

Appendix 2: Convener's Report for the period May 2018 to April 2019.

The 2018/2019 year for the Rhu & Shandon Community Council started with retirement and relocation of very experienced members of the CC. Pat Pollock Morris, a long serving member, retired from the Vice Convener post. Gordon King retired as Minute Secretary. Maggie McCowan and Jayne Burnett, completing the retirees.. The Convener, Jack Rudram, relocated outwith the CC area.

I am very grateful to the Secretary, Jean Cook who has temporarily taken on the Minute Secretary role. Andrew Nicholson was elected Vice Convener with myself as Convener.

Happily the CC was augmented by newly elected member, Linda Black and co-opted new members, Kevin Johnston, Patrick Johnston, Kenneth Glen, and John Clark.

The Highlandman's Wood timber felling operation has had a very significant impact in the area. The transportation of timber using Pier Road is considered inappropriate and unsafe. Many thanks to Fiona Baker and Peter Knox who led negotiations with all parties and succeeded in having school exclusion times agreed and ensuring that children walking to and from school would be safe from the 44 ton timber HGVs using Pier Road.

Efforts continue to put pressure on the timber operators to find a more appropriate route to extract the timber in future.

Sadly, the CC found officers of Argyll & Bute Council repeatedly negligent in their responsibility to communicate with the CC and to respond to our requests for information. The CC was left with no alternative but to raise an official complaint with the Council. Although an apology of sorts was received and a modest improvement occurred, much more is required.

A lengthy and distressing situation of fly grazing on A&B Council land and neglected horses was satisfactorily resolved, following the efforts of concerned members of our community.

The CC welcomed dialogue with Captain Craig Mearns from HMNB Clyde and we are encouraged at the prospect of the base becoming more engaged with the local community.

There were a few major planning applications directly impacting the Rhu & Shandon area in the last year.

- The CC supported the application to demolish the MOD maisonette buildings on Smugglers Way. These buildings have been unoccupied for years and have been a blot on the landscape of the area. The MOD have promised that the CC and the community will be consulted about any proposals to regenerate the area.,
- Rhu & Shandon Community Council supported the Helensburgh Community Council's objection to the design and positioning of Argyll & Bute Council's planning application for the new leisure centre at the Helensburgh Pier site. The CC agreed with HCC that with global warming and rising sea levels, the proposed siting would inevitably be subject to flooding in the relatively near future..We agreed with several other material considerations justifying HCC's objections.
- The anticipated planning application by RNCYC for a new clubhouse at Rhu Marina and the redevelopment of their existing facility has moved forward. A screening application was lodged on May 3rd .
- The effects on local residents of the developments at Invergare Castle, which is being marketed under Airbnb, Home Away and Expedia, are being monitored. Planning applications have been validated for some of the building work which is ongoing, but non so far for a change of use from Domestic to Commercial.

The CC are disappointed at the continuing uncertainty which prevailed over the ownership and potential future use of the Bowling Green. We initiated a survey of adjoining neighbouring properties to canvass opinion on acceptable uses. As and when the site owners make their presence known and declare their intentions, the CC will again survey the adjoining neighbours and wider community to ascertain whether the CC should support or object to any future planning applications.

The following issues have been raised with Argyll and Bute over the past year and are still unresolved; the drainage in Rhu Play Park which makes the football pitch unusable, the state of the sidewalk and road surface in Upper Torwoodhill Road and the road surface on the cycle path between Rhu and the south gate of Faslane.

On the positive side, there have been six successful Beach Cleaning parties organised, one by Peter Knox in September, and Rhiannon May and Kate Williams announced in January that there would be one on the last Sunday of every month. There have been five successful ones so far.

Also after a donation from the Community Council, the fence was repaired and team of local residents have transformed Barge Garden into a colourful well tended space.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the recently retired members for all their hard work. I would also like to thank the existing members and new members and officers of the Community Council for their enthusiasm and support in the past year.