

# RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CONVENOR'S REPORT FOR AGM, 11 JUNE 2014

I am pleased to report that the Rhu & Shandon Community Council has been active throughout the past year dealing with a number of issues on behalf of the local residents.

At the last AGM in February 2013 there were 13 members of the CC compared with a full membership quota of 16. At the end of the CC term in October membership had dropped to 10 but this was increased to 14 following the start of the new CC term. During the year 9 meetings have been held plus two additional meetings on specific topics.

During the year R&S CC have made representations for better maintenance of drains to prevent flooding, pressed for the repair of potholes, resolved responsibility for maintenance of the Barge Memorial Garden and arranged beach cleaning after local storms. A watching brief is being kept on how Japanese Knotweed is to be controlled. Some problems continue to be unresolved such as unpleasant water discharges near the Scout Hut and flooding at the end of School Road.

Speeding on the A814 has been raised. Changes to limits create difficulties so we have to put our trust in the policing of motorist's behaviour.

Planning applications are a key part of the CC discussions and several of a minor nature have been discussed. Unapproved work at the Peace Camp has been emphasised to Argyll & Bute Council who continue to deal with this although there has been no change on the ground.

Possible the most significant impact on the village would have been the development of the Rhu Marina. The CC objected to the Masterplan on several grounds and with a large number of local residents also objecting it was gratifying that the PPSLC eventually decided to decline the Masterplan as presented. A linked application for local company GSS to build temporary facilities was approved with conditions but as yet nothing has been started.

An application to change the zoning of the Bowling Club to housing development has been objected to because of a number of concerns by local residents concerning access, coupled with the possibility that the Club may not be as defunct as thought.

The proposed Local Development Plan published in 2013 led to significant concerns in the CC area because of the introduction of new housing zones at Blairvadach and an increase in housing density at the marina, and Blairvadach. These, along with proposals for changes to the Greenbelt, were all objected to by the R&S CC. The Reporter's decision on the LDP is expected in Q4 2014.

A sub-committee of the CC is making good progress with developing a Conservation Area Appraisal for Rhu village. Whilst a responsibility of A&B C it was clear that this would not happen for some years so the CC agreed with A&B C that we would progress it ourselves as the basis for a Conservation Area Charter.

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At the time of the 2014 AGM key current issues are: the future of the Bowling Club and its land, and the response of Rhu & Shandon to the discovery that the proposed Helensburgh Wind Farm lies within the boundaries of R&S CC.

The R&S CC website has undergone a massive improvement within the past year due undoubtedly to the dedicated work of our secretary and the small sub-group dealing with communications.

As Convenor my role has been made much easier by the tremendous support and work done by all members of the Community Council. It is appreciated that everyone is a volunteer and gives freely of their time to serve the community but without the energy and commitment given by the individual members we would achieve much less. A big thank you to everyone.

Jack Rudram, Convenor  
Rhu & Shandon Community Council  
5 June 2014