

Convenor's Report Patrick M. Trust

It has been a strange year for us all and the Community Council with the Covid 19 virus continuing to affect all our lives. We were fortunate that the Geilston Hall Management Committee obtained funding for a screen and camera so we were able to offer hybrid meetings both online via Zoom and with spaced chairs in the hall. The next round of Community Council elections is imminent and nominations close on 8th September at 4pm. Please consider joining. We would welcome any younger member of the community who wishes to have their say on village life. Please contact me for details of nomination forms before 8th September.

We lost two of our long-serving councillors at the last elections and are very grateful for all the work put in by David Kinniburgh who attended all our meetings last year via Zoom and, with Richard Trail, helped to convey our views to Council officers, and to report issues for action. We hope our three new councillors will be as attentive in reporting our concerns from our meetings.

The Community is fortunate to still have a local Post Office and Chemist and with the Co-op food store we are well served. We would like to thank Sohail for all his time at the Newsagent which he and his family have kept open for over 25 years. The shop is to have a new owner and we wish Sohail good health and happiness and a well-earned holiday. We also have the takeaway and two

hairdressers who, with the two plant nurseries, can provide for all our needs locally. We continue to involve the Primary School and Nursery Rhymes when we need to get opinions on the needs of our children, and Ardardan now has a superb and well-used indoor play area in addition to its outdoor farm area with animals.

The A814 is still a very busy road and traffic flow and speeding are a constant concern. While we were delighted that a speed camera was installed, at the time of writing in mid-August it is still not operational. We continue to get monthly reports from the Police, and if you wish to report non-emergency matters to the police please use the email service helensburghandlomondsouthcommunitypolicingteam@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk

The Cycle Path between Dumbarton and Helensburgh remains incomplete after 20 years of slow progress, so we hope for more action from Argyll & Bute who have not made the route a priority despite the clear wishes of the majority of villagers. We need a completed track to avoid the main road, which is not safe for bicycles, and there has been the tragic death of a cyclist from Dumbarton killed by a vehicle near Cardross as he cycled home.

Many thanks to those Community Councillors who attend our meetings and work away in the background with minutes, planning scrutiny, finance and reporting back on village concerns.

Planning

The Community Council monitors local planning applications on the Argyll and Bute website. Most are small scale household developments, unlikely to be of concern to us. However, some are worthy of discussion at Council meetings, and where appropriate, representations are made to the planning authority.

Proposals for the site adjacent to Shira Lodge were a cause of some controversy and dispute over several years. The two houses in this development, known as Chrystal Gardens, were finally completed late in 2021 and the partially demolished wall, which was such an eyesore for so long, has been satisfactorily restored.

One of the most contentious recent applications was the proposal by Avant Homes for a large housing development on land north of the Primary School. This application was approved, subject to conditions, by the Scottish Government reporter in July 2019. Under normal circumstances, this approval would have expired after three years, given that work on the development has not begun. However, because of the Covid pandemic, the Scottish Government has extended the normal time limit for such

proposals so that the end of September 2022 is now the deadline. Contractors have recently been taking samples of the bedrock, but it remains unclear if the development will go ahead.

SAWMILL NOISE: There have been ongoing discussions between a group of residents and A&B Environmental Health officers regarding noise nuisance from Cardross Sawmill. Noise monitoring by the Council is ongoing but is currently paused while the Sawmill management undertake their own noise assessment exercise, looking to identify the best practical means for noise reduction. Residents have expressed doubts as to whether it is reasonable that noise assessment should be undertaken by the organisation producing the noise. Nonetheless, as part of this exercise, installation of an acoustic enclosure around the head of the cyclone (the machinery that causes the incessant droning sound) is scheduled to be completed during the September weekend shutdown. This may mitigate the problem to some extent, but only time will tell.

Health

NHS Scotland has been severely challenged by the Covid pandemic and both hospital and local GP and District Nursing Services have struggled to provide a service with cancelled routine surgery and difficulty getting appointments, although we are relatively fortunate to have the Minor Injury and Medical Assessment Units open at the Vale of Leven Hospital. The NHS 111 service has not managed to cope with demand and we hope this will slowly improve and we are more often directed to our local hospital rather than travel to Paisley or Glasgow. The Covid vaccinations were initially managed by GPs and went well but we have had problems

since the Health Boards have managed the process and being on the border with NHS Highland and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has meant some have not been vaccinated timeously.

The local Helensburgh and Lomond Community Health and Social Care Partnership is still working to Covid rules and we are waiting anxiously for more community consultation on local service provision. We remain concerned for the future provision of local services and will continue to monitor the provision from NHS Highland remembering that most of our hospital services are provided by NHS Glasgow & Clyde.

Roads & Transport

CYCLE TRACK: The June report states that the external contractors have paused work on the developed design. This is disappointing as the timeline indicates that the technical design is supposed to be concluded by September, after which landowner negotiations can commence. The footpath and bridge over the Geilston burn have been completed, but the bridge remains closed until the track beyond is established. We appeal to all involved to understand the urgency required. This path is key to reducing local carbon emitted through transport, and will be beneficial to the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.

SPEED CAMERA: A much-needed speed camera was installed earlier in the year, however the Police have not yet confirmed a date when it will become operational.

DARLEITH ROAD/RED ROAD: At last, repairs have been carried out to drainage at problem areas which were subject to flooding.

PAVEMENTS: Pavement parking is a hazard to pedestrians and forces wheelchair users and parents with push-chairs on to the road. Car owners are urged to avoid parking on the pavement. We ask that overgrown hedges are trimmed for the same reason.

Rural & Environment

BEACH CLEAN: Beach Cleans were held in September 2021 and April 2022 and attracted over 60 people of all ages, a record number. Thanks go to all the volunteers for their efforts, and to Argyll & Bute Council for providing bags and gloves and removing all the rubbish. The autumn Beach Clean will be held in October.

LITTER AND DOG FOULING: A few thoughtless dog-owners allow their dogs to foul the village pavements without picking up the mess. Dog poo bags are widely available and can be placed in any waste bin. Litter is unsightly and is dangerous to wildlife and we urge everyone to take litter home or to use the bins available. To report dog fouling, fly tipping, or an abandoned car contact 01546 605514 or use the Argyll & Bute Council web site.

BARRS ROAD BINS: Argyll & Bute Council are no longer prepared to collect refuse from properties on the Cairniedrourth farm road as they consider the surface unsuitable for their lorries. Instead, they have placed large bins beside the track near its junction with Kilmahew Avenue for use by the more remote properties. This is unacceptable, as the bins have been placed, without planning consideration, next to residential properties which do not require them. Bin emptying has been irregular, with overflowing rubbish becoming windblown and widely scattered, which attracts vermin. The bin site has also attracted fly tippers. The solution to what has become an eyesore and a health hazard is to move the bins to a dedicated, secure site a short distance further up the track, and we are in discussions with the Council to achieve this.

Geilston Hall

The hall has re-opened for regular users and casual bookings for childrens parties plus providing facilities for local groups. The After School Club is open during school term and provides a valuable resource for working parents. The Breakfast Club hopes to reopen as numbers increase. We recently obtained grants to make a safe

play area for children at the rear of the hall and plan to improve the grounds with some garden activity. The Hall is owned by the people of Cardross and if you would be interested in advising or helping the Management Committee the AGM will be held in September and is open to all. Please contact Patrick Trust.

Cardross CAN

Cardross Climate Action Network is a network of neighbours sharing knowledge and experience of ways to take better care of our planet. The impacts of the climate and ecological emergencies are in the news almost daily. We're concerned, but convinced that it's not too late, and that we can all make a difference. This year, we had a series of Zoom talks; Big Summer Clean; Yard Sale; Love it-Share it-Fix it event; No Mow May; a bookstand in the library; Zoom hustings for Council elections; lobbying for the cycle path; advice on Home Energy Efficiency; surveys of the shore to collect data to help conserve our local sea grass and other marine wildlife; and Cardross COG (Community Organic Garden) at the station.

Changes are coming to all our lives, as the Scottish Government moves us towards Net Zero by 2045. We want to be part of the solutions, learning what our options are for energy, buildings and transport in Cardross, as well as for our food, waste, and consumer choices. Watch our YouTube video, 'Cardross CAN Hope', to see the vision of many people for a better future for our community, where we tread more lightly on the environment, and our lifestyles are protecting and restoring nature. Please join the conversation. It's so much easier, and more fun, to do this together! Perhaps you have ideas for possible projects? Contact us on Facebook, Instagram, or CardrossCAN@gmail.com to find out more.

Your Community Council

Dr Patrick M. Trust, *Convenor* (drpmtrust@btinternet.com)

Mike Crowe, *Vice Convenor*

Duncan Stirling, *Secretary* (duncan_stirling@yahoo.co.uk)

Brian Craven, *Treasurer*

Rob Irving, *Planning*

Bob Murray, *Rural & Environment*

Lindsey Finlayson and Heather Munro, *Cardross CAN*

Bobby Beggs, Mike Brown, Josephine Cameron,

Alasdair MacCuish.

The Accounts Examiner is Margaret Calder

We currently only have 12 elected members from our permitted quota of 16. Interest would be welcomed from any adults in the village who might wish to join us by standing for election. We would also welcome two or three youth representatives.

Meetings of the Community Council normally take place in Geilston Hall at 8.00pm on the third Monday of every month, except July and December, and are open to the public. Meetings can also be attended by Zoom until further notice. Cardross Community Council can be contacted by email at the addresses shown on left.