DUNOON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 10 August 2026

Prior to the meeting, those present were advised that an audio recording of the meeting was being taken to facilitate the production of the minutes and that this recording would be destroyed after the meeting minutes had been approved. Anyone who did not wish their contributions to be recorded could remain silent, or leave the meeting. Those present were further reminded to sign in on the appropriate forms.

Dunoon Community Councillors Present

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Gill Robertson (GR) – Convener; Eric Owen (EO) – Secretary; Anne Robertson MBE (AR) – Treasurer; Tom McCowan (TM); Debz Wright (DW); David Clough (DC); Paul Graysmark (PG); Frauke Thornton (FT).

Argyll & Bute Councillors Attending

Cllr Ross Moreland (RM).

Non voting Members Present

Chris Martin (CM), Dunoon Observer

Members of the Public

David Suszek,- Sharon Suszek, - Jack Diamond,- Denise Ross,- Michelle Ross,-

Apologies

Cllr. Audrey Forrest (AF),-Cllr. Daniel Hampsy(DH),- Yvonne Love (YL),- Representation from Police Scotland.

Declarations of Interest

Members declared that all previously declared interests remain unchanged. No new declarations were made.

1. Opening Address

Welcome by Gill Robertson, (Convener) who chaired the meeting. The Convener welcomed attendees and introduced Eric Owen as Secretary. She recorded the Council's thanks to Tom McCowan for establishing administrative systems, maintaining the website and social media, and supporting the transition.

Approved

Prospective new members Will Moreland, Catherine Denman and Robert Dingwall were also noted.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the meeting that was held on 8th June 2026, were taken as read.

Proposed by:Debz **Seconded By:Paul**

The minutes were approved by majority with two abstentions

3. New Members/Appointments/Resignations

This was the last meeting of the previous council. The membership of the new council will be as decided at the inauguration meeting on the 24th August 2026.

4.Police update

5. Presentation: Western Ferries

The Managing director of Western Ferries, Mr Gordon Ross presented research on changing travel patterns. The company's analysis indicates less commuting and business travel, with a shift from public transport to car use for leisure and flexible journeys. Operational constraints at the terminals were discussed, including the need to maintain rapid loading and turnaround times.

Two new vessels remain on budget and are expected for delivery in October. No decision has yet been made on the future of the existing vessels; options include retaining additional resilience, subject to cost and berthing constraints.

Actions:

1.Western Ferries to consider sharing a summary of its research when analysis is complete.

2. A comprehensive minute of Mr Ross's presentation will be produced shortly as a separate document.

4. Updates from Previous Meetings

There were no updates presented which raised issues which were not covered in individual reports

5. Monthly Office Bearer Reports

Convener (GR) reported that no minutable business had been done by her.

Approved

Departing Secretary (TM) had no secretarial report but addressed the **Moorings Project** as that continues to be a project led by TM

Applications have been submitted to Crown Estate Scotland and another relevant agency, with a decision anticipated in eight to twelve weeks.

GR stated that the Moorings Project should become a standing agenda item and this was supported by the members present.

TM continued The proposed scheme is for recreational moorings positioned to avoid the navigation channel and minimise conflict with swimming and paddleboarding. Online payment and coded access are proposed. Future income could support Community Council projects and local grants, subject to confirmation of liabilities and governance arrangements.

Actions:

1. Secretary (EO) to add Moorings as a standing agenda item.
2. Project lead (TM) to provide further details on governance, income distribution, safety and public access.

Incoming Secretary (EO)

Correspondence was received from Jonathan Speed of ABC regarding future leisure provision in Dunoon and Cowal. Members supported inviting him to meet Council representatives after the relevant Policy and Resources Committee consideration.
Action: Secretary to arrange the engagement and include a presentation by Jonathan Speed on a future agenda.

Treasurer's Report (AR)

The transfer from Bank of Scotland to Royal Bank of Scotland is expected to be completed shortly, after outstanding payments clear. Total cash was reported as £5,418, including £1,112 earmarked for the play park.
Accounts:

Proposed : Frauke Thornton **Seconded**: Paul Graysmark.

Seven voted in favour and two abstained

Action: Treasurer to complete the account transfer and close the former account.

6. Monthly Members Specialist Reports

Transport Report(DC)

Discussion covered the Argyll Rally, the low response to the ferry-options survey,

Approved

prolonged single-vessel operation, the inactive Gourock–Dunoon working group and poor ticket collection on a recent CalMac journey.

With regard to the single vessel Calmac ferry service, DC advised that he now had a contact on the Ferry Project. Also (RM) is on the Working Group, but it hasn't met for 4 years!

Engagement is continuing with MSPs and Transport Scotland, with the aim of securing a public meeting in Dunoon regarding ongoing ferry problems.

Actions:
• Transport Lead to continue seeking historic working-group minutes and meetings with elected representatives.

• Members and residents to be encouraged to promote and complete the ferry survey.

Environment Report

Members discussed annual clearance of vegetation at West Bay, balancing biodiversity and coastal protection with litter, visual amenity and tourism. The current arrangement is for a defined section to be cleared annually while the remainder is left undisturbed. Volunteer deadheading was suggested as a possible future option.

RM explained the councils response to the variety of actions which are requested regarding the West Bay and advised that many will not like whatever is done, if anything, but defended the council's actions which are a compromise.

After much discussion, the following Action was noted.

Action: Environment Lead and councillors to explore evidence of public preference and pactical options with officers.

Infrastructure

The condition of the Highland Mary monument was raised for information. Members agreed the site requires improvement, while noting DCC has limited resources and the local authority's ongoing role

Public Health and Social Care

Dentistry and local public-health provision remain under review.

The Cowal primary-care service used by Dunoon is continuing.

6. New Business

a. West Bay Play Park

Approved

RM The pirate-ship equipment has reopened following repair after closure due to suspected vandalism.

RM A tender has been issued for improvements to West Bay and Sandbank play parks. Proposed works at West Bay include accessible equipment, replacement safety surfacing, gate improvements and refurbishment of railings. Members noted additional hazards associated with damaged timber and surfacing.

Actions:
• Cllr Moreland to share the tender information with interested residents.
• Cllr Moreland and local representatives to review outstanding safety concerns.

b. Milton Burn Flooding

In response to a request for information from Mr Jack Diamond, members were advised that Milton Burn, near Morrison's had recently been cleared and is now monitored by camera. Concern remains about blockages and flood risk, but this should be greatly alleviated by monitoring the camera footage and taking prompt action as necessary.

Action: Cllr Moreland and local members to continue monitoring and raise any deterioration promptly.

c. Dunoon Presents

The Council formally recorded its thanks to Dunoon Presents for delivering a highly successful food festival.

7. Councillor Update

RM reported that a long list of potential leisure-centre sites would be published ahead of committee consideration, with a further paper anticipated in November. He also confirmed continued engagement on play parks, transport and local infrastructure.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Hanover Street: Road markings have not been reinstated following resurfacing, creating parking and access difficulties.

Action: Cllr Moreland to raise urgent reinstatement of the lines.

Queen's Hall: A request was made for an external litter bin near the entrance. **Action:** Secretary or councillors to raise the request with the appropriate service.

Cowal Gathering: Members noted serious financial pressures and poor attendance at a recent stakeholder meeting.

Approved

Action: Secretary to include Cowal Gathering on the next agenda.

Police Sports Day for local primary schools

EO advised the chair that he had omitted to query the omission of the discussion on the Police Sports Day, which took place during the June meeting.

While all were very encouraged that this sports day was arranged by the local Police, it was a great shame that the Saturday chosen was the day of the local Mod event in Oban, which is very important to local Gaelic cultural progress. The Gaelic Unit in Sandbank had had soloists and a choir rehearsing for some weeks for this event. The choir had to be cancelled and many solo performers called off, having had to make a choice between culture and sport, a choice which they should not have had to make.

Action: EO to liaise with the DCC police youth contact, Rachael Wells, to give early advice of the Mod date.

DW made an impassioned plea for a reduction in foul language and comment on Facebook, and other social media.. Her comments were echoed by all present.

9. Diary Dates

24 August 2026, 6:30 pm – Community Council induction meeting at Queen's Hall.
Next scheduled Dunoon Community Council meeting – 14th September.

10. Meeting Close

The Convener thanked attendees for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Distribution: All Dunoon Community Councillors; ward councillors; Argyll and Bute Council; Police Scotland; Dunoon Community Development Trust; Dunoon Presents; Dunoon Observer; Queen's Hall; DCC website and social media.

Approved

Annex A to

Minutes of the Meeting held in Queen's Hall,

Dunoon on Monday 10 August

Dunoon Community Council

Members Reports – August 2026

Conveners Report

Secretary's Report

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

1. Responded to routine emails that have been received all relevant emails distributed to members. Continued update and maintenance of both social media and website.

2. Prepared and published minutes from previous minutes.

3. Held meeting with Lamish mooring association details of this meeting can be found at the end of this report.

4. Conducted A thorough handover takeover of the secretary position with the incoming secretary Eric Owen. Eric is now in the hot seat however ongoing support will be provided as and when required.

5. The additional 1500 household emergency plan booklets I've now been received. A detailed map off our area has been commissioned and will be working on a detailed plan to get the booklets distributed over next couple of weeks, this will be done in conjunction with the new secretary.

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Ongoing Project Updates:

1. The Dunoon Mooring project is no moving along, coordinates for the mooring buoys now been established. Thanks to Jason Cole for doing this. In addition to the six moorings which will be limited to 15 tonnes, I am looking at installing an additional mooring buoy which will have the capacity to take a 50-

Approved

tonne vessel with a maximum size of 60 foot. An application has now been submitted to crown estates Scotland for the seven mooring buoys, haven't spoken to them on the phone they cannot see any issues and once a licence has been issued, I can then start to apply for funding. I hope to have of this process done within the next two 2 three months and I'm looking at having the moorings installed at the beginning of 2027 and time for the 2027 sailing season.

Further Updates requiring Dunoon Community Council attention:

1. Dunoon Presents Market on Saturday 29th August 2026. Volunteers needed. Eric will need to coordinate rota nearer the time

Report Compiled By: Tom McCowan (Outgoing Secretary)

Date: Thursday, 05 August 2026

Summary of Meeting with Lamlash Mooring Association

Date: Tuesday 23 June 2026
Time: 1930 hrs
Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- Tom McCowan – Dunoon Community Council
- David Miller – President, Lamlash Mooring Association
- Ker Manson – Secretary, Lamlash Mooring Association

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to gather practical advice and operational insight from Lamlash Mooring Association regarding the proposed Dunoon Visitor Moorings Project. Lamlash has extensive experience operating visitor moorings and was able to provide guidance on management, maintenance, insurance, funding, marketing and visitor facilities.

Approved

Key Findings

Mooring Operations

Lamlash Mooring Association currently operates 10 visitor moorings and plans to expand this number to 15. Charges are £18 per overnight stay and £10 for daytime use.

The Association advised that payment compliance is high, typically between 90% and 94%, meaning only a small percentage of users fail to pay. They stressed the importance of clear signage and simple payment methods, noting that poor signage can significantly reduce payment rates. As an example, they cited Millport Moorings, where payment compliance is understood to be considerably lower.

Payment Systems

The Association recommended:

- QR codes displayed on both pickup buoys and mooring buoys.
- QR code signage at the tender landing point.
- Alternative payment options for visitors without mobile signal.
- Simple and straightforward payment arrangements.

Lamlash also operates an honesty box for visitors unable to pay electronically and occasionally receives payments by bank transfer where visitors have experienced signal issues.

The Association strongly advised operating on a first-come, first-served basis and recommended against introducing a pre-booking system, which they considered labour-intensive and difficult to manage.

Website and Terms & Conditions

A dedicated website was considered essential and should be separate from the Community Council website.

The website should:

- Accept online payments.
- Support overseas visitors and international card payments.

Approved

- Display clear terms and conditions.
- Include liability disclaimers.
- State vessel size limits and maximum stay periods.
- Provide visitor information and local business information.

Users should be required to accept the terms and conditions before payment can be completed.

The Association also suggested that local businesses could be offered advertising opportunities on the website, generating a small income stream to assist with ongoing running costs.

Insurance

The Association currently pays approximately £600 per annum for insurance covering its 10 visitor moorings.

Insurance Provider: Gallagher Insurance, Troon
Contact: Jim Bell
Telephone: 01294 315481

They advised that insurance costs were considerably lower than many people expect and should not represent a significant operational burden.

Maintenance and Inspections

The Association advised that ongoing maintenance costs should be relatively low, particularly during the first few years of operation.

As the moorings are new, they would expect:

- Ground tackle, chains and ropes to have a lifespan of approximately 3–4 years.
- Regular inspections to identify wear and defects before they become significant issues.

They recommended engaging Jason Cole of Wreckspeditions to undertake routine underwater inspections, potentially on a monthly basis, with a qualified mooring contractor carrying out bi-annual lift-outs and inspections.

The Association also discussed the importance of maintaining an adequate financial reserve for unforeseen maintenance requirements. They advised that they maintain a contingency fund equivalent to the cost of installing two new

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moorings. This reserve ensures that, should a mooring system fail or require significant repair, sufficient funds are immediately available to completely replace the affected mooring without impacting the wider operation of the Association.

They recommended that a similar contingency reserve should be considered as part of the Dunoon Visitor Moorings Project's long-term financial planning to ensure the ongoing safety, reliability and sustainability of the mooring infrastructure.

Risk and Liability

When asked about risks and liabilities, the Association advised that the operation of visitor moorings presents relatively low risk when managed correctly.

They highlighted that:

- Appropriate liability insurance is in place.
- Their terms and conditions clearly state that the Association accepts no liability for accidents, damage, loss or injury.
- Robust documentation and clear operating procedures significantly reduce organisational exposure.

The Association's view was that, provided the moorings are properly installed, inspected, maintained and insured, the risks to the operating organisation are manageable and relatively low.

Mooring Design and Location

The Association strongly recommended undertaking a site visit with Jason Cole to assess the proposed location in West Bay and determine the optimal positioning of the moorings.

Key considerations identified were:

- Vessel size and weight limits.
- Distance from shore.
- Shelter from prevailing winds.
- Swinging circles and vessel movement.
- Space for future expansion.

Approved

Lamlash currently operates with a maximum vessel weight limit of 15 tonnes and advised that vessel size and weight should be considered early in the design process.

They strongly recommended a site visit to visually assess the area before any final decisions are made.

Funding

The Association recommended pursuing a mixture of funding sources including:

- Grant funding.
- Business sponsorship.
- Community fundraising initiatives.
- Crowdfunding platforms such as GoFundMe.

They reported that a previous GoFundMe campaign successfully raised approximately £10,000 towards their own project.

The Association also encouraged approaching local businesses that stand to benefit from increased visitor numbers, as they may be willing to provide financial support.

Marketing and Promotion

The Association strongly recommended advertising through Welcome Anchorages, which is widely regarded as one of the primary sources of information used by visiting sailors.

Contact: Alison Drummond
Email: allison@cp-uk.uk

They advised making contact at the earliest opportunity to ensure inclusion in future editions of the publication.

Additional promotional opportunities identified included:

- Local sailing groups.
- National sailing groups.
- Social media platforms.
- A dedicated Facebook page for the Dunoon Visitor Moorings Project.

Approved

Visitor Facilities

The Association agreed that securing tenders using chains and shackles attached to the seawall would be adequate.

They recommended that this location should also include:

- Clear visitor information.
- QR code payment signage.
- Instructions on how to pay for moorings.

Additional ideas discussed included secure lockers for storing lifejackets and equipment. Whilst Lamlash does not currently provide this facility, both representatives felt it was a worthwhile idea and indicated they may investigate it themselves.

Overall Feedback

Both David Miller and Ker Manson expressed strong support for the Dunoon Visitor Moorings Project and felt it was something the town urgently needed.

They believe the project would:

- Increase visitor numbers to Dunoon.
- Encourage longer stays by visiting sailors.
- Support local businesses and the wider economy.
- Create an additional destination within the Clyde cruising network.

Both representatives stated that they would personally visit and use the moorings once operational and were happy to continue providing advice and support as the project develops.

Conclusion

The meeting provided valuable operational and practical guidance covering all major aspects of the proposed project. Key themes included simplicity of operation, clear communication, robust terms and conditions, effective signage, strong maintenance arrangements, adequate financial reserves and early engagement with insurers, marine specialists and marketing organisations.

Approved

Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and reinforced the viability and potential benefits of establishing visitor moorings in Dunoon. The Association offered its continued support and guidance as the project progresses.

Dunoon Visitor Moorings Project – Actions Arising from Meeting with Lamlash Mooring Association

High Priority Actions

1. Arrange Site Visit with Jason Cole

Action: Contact Jason Cole (Wreckspeditions) and arrange a visit to West Bay to assess potential mooring locations.

Objectives:

- Determine suitable mooring positions.
- Assess shelter from prevailing winds.
- Confirm safe distance from shore.
- Calculate swinging circles.
- Determine suitable vessel size and weight limits.
- Leave room for future expansion.

2. Obtain Insurance Quotations

Action: Contact Gallagher Insurance in Troon.

Contact:

- Jim Bell
- 01294 315481

Objectives:

- Obtain indicative insurance costs.
- Clarify liability requirements.
- Understand any operational conditions required by insurers.

3. Develop Website Requirements

Action: Begin planning a dedicated Dunoon Visitor Moorings website.

Approved

Requirements:

- Online payment facility.
- Overseas card payment capability.
- Terms and conditions acceptance before payment.
- Liability disclaimers.
- Vessel length and weight restrictions.
- Maximum stay information.
- Visitor information and local attractions.
- Potential advertising opportunities for local businesses.

4. Draft Terms and Conditions

Action: Produce a first draft of mooring terms and conditions.

Include:

- Liability exclusions.
- User responsibilities.
- Maximum vessel length.
- Maximum vessel weight.
- Maximum stay permitted.
- Payment requirements.
- Disclaimer regarding weather and mooring suitability.

5. Contact Welcome Anchorages

Action: Make early contact regarding future advertising.

Contact:

- Alison Drummond
- allison@cp-uk.uk

Objective:

Approved

- Secure inclusion in the next edition of Welcome Anchorages.
- Understand submission deadlines and advertising requirements.

Operational Planning

6. Design Payment and Signage System

Consider:

- QR codes on pickup buoys.
- QR codes on mooring buoys.
- QR code signage at tender landing area.
- Alternative payment methods for visitors without signal.
- Potential honesty box arrangement.

7. Investigate Payment Processing

Action: Speak to the bank regarding:

- Card payment facilities.
- International payments.
- Merchant account requirements.
- Integration with website.

8. Consider Inspection Regime

Action: Develop a proposed inspection schedule.

Potential Model:

- Monthly visual/diver inspections.
- Bi-annual lift-out inspections by specialist contractor.
- Annual maintenance review.

9. Establish Maintenance Reserve Fund

Approved

Action: Build a financial contingency reserve.

Target:

- Reserve equivalent to the installation cost of two complete moorings.

Purpose:

- Emergency repairs.
- Complete replacement of damaged moorings.
- Long-term financial resilience.

Marketing and Promotion

10. Create Dedicated Facebook Page

Action: Set up a Dunoon Visitor Moorings Facebook page.

Purpose:

- Promote the facility.
- Share updates.
- Link visitors to payment website.
- Advertise local attractions and businesses.

11. Develop Marketing Strategy

Include:

- Local sailing groups.
- National sailing groups.
- Welcome Anchorages.
- Local tourism organisations.
- Clyde cruising publications.

Funding and Finance

12. Explore Crowdfunding

Approved

Action: Investigate launching a GoFundMe campaign.

Objective:

- Generate community support.
- Raise capital towards installation costs.

13. Approach Local Businesses

Potential Targets:

- Hotels.
- Guest houses.
- Restaurants.
- Cafés.
- Chandlery suppliers.
- Tourist attractions.

Objective:

- Seek sponsorship.
- Explore donations.
- Assess website advertising opportunities.

Approved

14. Continue Grant Applications

Action: Continue identifying and applying for grant funding opportunities.

Future Visitor Facilities

15. Assess Tender Landing Area Requirements

Consider:

- Security chains.
- Security shackles.
- Signage.
- Visitor information boards.

16. Explore Additional Visitor Facilities

Consider:

- Secure lockers for lifejackets and equipment.
- Information boards.
- Local business advertising.
- Waste disposal arrangements.

Summary of Immediate Next Steps

1. Contact Jason Cole and arrange site survey.
2. Contact Gallagher Insurance (Jim Bell).
3. Contact Alison Drummond at Welcome Anchorages.
4. Start drafting Terms & Conditions.
5. Begin planning website and payment system.
6. Investigate banking/payment processing requirements.
7. Continue funding and grant applications.

These seven actions are likely to have the greatest impact on moving the project from concept to implementation.

Approved

Treasurer Report

Vice Convener Report

Transport Report – June / July 2026

Tasks that have been undertaken since the last meeting.

1. Attended Gourock CC meeting in mid June to present on Ferry options. It seems that Gourock residents are pressing for a solution to traffic problems around McInroy's Point.

2. Attended Rally Wash Up meeting organised by Mull CC. Overall another positive and successful event. There was an incident involving damage to a wall in the Kilfinan CC area, but otherwise no major mishaps. Kilfinan CC continue to raise issues, and ColGlen are also starting to suggest that the benefits from the Rally are perhaps not as great as some may make out.

The summary of the responses to the DCC Rally Survey are attached – overwhelming majority in favour of it returning. I will analyse the negative and positive responses from Dunoon residents for the next meeting.

3. Following the single vessel timetable announcement from CalMac from September to March 2027 inclusive I've been pressing CalMac for more information – we've had some information (see items for discussion), but not adequate in my opinion

4. Written to all 16 MSP's representing Cowal and Inverclyde, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport, the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the 2 Westminster MP's. Copy letter attached.

5. Ferry Survey has closed. We hade 392 on line responses, and I have possibly another 15 to 20 hard copy responses I need to add. I'm somewhat disappointed by the lack of responses. Copy of summary results attached. Interesting to see the age demographic. Also note that for each option there were more detractors than promotors. Analyss of the responses to question 17 may be key to how we approach this issue – again I've not had time to do that so will do so for the next meeting.

Items requiring discussion/approval from members.

1. Rally - Bit concerned that ColGlen CC are raising the benefits query quoting Dunoon businesses – I've referred this to Colin as its Dunoon Presents job to represent Dunoon businesses, not Colglen CC no matter how well intentioned.

2. Dunoon Presents have asked Kilfinan CC who they consulted/asked about proposals they put forward to Mull CC in the run up to the Rally.

3. Response to date from CalMac ref single vessel service;

Approved

a. I *have some further detail regarding the life extension project for the Gourock-Dunoon service.*

b. *We have requested funding from Transport Scotland to extend the life of the existing vessels, as this work is required for them to continue operating the service until the replacement vessels are delivered. There has been no change to the plans for new vessels on the route. However, at this stage, we do not believe the existing vessels will be able to provide a reliable service without this life extension work being undertaken.*

c. *Essentially, this is a measure to ensure the current vessels remain available and reliable until the new vessels enter service.*

d. *I have also asked the project manager to contact Transport Scotland for any updates on the new vessel project. However, there has been no change to the overall programme at this stage.*

4. Any thoughts on the Ferry Survey results?
5. Any thoughts on the communication to the MSP's /MP's / Ministers?

Items requiring further action by Transport Lead member.

1. Analyse the positive and negative responses to the Rally survey
2. Circulate each individual CC with their results.
3. Analyse the Ferry Survey responses.
4. 6 monthly all CC's liaison meeting to ensure we are all together on Transport issues (agreed from penultimate report – still to be actioned).
5. Further investigation as to what constitutes an official ABC Committee to get recognition of the Cowal Transport Forum (no action this month).
6. Need to establish timetable for ABC tendering bus services in Cowal.

Report compiled by: David Clough

Date: 5th August 2026



DCC Ferry Survey on line responses V

Approved



Rally Survey results consolidated V1.0.p



Communication to MSP 4th August 202

Emergency Resilience Planning Report

Planning & Licensing Report

Education & Youth Engagement Report

Infrastructure Report

Public Health & Social Care Report

Community Council Liaison

Environmental Report August 2026

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

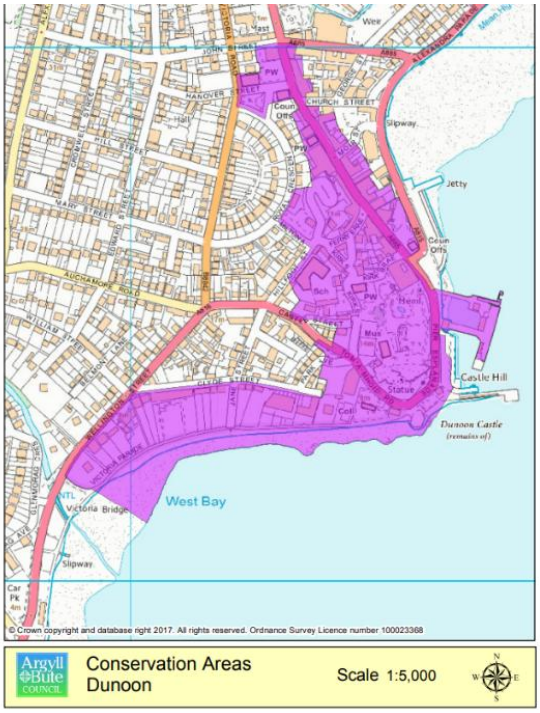
1. On 18 July, I visited the pirate ship following several public complaints about it being out of action due to vandalism resulting in its sudden closure. After taking advice from David Clough, I contacted the Argyll & Bute Councillors on behalf of DCC to ask whether repairs could be carried out before the end of the school holidays.

Ross Moreland responded immediately, pulled out all the stops, and worked with colleagues to move the repairs forward. The tender for the work went out to local contractors on 30 July, and the repairs were completed during the week commencing 3 August, allowing the pirate ship to be reopened promptly.

Approved

The whole process was handled professionally and constructively, without any name-calling or swearing, a stark contrast to the level of abuse circulating on Facebook at the time. Thank you to everyone who helped resolve the issue so quickly.

2.West Bay Beach Damage to Habitat:



West Bay shingle beach supports a rare coastal vegetated shingle habitat. Specialist plants bind loose stones, trap sediment and create a living defence against waves and wind. Mechanical removal of this vegetation weakens the beach, increases erosion and longshore drift, and damages the insects and birds that rely on it. Previous council biodiversity guidance has already warned that flattening the beach loosens stones and increases flood risk. A biodiversity report written in 2025 by Argyll & Bute Council highlighted the rarity of the habitat. However, their management spokesperson stated that removing vegetation and re-profiling the beach is considered "the most effective and economical way of dealing with the weeds in the area" instead of chemical treatments. Recommendations were made that stated that it could be easily managed by deadheading the coast plants, thus keeping the root system in place to stabilise the beach.

Local community research into botanical guidelines further supports this approach. Native shingle species such as Sea Mayweed and Coastal Dock should be deadheaded to promote future flowering, while leaving their deep root systems intact. These roots are essential because shingle plants act as a natural barrier that binds stones, traps sediment and helps prevent coastal erosion. Removing only the flowering heads, rather than uprooting or bulldozing the plants, maintains both the ecological value of the habitat and the natural coastal defence it provides.

Why Vegetated Shingle Matters

- A rare habitat: Coastal vegetated shingle is scarce in the UK and supports plants adapted to salt spray, shifting stones and exposure.

- A natural sea defence: Roots and runners form a biological mesh that binds pebbles and absorbs wave energy before it reaches the promenade.

- Ecosystem services: Vegetation provides nectar, pollen, habitat for specialist invertebrates, and feeding opportunities for birds. It traps organic matter and gradually builds the beach profile.

- Policy relevance: Vegetated shingle is recognised as a priority habitat in national and local guidance; damaging it conflicts with biodiversity duties and sustainable coastal management.

The Vegetation and What It Does

- Coastal Mayweed: Binds sand and small stones; provides nectar and pollen for hoverflies, bees and butterflies.

- Sea Kale: Deep woody roots anchor stones, trap sediment and form hummocks that help maintain the beach profile.

- Sea Pea: Mat-forming runners hold shingle, fix nitrogen and support pollinators and specialist herbivores.

Approved

- Supporting species: Red fescue, sea sandwort, sea rocket and curled dock contribute fibrous roots, early colonisation and structural diversity.

The Habitat and the Wildlife It Supports

Vegetated shingle supports a distinct community of invertebrates and other wildlife:

- Pollinators and flies: Bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies, kelp flies and other coastal Diptera.
- Beetles and specialist invertebrates: Soldier beetles, pollen-feeding beetles, specialist weevils.
- Butterflies and moths: Common Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and others.
- Birds: Shorebirds and small passerines feed on abundant invertebrates and use vegetation for shelter.

How the Vegetation Provides Stability

- Root and runner network: Roots bind pebbles and prevent displacement.
- Surface mat and basal growth: Dense growth reduces wind speed and traps moving shingle and sand.
- Hummock formation: Sea kale creates raised mounds that dissipate wave energy.

Approved

- Sediment trapping: Vegetation slows movement of fine material and traps organic debris.

Together these processes reduce longshore drift and shingle loss, increasing shoreline resilience.

Why Mechanical Clearance Is Harmful

- Removes the defence: Bulldozing severs roots and compacts substrate, making the beach more mobile.

- Raises infrastructure risk: A weakened beach transfers wave energy to the promenade and seawall.

- Destroys habitat: Clearance removes nectar, pollen and shelter for specialist invertebrates and birds.

- Contradicts policy: Damaging a priority habitat conflicts with biodiversity duties.

- False economy: Short-term savings are outweighed by long-term repair costs and loss of ecosystem services.

Approved

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Ball, K. 2015. Sustainable Flood Risk Management. https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/b18377/Supplementary%20Pack%20Tuesday%2007-Apr-2015%2009.30%20Bute%20and%20Cowal%20Area%20Committee.pdf?T=9

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3.

4.

Ongoing Project Updates:

1. A £70,000 funding application has now been submitted for Morag's Fairy Glen, covering the full site survey and initial design drawings. At this stage there is nothing further to do except await the outcome of the application. Overall, public feedback continues to show strong support for the project.

2.

3.

Proposals:

1.

2.

3.

Further Updates requiring Dunoon Community Council attention:

1.

2.

3.

Approved

Report Compiled By: Debz Wright

Date: 08/08/2026