacted by the Oban Times and commented on behalf of ICC who are in favour of renewables but disappointed with the lack of local jobs, compensation and help for the island to decarbonise. However, RM is struggling to give an island wide view that is consistent and therefore welcomes any guidance or advice from ICC.</p> <p>CA – it is not just cultural considerations but also scientific arguments – there is a lack of grid capability</p> <p>AR –from the constituents AR has spoken to it is not about renewal energy but more that there are already a large number of wind farms that are not generating any electricity and therefore there is a general hostility towards this proposal.</p> <p>Islay Youth Football Club: FC – as Chair of Islay Youth Football Club has been working with Islay Rugby Club, Islay Running Club, Port Ellen Juniors, Port Ellen Football Club and Bowmore Community Association to organise changing and toilet facilities at the pavilion. They will be approaching ICC to support their proposal. If there are any other organisations interested in supporting this proposal then they should contact FC.</p> <p>CA – a recent report from the Ileach highlighted a large lorry parked in front of Port Ellen primary school. Issues with parking and signage was discussed with A&B Council four years ago and it is frustrating that nothing has been done to address this.</p>	
19	<p>Date/venue for Next Meeting</p> <p>Next meeting 16th July 2026 at 18:30, Service Point, Bowmore</p>	

Appendix A – ICC Ferry Committee Update

ICCFC - last regular meeting 2nd June, next due on 7th July. Draft Minutes posted in ICC website. Other meetings: 8th June, IME/JP with Hugh O'Neil and Stuart Watson of A&BC re Islay road funding.

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

(Finlaggan's planned dry-dock return was delayed by 3 days to 21st May pm, leaving this perilously close

the start of the Feis on 22nd May. She was removed again temporarily on 24th May due to a compass issue. Isle of Arran returned to carry out an extra sailing. (ICCFC had previously asked for contingencies in the event of delay and have requested that Islay vessel dry-docking should be started earlier in relation to the Feis).

Sailings have been shown as full or unavailable in the booking system at regular intervals but have subsequently been reported as having vacant vehicle space. There have been many complaints regarding difficulty/inability to book. ICCFC has again pursued this with CalMac. A number of sailings were recently closed for bookings during the process of transfers and also due to a plan to exchange Isle of Islay temporarily with Isle of Arran. ICCFC questioned this plan and wrote to CalMac's CEO insisting that they are informed by CalMac in advance of any such closures and that the website also includes details with a time estimate for re-opening. ICCFC has also proposed a summit meeting to discuss the Islay ferry service, hosted by MSP Jenni Minto.

Mv Isle of Islay, has had an issue with her bow ramp for more than a month and is due to be removed from service for a period of 2 weeks from 14th July for repairs and some other warranty work. During this time, Isle of Arran will be substituted.

Kennacraig's gangway has been out of service for weeks and CalMac say could be up to another 4 weeks for repair.

Portintruan has raised a problem of shipment of a large crane due to Port Ellen's closure. This is under discussion with CalMac.

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

Block Bookings: stats showed an improvement in take up to 97% in March, the highest on record.

Bookings system: Long awaited fix for the Islay 2-port booking system for ports staff has still to be confirmed. 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.

New vessels: Despite an earlier commitment from CalMac, there was no event to introduce Isle of Islay to the Islay community. A brief on board visit was made on 21st May by CMAL representatives with school children who won the painting competition and their families. CalMac are now saying that they will hold a community event when Loch Indaal joins service early in the third quarter.

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. A reason given for no breakfasts has been lack of accommodation for 3 crew members who sleep in bunker bins at Port Ellen. This has been questioned with CalMac.

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 help cope with increased traffic volumes 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.

Carriage of Dangerous Goods (DG): Awaiting further feedback from CalMac. The rules call into question the practicality of using two new vessels or operating single vessel with one new vessel. ICCFC has asked CalMac to 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.

ICCFC has highlighted to CalMac an apparent breach of fair business practice which is being publicly advertised by a company called 'Oil Fast'. They say they can offer a better fuel delivery service than others (including the current main provider) due to a partnership agreement with a major haulier which enables them to use that haulier's booked slots. Additionally, the haulier qualifies for a rebate for slots booked in their name. CalMac has responded saying they do not consider there is a problem. ICCFC has asked CalMac to investigate further.

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

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

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

Other -

Ferries Community Board: 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.

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.

Isle of Islay - when the ongoing bow ramp issue would be resolved.

Kennacraig - when the gangway would be made useable.

Appendix B – Councillor A Redman – report

Councillor Alastair Redman – Report to Islay Community Council

Since the last meeting of the Islay Community Council, I have continued to engage with a broad range of issues affecting residents, businesses and community organisations across the island. As always, much of my work has involved responding to constituent enquiries, raising concerns with the appropriate departments and agencies, seeking updates on ongoing matters and helping residents navigate local services. Whilst some longstanding challenges remain, I am pleased to report that progress continues to be made in a number of areas.

Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee

Today I attended the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee via video link, where I highlighted the importance of delivering new housing not only in our larger towns and villages, but also in our smaller rural communities. Too often, smaller villages are overlooked when it comes to housing investment. In some cases, communities have gone years without seeing new social housing or affordable housing developments. If we want our rural communities to thrive, we must ensure that local people have opportunities to live and work in the places they call home. I also raised concerns regarding the ongoing transition away from the traditional copper telephone network. While technological improvements bring benefits, there are legitimate concerns about how this change could affect communications during power cuts and emergencies, particularly in rural and island communities where resilience and reliability are essential. It is vital that the voices of our rural residents continue to be heard as these important decisions are made.

Strong Opposition to Proposed MachairWind Development

The vast majority of the correspondence I have received, particularly from residents on Islay, expresses deep opposition to the proposed MachairWind offshore wind farm development.

I want to assure my constituents that I hear you clearly, and I share your serious concerns regarding the sheer scale of this project, its visual impact on our historic Hebridean seascape, and the potential risks it poses to our local environment and wildlife.

Roads and Infrastructure

Roads and infrastructure remain amongst the most frequently raised concerns from constituents. Reports regarding potholes, drainage issues, road surfaces and general maintenance continue to be received from across the island. Whilst there is still considerable work to be undertaken, it is encouraging that substantial investment has been committed to improving the road network, including dedicated funding for Islay and Jura. Argyll and Bute Council has allocated £1.1 million specifically for road improvements on the islands as part of a wider investment programme. The Roads and Infrastructure team should have started essential resurfacing and strengthening works at Laphroaig. This project is part of the ongoing investment programme to upgrade our local transport network.

What to expect:

- * Better journeys: The work will significantly improve the structural condition of the carriageway.
- * Durable surfaces: A tougher, renewed road surface will benefit all residents, local businesses, and visitors.
- * Long-term gains: This major funding boost means a more resilient route, fewer potholes, and reduced maintenance disruption in the future.

Thank you for your patience while the crews carry out these necessary improvements.

While many more sections of Islay's roads need a huge amount of work done to them, this is certainly a welcome step in the correct direction. I continue to pass concerns to the appropriate council departments, seek updates on planned works and support efforts to improve the resilience and condition of our local road network.

Bowmore Primary School Car Park

Delighted to see the issue regarding Bowmore Primary School's car park highlighted in the latest edition of The Ilead. Bringing public awareness to this matter is a wonderful step forward for our community on Islay. Since raising this, helpful new information has come to light. The Council has clarified that while work was authorised in April, the area actually falls under the care of the Education Department rather than Roads and Infrastructure. The enquiry is now with Education, and it is very reassuring to hear they are fully aware of the road conditions and are actively arranging the necessary repairs. This is great progress, and we are moving in the right direction. I am now working closely with the department to secure a definitive date for the maintenance team to begin work. Thank you to everyone in the community for your patience and support. I will keep pressing forward to ensure our school drop-off area is made safe and smooth for our children as soon as possible.

Bus Shelters

The condition of a number of bus shelters has also been brought to my attention. Residents have highlighted concerns regarding general wear and tear, maintenance requirements and the appearance of some facilities. Whilst these may seem relatively minor issues in isolation, bus shelters provide an important service for residents, particularly school pupils, older people and those reliant on public transport. I have passed these concerns to the appropriate council departments and will continue to seek updates where improvements may be required.

Excellent Update From Islay High School

I attended an online meeting on the 1st of June and received a fantastic update from the Head Teacher of Islay high school. It is absolutely brilliant to hear about the incredible work being done by our staff and pupils. The dedication, talent, and resilience shown across our school community is something we can all be immensely proud of. Our young people are a credit to our islands. As your Independent Councillor, I will continue to lobby fiercely for the funding, resources, and educational infrastructure our schools deserve. We must ensure our island pupils have the absolute best opportunities to thrive right here at home.

Street Lighting

I have received reports regarding street lights that are not functioning correctly in a number of locations. Reliable street lighting is important not only for convenience but also for public safety, particularly during the darker months of the year. These concerns have been referred to the appropriate council departments for investigation and repair.

Promoting Sustainable Local Produce: Wild Venison Initiative

Building on our highly successful pilot scheme introducing wild venison to select school dinner plates, plans are now underway to scale this project across additional schools throughout Argyll and Bute. As part of the formal procurement process, a Request for Information (RFI) has been issued to engage with local suppliers, gather market insights, and evaluate delivery logistics.

Local businesses, estates, and suppliers are strongly encouraged to share their feedback to help shape a sustainable, community-focussed supply chain.

Full details and documentation can be reviewed directly via the Public Contracts Scotland portal:

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=JUN557622

[publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk)

Housing

Housing continues to be one of the most significant long-term challenges facing our communities. I continue to receive enquiries from individuals and families seeking suitable accommodation, alongside concerns regarding the condition and maintenance of existing housing stock. Access to affordable housing remains essential if we are to retain families, support local businesses and encourage people to remain within our island communities. I continue to engage with the relevant organisations regarding both housing availability and housing quality issues raised by constituents.

Islay Mobile Library Update

I know just how much our Islay Mobile Library means to everyone across the island.

A massive thank you to everyone who has reached out to me asking when our beloved service will be back on the road. The driver position has been advertised twice now, but unfortunately, no one has applied. The post is about to be advertised for a third time. To put it bluntly: if we want to save this vital service, we need to find a driver now. If you want to keep the mobile library going, or if you know the perfect person for a fantastic local role, please share this post and keep a close eye on the council jobs page here: <https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/argyll-bute-council/jobs>
Let's work together to get our library back on the road.

Benefits and Financial Support

A number of residents have contacted me seeking assistance and guidance regarding benefits and financial support. The systems involved can often be complex and difficult to navigate, particularly for those experiencing changing personal circumstances. Where appropriate, I have assisted residents by directing them towards the relevant services and organisations capable of providing specialist advice and support.

Healthcare

Healthcare remains a recurring topic in correspondence from residents. Concerns continue to be raised regarding access to appointments, the provision of services and the particular challenges faced by rural and island communities. Reliable healthcare services are fundamental to the wellbeing of our communities, and I will continue to raise concerns and support efforts to improve access wherever possible.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling remains a source of frustration for many residents and continues to be raised with me from time to time. Aside from being unpleasant, it can impact public spaces, footpaths and areas frequently used by families and visitors. I would encourage all dog owners to act responsibly and ensure that dog waste is disposed of appropriately.

Overflowing Bins and Environmental Concerns

Concerns have also been raised regarding overflowing bins and general cleanliness in some locations. Whilst waste collection services generally perform well under challenging circumstances, isolated issues do arise and can quickly become a source of concern within local communities. Reports received have been passed to the appropriate council departments and I will continue to monitor the situation.

Cemeteries

The condition and maintenance of some of Islay's cemeteries has also been raised with me by residents. Our cemeteries are important places of remembrance and reflection, and it is understandable that people wish to see them maintained to an appropriate standard. Concerns received have been passed to the relevant departments and I will continue to seek updates where necessary.

Cost of Living

Whilst inflationary pressures have eased somewhat, the cost of living continues to place pressure on many households. Residents continue to face higher costs associated with transport, fuel, food and other everyday necessities. These challenges can be particularly acute within island communities, where additional costs are often unavoidable. I remain mindful of these pressures when representing constituents and engaging with public bodies.

Ferries and Transport

Reliable ferry services remain absolutely essential to island life. Ferry reliability, cancellations, delays and capacity issues continue to feature prominently in correspondence from residents and businesses. These services are crucial not only for personal travel but also for healthcare access, tourism, freight movements and the wider local economy. I will continue to press for improvements and highlight the importance of dependable ferry services to the long-term sustainability of our island communities.

Constituency Work

Alongside these broader issues, I continue to assist residents with a wide variety of individual enquiries and concerns. These range from housing and roads matters to planning issues, local services, transport concerns and community projects. Supporting constituents remains one of the most important aspects of my role, and I remain available to assist residents, community organisations and local groups wherever I can.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Islay Community Council for their continued commitment to representing local residents and for the constructive role they play in helping to identify and address issues affecting our communities.

Independent Councillor Alastair Redman
Kintyre and the Islands Ward

DRAFT

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.
- Councillor Horn and I visited Islay High School and met with several teachers, staff and pupils as part of their annual attainment reporting. We spent some considerable time in the Additional Support Needs area of the school speaking to staff and pupils there. Work is ongoing to improve the provision and create outdoor space for the pupils to use in the better weather.
- I met with Area Police Inspector Alastair McLaren and our new island Sergeant Valerie to discuss a few issues, including community concerns regarding Feis Ile and issues with road use outside Port Ellen Primary School. We have agreed to work more closely going forward to address community concerns, which I very much welcome. And welcome to Islay Valerie.
- Related to my discussion with Police, 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.
- It's been a busy past few weeks for committee meetings. I have attended the Policy and Resources Committee which allocates resources across the Council area and gives me the chance to get as much as possible for my Ward. I also attended the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee which took place on Gigha and the Community Services Committee which looks at education, police and fire provision, amongst many other areas. I always endeavour to attend these meetings in person as I feel I get far more work done and can listen to community concerns face to face. It's simply far more effective and visible than using the online options.
- I spent 3 days on Bute for various Health and Social Care meetings, developing the best care options possible for our people within tight fiscal limitations.
- 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.
- West Highland Housing Association carried out 2 rounds of estate walkabouts on Islay. 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 continue to help Islay residents secure their 'forever homes', which despite the new build houses now being completed is still proving a challenge. Over the past couple of weeks I have been contacted by more constituents trying to secure a home. 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.

- 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 now 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.
- Other meetings relating to Islay, and my wider roles have included the COSLA Health and Social Care Committee, Police briefings under the West Regional Security Group organisation and meetings with senior management of West Highland Housing Association and ACHA.
- 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 advocacy strongly for additional vessel deployment and resilience. This is an ongoing situation as the Islay Ferry Committee knows very 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.....

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

DRAFT