



Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 13th April 2026.

Community Councillors Present:

Tom Warren (TW) (Vice-Convener, Chairing)
Tom McCowan (TM) (Secretary)
Lindsay McPhail (LM)
Yvonne Love (YL)
Frauke Thornton (FT)
David Clough (DC)
Eric Owen (EO)
Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener – arrived late)

Via Teams:

Anne Robertson MBE (AR) (Treasurer)
Colin Moulson (CM) (BID)

Argyll & Bute Councillors Attending:

Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)
Councillor Ross Moreland (RM) (arrived late)

Police Scotland:

PC Michael Cunningham

Guest Speaker:

Andy MacPherson (ACT – Community Planning Partnership)

Press:

Chris Martin (Dunoon Observer)

Members of the Public:

Alan Stewart (South Cowal Community Council)
Jillian Dominick

Apologies

Abigail Apps (AA)
Paul Graysmark (PG)
Debz Wright (DW)
Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

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1. Opening Remarks

The Vice-Convenor opened the meeting and confirmed that he would chair in the absence of the Convenor.

Members were advised that the meeting was being recorded for minute-taking purposes only and that the recording would be deleted following approval of the minutes.

Attendees were reminded to avoid speaking over one another to assist with recording accuracy.

Action: None

2. Declarations of Interest

Members confirmed that all previously declared interests remain unchanged.

One additional declaration was made in relation to a planning application submitted by a member's partner.

Action: None

3. Approval of Previous Minutes (9 March 2026)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2026 were reviewed.

Proposed: David Clough

Seconded: Frauke Thornton

The minutes were approved unanimously by those present, with abstentions from members not in attendance at that meeting.

Action

- Secretary to file approved minutes

4. Membership Update

No new members, resignations or changes were reported.

Action: None

5. Police Scotland Update

PC Cunningham presented the monthly report for March:

- 177 calls for service
- 48 recorded offences (a decrease from the previous month)

Key focus areas:

- Antisocial behaviour
- Road safety enforcement on the A815
- Partnership working with housing associations
- Engagement with local retailers

Upcoming initiatives include:

- Increased patrol visibility during spring
- Youth engagement programmes and school visits
- Community drop-in sessions
- Targeted patrols during Easter holidays

Discussion

Members raised concerns regarding youths entering a derelict building within the cemetery and associated behaviour.

Police advised:

- The matter has previously been raised with the Council

- Entry to the building may not constitute an offence if unsecured
- Incidents should still be reported, particularly where antisocial behaviour is suspected

A broader discussion took place regarding antisocial behaviour, including differing views on what constitutes enforceable behaviour.

Action: None

6. Presentation – Community Resilience Planning

Andy MacPherson delivered a presentation on community resilience and emergency planning.

Key Points

- Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of weather events
- Dunoon is likely to experience more intense rainfall and variable weather patterns
- Household emergency plans are the most effective starting point
- Community plans should be realistic and proportionate
- Volunteers should not place themselves at risk
- Data protection limits maintaining lists of vulnerable individuals

Discussion

A wide-ranging discussion followed:

Ferry Disruption & Weather

Members queried whether climate modelling could predict ferry disruption. It was noted that while long-term trends are clear, short-term prediction remains difficult.

Telecommunications Resilience

Concerns were raised about the digital switchover and the loss of traditional landline resilience during power outages.

Wildfire Risk

Increased wildfire risk was discussed, with emphasis on prevention and early reporting rather than intervention.

Role of Community vs Emergency Services

It was emphasised that community plans should support, not replace, emergency services.

Members noted that while Dunoon benefits from local infrastructure, resilience planning remains important.

Action

- Secretary to share DCC resilience plan with Andy MacPherson for review

7. Updates from Previous Meeting

a. West Bay Moorings

- Awaiting contractor availability to confirm mooring locations
- Crown Estate requires precise coordinates
- Confirmation received that Community Councils can own assets

Discussion

- Consideration of whether to retain ownership or transfer to a SCIO
- Strong public support noted
- Financial viability and potential income discussed
- Insurance and liability considerations highlighted

Action

- Secretary to progress survey and report back

b. Argyll Street Christmas Event

- Awaiting road closure information
- Engagement with BID required

Discussion

- Mixed views on effectiveness of late-night shopping
- Importance of strong marketing and trader participation
- BID confirmed willingness to support

Action

- Treasurer to engage with BID
- Councillor Moreland to provide road closure information

c. Emergency Household Plan Booklet

Quotes received:

- £350.99 (online supplier)
- £660 + VAT (local supplier)

Discussion

- Cost considerations vs supporting local suppliers
- Distribution options yet to be agreed

Action

- Decision deferred

8. Members Reports

a. Secretary's Report

- Query raised regarding Argyll Rally event and potential community stalls

Action

- David Clough to follow up

b. Treasurer's Report

- Accounts prepared and ready for audit
- Banking issues ongoing
- Audit expected prior to AGM

Accounts approved subject to audit.

Action

- Treasurer to finalise audit

c. Transport Report / Argyll Rally

- Objections from Kilfinan Community Council noted
- Rally expected to proceed
- Ferry survey approved

Action

- Transport Lead to issue survey

d. Health and Social Care (Women's Health)

Members raised concerns regarding limited access to women's health services.

Discussion

- Need to travel for treatment
- Limited local provision

- Impact on equality and wellbeing

Action

- Secretary to raise with NHS Highland / HSCP

e. Community Equipment (Gazebo Frame)

Secretary discussed the condition of the gazebo frame.

Discussion

- Damage noted
- Safety concerns
- Importance for events
- Members voted to approve purchase of new frame.

f. Youth Membership

Members discussed the need to increase youth involvement.

Discussion

- Lack of youth representation
- Opportunities through schools and youth groups
- Importance for sustainability

Action

- Members to explore engagement options

9. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Update provided on AGM preparations.

Discussion

- Requirement for audited accounts
- Need to confirm date and issue notice
- Office bearer roles to be confirmed

Members also discussed:

- The need to identify a replacement Secretary
- Importance of succession planning

Action

- Secretary to confirm AGM date
- Treasurer to complete audit
- Members to consider Secretary replacement

10. Councillor Update / Local Issues

Councillors Forrest and Moreland were present.

Dunoon Leisure Centre

Members requested an update on progress.

Councillors advised that feasibility work is ongoing, with further updates expected.

Election Hustings

Members discussed hosting a hustings event.

- Seen as a positive engagement opportunity
- Need for neutrality noted

Action

- Members to explore feasibility

Cowal Transport Forum – Chair Position

Members queried whether Councillor Hampsey would return as Chair.

- Noted that he has been nominated
- No alternative nominations received

Access to NHS Dentistry

Members raised concerns regarding lack of NHS dental provision.

Discussion

- Difficulty registering with NHS dentists
- Residents travelling outwith the area
- Increased reliance on private care
- Impact on vulnerable groups

Councillors acknowledged the issue.

Action

- Councillors to raise with NHS Highland

Road Closures for Events

Councillor Moreland agreed to provide guidance.

Consistency of Council Advice

Concerns raised regarding inconsistent guidance from Council officers.

Councillors acknowledged all issues raised and agreed to follow up where required.

11. Meeting Close

The Vice-Convener thanked all attendees.

Next meeting: Monday 11 May 2026

Action

- Secretary to circulate agenda

Signed by:

{Original Signed}

T McCowan

Secretary Dunoon Community Council

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Distribution:

All DCC Councillors

Cllr Moreland

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart

Argyll & Bute Council

Police Scotland

BID Manager

BID Chair

Dunoon Community Development Trust

Chris Martin (Observer)

Queens Hall Reception

Library

DCC Facebook page

DCC Website



**Dunoon Community Council
Members Reports.
April 2026**

Secretary's Report

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

1. Routine emails
2. Preparation of monthly minutes and agenda
3. Updating website
4. Preparation for Dunoon Markets on Saturday 4th April 2026 including purchase of a new frame for the gazebo.
5. Approached by Sue Mimms from Argyll Rally to inform me that there will be a large screen showing the Rally hill stages live in the Argyll Gardens, She has asked if we can put the word out that they are happy for groups/organisations to put a pop up in the gardens.

Ongoing Project Updates:

1. West Bay Moorings – Still waiting for meeting with Jason Coles, been unable to get out to site due to weather. Looking at possibility of creating a SCIO for this venture.

2.

Proposals:

1.

New Projects:

1.

Further Updates requiring Dunoon Community Council attention:

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1. Dunoon Markets on 27th June, 29th August, 31st October, 21st November. (Please note, I will be unavailable on 31 October due to Poppy Appeal)

Report Compiled By: T McCowan

Date: Thursday, 01 April 2026

Environment Report

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

1. Nothing to report until we have had the walk around Morag's Fairy Glen

Ongoing Project Updates:

1. Morag's Fairy Glen Inspection 21st April 2026

Report Compiled By: Debz Wright

Date: 09/04/2026

Transport Report

Tasks that have been undertaken since the last meeting.

1. Residents Information letters from Mull CC have now all been delivered.
2. Attended March CC liaison meeting – no major issues raised bar Kilfinan still have objections. Note the recent press coverage of the Mull Rally does not impact on the Argyll Rally.
3. Been in dialogue with Dunoon Presents over needing clear and unambiguous communication of road closure times - DP says that there are exceptions to this for some town centre businesses. I've asked for clarification as to what these exceptions are and to which business they apply.

4. Been acting as pro tem administrator for the Cowal Transport Forum – next meeting 15th April and we have a nomination for a new Chairperson. E mail distribution list updated and meeting agenda / invitations issued.
5. First cut of Ferry options survey issued.
6. Limited input from other Cowal CC's to the idea of a survey but I have had an e-mail of support from Kilfinan and a suggestion from Sandbank CDT
7. Response back to CalMac ref winter 2026/27 timetable – no responses to the post on the DCC FB page and on the DCC web site and so I've responded with "DCC request that the good communications between CalMac, ScotRail and West Coast Motors continues to work towards improving connectivity wherever possible".
8. Took part in the beta trial of the Western Ferries Checker app developed by local Cowal resident Stefano Virgili. That app for Android users is now available in the Play Store. iOS version to follow depending upon take up – please download if not done so already. Press Release issued.
9. Have been advised by Martin Arnold, Contracts Manager with ABC in relation to his non attendance at Cowal Transport Forum meetings that "...we have a standing policy that officers do not attend individual community or external forum meetings. This avoids any perception of selective engagement or bias by attending some groups but not others....."

Items requiring discussion/approval from members.

1. Approval of the content of the proposed Ferry survey (circulated by e-mail on 8th April.
2. Approval of DCC to support Daniel Hampsey as the new CTF chair.
3. DCC decision on whether having inconsistency in road closure times for certain businesses is appropriate.

Items requiring further action by Transport Lead member.

1. Getting agreement on Ferry options survey and publishing survey with associated marketing in local press and with other CC's.
2. Further investigation as to what constitutes an official ABC Committee to get recognition of the Cowal Transport Forum.

Report compiled by: David Clough

Date: 8th April 2026

Resilience Report

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

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1. Phil Keetley, about defibrillator access and response times. We discussed how, in some situations, people in our area need to travel quite far to collect a defib, which can push the response time beyond the critical seven-minute window. He is keen to have a chat next week at some point.

Ongoing Project Updates:

1. Finished the resilience booklet last month.

Quote to Print 2000 copies through Vista Print is £350.99

Quote to Print locally is £660 + VAT

Report Compiled By: Debz Wright

Date: 09/04/2026

Public Health and Social Care

New tasks that have been undertaken since last meeting:

- 1.Meeting with Jillian Dominick re lack of full contraceptive services in Cowal
- 2.Email to surrounding Community Councils seeking support on raising issue above
- 3.Discussion and update from Convenor Strachur Community Council
- 4 Letter to Evan Beswick – Chief Officer A and B HSCP asking for up to date information

Ongoing Project Updates:

1.Jenny Minton has also written to Me Beswick re this

Further Updates requiring Dunoon Community Council attention:

- 1.none / just awareness of issue
- 2.
- 3.

Notes:

This issue is now longstanding and means that local women have to go to Helensburgh, Lochgilphead, Lochgilphead or Arrochar To get access to full contraception services. This includes an intrauterine device or an implant- currently women are being referred to Sandyford clinic on occasion which does not take Argyll and Butte patients and the alternatives are the above practices- the distance to which is completely unacceptable. I have asked Evan Beswick from the health and social care partnership to update us on the current thinking going forward.

I was also made aware that there are no well women facilities in the Cowal area since the clinic at Cowal Community Hospital closed down

Report Compiled By: Gill Robertson

Date: 7/4/26

Police Update

I am pleased to provide this update on our local policing activities as we head into spring. As we transition into a season of renewal and growth, it is crucial to reflect on the strides we have made in keeping our community safe and secure. Our commitment to visibility, engagement, and proactive crime prevention remains unwavering, and I'm proud to report on the progress we've achieved together as a community.

Monthly Activity Summary

In the past month, we received a total of 143 calls to Police Scotland, reflecting a decrease from the previous month. This decline is not only encouraging but suggests that our collective efforts in community safety are beginning to bear fruit. However, our work is far from done, as we also raised 67 crime reports, which marks a slight increase compared to the previous month. It is important to note that this increase in crime reports is partly attributed to one particular disturbance incident, which accounted for 13 of the total reports. Despite this spike, we remain resolute in our focus on tackling antisocial behaviour, as we understand that addressing these issues is essential for a harmonious community. Our overarching goal continues to be the reduction of overall crime rates, and through strategic interventions, we are determined to achieve it.

Priority Areas and Partnerships

To effectively address community challenges, we are collaborating with local organizations on key issues:

- **Antisocial Behaviour Prevention:** Regular patrols and partnerships with housing associations enhance security and address recurring problems.
- **Road Safety:** We are intensifying enforcement along the A815 corridor to improve safety as well

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as speed checks throughout Dunoon and the wider community.

- **Business Engagement:** Increased outreach to local retailers helps prevent shoplifting and fraud.
- **Rural Crime Prevention:** Due to a recent rise in quad and agricultural thefts across Argyll and Bute, we are proactively engaging with local farmers to provide crime prevention advice.

Community Council Debrief
Dates Between: 04/03/2026 – 01/04/2026
Location & Beat: Dunoon LB46
Reporting Officer: PC Michael Cunningham

Approved

Between the dates above the number of Incidents and Crime Reports respectively are 143 & 67

<div data-bbox="124 327 384 539">  <p>SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME</p> </div> <div data-bbox="400 327 815 421"> <p>You identified drug dealing / drug misuse as a priority</p> </div> <div data-bbox="400 443 815 539"> <p>We identified human trafficking as a priority</p> </div>	<p>Possession of Class A/B/C drugs</p> <p>2 x detected.</p> <p>1 x undetected</p>
<div data-bbox="113 1016 384 1234">  <p>ACQUISITIVE CRIME</p> </div> <div data-bbox="400 1016 815 1111"> <p>You identified homes being broken in to as a priority</p> </div> <div data-bbox="400 1133 815 1229"> <p>We have also identified fraud as a priority</p> </div>	<p>Theft by shoplifting</p> <p>3 x undetected</p> <p>Theft</p> <p>3 x undetected</p> <p>Fraud</p> <p>1 x undetected</p>



You identified road safety as a priority

We identified drink / drug driving and reducing road casualties as priorities

Fail to Stop/report after accident.

3 x Undetected

Drink driving

2 x Detected.

Drive with Provisional licence.

1 x detected.

No Insurance

1 x detected.



Careless Driving

1 x detected.

Fail to comply with a construction & use requirement.

1 x detected.

Approved

<div data-bbox="108 277 384 504">  <p>VIOLENT CRIME</p> </div> <div data-bbox="395 277 825 383"> <p>You identified violent crime as a priority</p> </div> <div data-bbox="395 398 825 504"> <p>We have also identified domestic abuse as a priority</p> </div>	<p>Assault</p> <p>5 x Detected.</p> <p>5 x Undetected</p> <p>Resist arrest</p> <p>3 x detected.</p> <p>Serious Assault</p> <p>1 x detected.</p>
<div data-bbox="108 1133 384 1359">  <p>PUBLIC PROTECTION</p> </div> <div data-bbox="395 1133 825 1238"> <p>You identified protecting children and adults at risk of harm as a priority</p> </div> <div data-bbox="395 1254 825 1359"> <p>We identified missing persons, sexual crime and the management of registered sex offenders as priorities</p> </div>	<p>Threatening and abusive behaviour</p> <p>15 x Detected.</p> <p>6 x Undetected</p> <p>Wilfully ill-treat/neglect/expose a child to danger.</p> <p>3 x detected.</p>

	<p>Carry a knife/offensive weapon.</p> <p>2 x undetected</p> <p>1 x undetected</p> <p>Culpable and reckless</p> <p>1 x detected.</p> <p>Vandalism</p> <p>1 x undetected</p> <p>Breach of bail</p> <p>1 x detected.</p> <p>Intentionally expose genitals.</p> <p>1 x detected.</p> <p>Communication offenses</p> <p>1 x detected.</p> <p>Sexual Assault</p> <p>1 x undetected</p>
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	<p>Attempt to cause a protected animal suffering.</p> <p>1 x detected.</p>
<p><i>Useful Links/Contacts</i></p>	<p>Crimestoppers – Crimestoppers in Scotland Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org)</p> <p>Distress Brief Intervention - Distress Brief Intervention - Connected Compassionate Support DBI.scot</p> <p>Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime - Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (scottishparc.co.uk)</p> <p>Women's Aid - Home - Women's Aid (womensaid.org.uk)</p> <p>Citizens Advice – 08081646000</p> <p>Trading Standards - 08081646000</p>

Approved

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