



Dunoon Community Council

Annual General Meeting of the Dunoon Community Council held in Queen's Hall, Dunoon on Monday 11th May 2026.

Present:

Gill Robertson (GR) (Convener)
Tom Warren (TW)
David Clough (DC)
Frauke Thornton (FT)
Debz Wright (DW) (arrived late)

Tom McCowan (TMc) (Secretary)
Lindsey McPhail (LM)
Paul Graysmark (PG)
Eric Owen (EO)

ABC Councillors Attending:

Councillor Ross Moreland (RM)

Councillor Daniel Hampsey (DH)

Members of the Press:

Chris Martin (CM)

Police Scotland:

Not in attendance.

Members of the Public:

Nye Warren (NW)

Apologies:

Yvonne Love (YL)

Abigail Apps (AA)

Councillor Audrey Forrest (AF)

Debz Wright (DW)

1. Gill Robertson (The Convener) opened the meeting at 1900hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The convener told those in attendance that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of taking the minutes and the recording would be destroyed after the meeting scheduled for Monday 10th May 2027 and the minutes have been approved. She invited anyone not happy to be recorded to leave the room or remain silent.

2. Recording of members attending and apologies received.

Apologies received from YL, DW, AF

3. Declaration of Interest.

- a. Gill Robertson – Trustee Dunoon Foodbank, Vice President – Dunoon Inner Wheel
- b. Tom McCowan – Area Coordinator Poppy Scotland, Trustee Dunoon Foodbank
- c. Anne Robertson MBE – Chair of the Trustees - Dunoon Foodbank
- d. Tom Warren – Chair of Dunoon Community Development Trust
- e. David Clough - Member of Dunoon Community Development Trust, Member of the Community Shed, Honorary local representative of the Cruising Association.
- f. Eric Owen – Dunoon Community Shed
- g. Frauke Thornton – Trustee Dunoon Foodbank, Employee of Bank of Scotland (our bank)
- h. Lindsay McPhail – Argyll and Bute Council employee.

4. Minutes of previous meeting were discussed. There were no corrections or alterations made.

Proposal. The minutes from the previous meeting were correct and bear a true reflection of the Dunoon Community Council Annual General Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025.

Proposed: LM Seconded: DC

For (5) Against (0) Abstained (3) Result: **Passed.**

5. Annual Report – Report can be found at Annex A

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council accept the audited accounts as a true and accurate reflection of Dunoon Community Councils financial position.

Proposed: PG Seconded: DC

For (8) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: **Passed.**

6. Election of Office Bearers/Post Holders –

a. Office Bearers.

- (i) Election of Convener – Nominations – Gillian Robertson

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council elect Gillian Robertson as Convener of Dunoon Community Council.

Proposed: TM Seconded: TW

For (7) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Gill Robertson is elected as Convener.

(ii) Election of Secretary – Nominations – Thomas McCowan

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council elect Thomas McCowan as Secretary of Dunoon Community Council.

Proposed: LM Seconded: FT

For (7) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Thomas McCowan is elected as Secretary. (A replacement secretary must be elected before December 2026)

(iii) Election of Treasurer – Nominations – Anne Robertson MBE

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council elect Anne Robertson MBE as Treasurer of Dunoon Community Council.

Proposed: LM Seconded: TW

For (7) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Anne Robertson MBE is elected as Treasurer.

(iv) Election of Vice-Convener – Nominations – Tom Warren

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council elect Tom Warren as Vice-Convener of Dunoon Community Council.

For (7) Against (0) Abstained (1) Result: Tom Warren is elected as Vice-Convener.

7. Election of Post Holders.

Planning	TBC
Licencing	TBC
Education & Youth Engagement	Vacant
Transport	David Clough
Infrastructure Redevelopment	Paul Graysmark (<i>Replacement to be found after Community Council elections on 20 August 2026</i>)
Community Engagement (<i>See note 1</i>)	Thomas McCowan
Grants & Funding (<i>See Note 2</i>)	Anne Robertson MBE
Community Council Liaison	Tom Warren
Public Health & Social Services	Gillian Robertson
Environmental Member	Debz Wright
Argyll Rally Liaison	David Clough

Proposal. Dunoon Community Council elect those nominated as post holders for the assigned portfolios.

Proposed: PG Seconded: TW

For (8) Against (0) Abstained (0) Result: Passed.

8. **Dates of Future Meetings** – Dunoon Community Council will meet on the second Monday of every month. The dates are as follows, 11th May 2026, 08th June 2026, 10th August 2026, 14th September 2026, 12th October 2026, 09^h November 2026, 14th December 2026 (see note 3), 11th January 2027, 08th February 2027, 08th March 2027, 12th April 2027.
9. **Date of next Annual General Meeting** – 10th May 2027 at 1900hrs.

The Convener brought the meeting to an end at 1925hrs and thanked all those who attended. The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 10th May 2027, Queens Hall, Dunoon at 1900hrs.

Note 1- Community Engagement to be carried out by elected secretary

Note 2- Grants and Funding to be carried out by elected treasurer

Note 3- The meeting on 8th December 2025 will be an informal workshop meeting

Annex List:

Annex A – Annual Reports

Distribution:

All DCC Councillors

Cllr Moreland

Cllr Forrest

Cllr Hampsey

Melissa Stewart
Police Scotland
PC M Cunningham
Chris Martin (Observer)
Queens Hall Reception
Library
DCC Facebook page
DCC Website

**Annex A to
Dunoon Community Council
Annual General Meeting
12th May 2025**



**Dunoon Community Council
Annual Report.
2026**

1. Introduction

Portfolio Lead: Convenor – Gill Robertson

The 2025/2026 reporting period was a productive and significant year for Dunoon Community Council (DCC). Members worked across a wide range of portfolios including governance, transport, public health, environment, resilience, infrastructure, planning, and community engagement. The Council strengthened relationships with partner organisations, responded to community concerns, supported local initiatives, and continued to increase its visibility and impact within Dunoon.

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Treasurer: treasurer@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk

Vice-Convenor: vice-convenor@dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk
www.dunooncommunitycouncil.co.uk

As the Convenor noted that we are working to make Dunoon and Kilmartin a better place for everyone.

2. Convenor's Report

Convenor – Gill Robertson

The Convenor highlighted strengthened partnerships with local organisations, including Dunoon BID and Dunoon Community Development Trust.

Key points:

- Continued attendance at Dunoon BID meetings
- Strong working relationship with the local newspaper
- Recognition of the significant contributions of DCC members, particularly the Secretary and Transport Lead

3. Secretary's Report

Secretary – Tom McCowan

3.1 Governance & Administration

Routine duties included agendas, minutes, correspondence, website management, consultations, and liaison with Argyll & Bute Council. The DCC Facebook Group was formally closed, consolidating communication through the official Page.

3.2 Community Engagement & Public Concerns

Issues addressed included parking, ATM access, road safety, ferry timetables, TRO consultations, and Save Cowal's Hills concerns. Two major public surveys were conducted on CalMac ferry timetables.

3.3 Website & Social Media

- Over **15,000 website views** since October 2023
- Increased monthly engagement
- Website became a key information hub

3.4 Events & Community Activities

- VE Day commemorations
- Community markets and volunteer recruitment
- Best Dressed Property Competition

3.5 Environmental & Community Projects

- Early-stage work on Morag's Fairy Glen
- Support for Argyll Beach Clean
- Westbay Play Park discussions

- Major feasibility work on the West Bay Moorings Project

3.6 Tourism & Economic Development

The West Bay Moorings proposal progressed through legal consultation, Crown Estate engagement, and financial forecasting.

3.7 Community Resilience & Partnerships

DCC participated in resilience planning with Argyll & Bute Council, Dunoon BID, and emergency planning teams.

3.8 Membership & Governance

Recruitment and retention remained a priority, with concerns around quorum, elections, and youth representation.

3.9 Poppy Appeal

A record-breaking **£15,650.05** was raised.

4. Financial Report 2025–2026

Treasurer – Anne Robertson MBE

4.1 Overview

The financial year saw steady activity, with regular operational expenditure, modest income, and responsible financial management. This report has **not yet been externally audited**.

4.2 Opening & Closing Balances

Item	Amount (£)
Opening Balance (April 2025)	£5,149.54
Closing Balance (March 2026)	£3,978.57 (Current Account)
Savings Account Balance (Year End)	£1,110.78
Total Cash at Year End	£5,089.35

4.3 Total Income & Expenditure (Condensed Summary)

Income

- Argyll & Bute Council grant
- Donations
- Savings interest
- Refunds

Total Income: £1,436.80

Expenditure

- Room hire
- Website hosting & email services
- Community event supplies
- Amazon purchases
- Bank charges
- Audit fee
- Christmas Lights Competition
- Emergency Services Christmas gifts

Total Expenditure: £2,607.77

Net Position

Description Amount (£)

Net Profit/Loss –£1,170.97

4.4 Audit Statement

The accounts for 2025/26 have been audited and independently verified by Solena Macleof from Mrs Macs Books

5. Transport Report

Transport Lead – David Clough

5.1 Key Activities

- Ongoing communication with transport operators
- Attendance at all CTF and ferry stakeholder meetings
- Led the Expression of Interest for a new Gourock–Dunoon ferry service
- Maintained a cleansed transport contact database

5.2 Bus Services

- 480 route extended along the full seafront
- Minor adjustments to the 489
- Investigation into reinstating the 907 Dunoon–Glasgow service

5.3 Ferries

- Continued lobbying of all 16 MSPs

- Meeting with Jenny Minto MSP
- Transport Scotland update provided “no reassurance”
- Community survey led to timetable improvements
- New survey prepared for 2026

5.4 Argyll Rally

- DCC distributed Rally Letters and will distribute Residents Packs
- Post-rally survey again showed overwhelming support

5.5 Cowal Transport Forum

- Transport Lead initiated the 2026 meeting
- New chair elected

6. Environment Report

Environmental Lead – Debz Wright

The Environmental portfolio focused heavily on the restoration and future safeguarding of Morag’s Fairy Glen, alongside wider environmental engagement across Dunoon.

6.1 Morag’s Fairy Glen – Site Assessment & Restoration Planning

Two multi-agency meetings and a full site inspection were carried out with representatives from Argyll & Bute Council, local contractors, and community volunteers. Key findings included:

- Overgrown access routes requiring clearance
- Laurel encroachment impacting biodiversity
- Large fallen trees obstructing the burn and posing safety risks
- Rockfall hazards in several areas
- Bridges and handrails requiring full replacement
- Pathways intact but overgrown and boggy in sections

A staged restoration plan was drafted, with Stage One requiring professional contractor intervention due to safety and structural concerns.

6.2 Community Involvement & Volunteer Planning

Once contractor work is complete, volunteers will support:

- Bridge and handrail construction
- Vegetation clearance
- Pathway maintenance

- A community upskilling programme to support long-term stewardship

6.3 Wider Environmental Contributions

Debz represented DCC at:

- Argyll & the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust (ACT)
- Third Sector Collaboration meetings
- Community networking events

She also advocated for the community during discussions on the public library relocation, ensuring environmental and accessibility concerns were raised.

7. Resilience Report

Resilience Lead – Debz Wright

The Resilience portfolio focused on strengthening Dunoon's preparedness for emergencies, improving community awareness, and exploring the development of a local First Responder model.

7.1 Community Resilience Booklet

A comprehensive, accessible Community Resilience Booklet was drafted, covering:

- Emergency contacts
- Storm and flooding preparation
- Neighbour support
- Local resources
- Shelter and communication planning

The booklet is awaiting final approval from DCC before public release.

Debz completed all volunteer checks but stepped back from the formal role due to work commitments. The groundwork remains in place for future development.

8. Infrastructure & Redevelopment Report

Infrastructure Lead – Paul Greysmark

The Infrastructure portfolio oversaw improvements to public spaces, community assets, and local infrastructure engagement.

8.1 Bench Refurbishment Programme

A major refurbishment project was completed for 10 benches along Alexandra Parade. Work included:

- Removal, repair, sanding, and repainting

- Replacement of damaged slats
- Reinstallation along the seafront

This project was delivered in partnership with:

- Community Shed
- Community Payback Team
- Dunoon Grammar School

All costs were fully funded by Dunoon Community Council.

8.2 Highland Mary Statue

- Ownership confirmed as Argyll & Bute Council
- Repairs to the surrounding railings were put out to tender
- DCC is awaiting completion and will continue to monitor progress

8.3 Roads & Infrastructure Engagement

Regular engagement took place with Argyll & Bute Council Roads Department, including:

- Reporting faults
- Monitoring repairs
- Raising community concerns
- Supporting improvements to signage, lighting, and footpaths

11. Conclusion

The 2025/2026 year was marked by strong community engagement, significant project development, and strengthened partnerships across Dunoon. From environmental restoration to transport advocacy, public health campaigning, resilience planning, infrastructure improvements, and community events, DCC members contributed substantial time and expertise to improving local life.



Dunoon Community Council

Members Annual Reports – 2025/2026

Convenor's Annual Report 2025/2026

Prepared by: Gill Robertson

Reporting Period: May 2025 – May 2026

Introduction

This annual report provides an overview of the work of the Convenor in the period May 25 – May 26.

The work of the Community Council as a whole can be found in the Secretary's report for the same period.

I believe that the Community Council continues to play an important part of Dunoon life.

We have worked hard this year to create stronger relationships with the other town organisations – Dunoon BID – I now attend their meetings as a representative of the Community Council. The Vice-Convenor is the Chair of Dunoon Community Development Trust, and this closer working is starting to reap benefits. This work will continue over the coming year.

We also have a good relationship with the Editor of the local newspaper often benefiting the Community Council by sharing of information and often the support from Community Council campaigns.

Conclusion

As per the Secretary's Report the 2025/2026 reporting period was a worthwhile and important time for the Community Council and for residents in our area

As Convenor I would like to thank all members and officers for their considerable input to the community council often taking up a great deal of time.

I would, in particular, like to thank our secretary, Tom McCowan for the huge amount of work that he does!

I would also like to thank our transport convenor, David Clough. This has been a trying year around the CalMac ferry issues and his knowledge and expertise on all of this is invaluable!

I look forward to the coming year, and we will continue to make Dunoon life as good as it can be!

Secretary's Annual Report 2025/2026

Prepared by: Tom McCowan, Secretary
Reporting Period: May 2025 – May 2026

Introduction

This annual report provides an overview of the work undertaken by Dunoon Community Council during the 2025/2026 reporting period. Throughout the year, the Community Council continued to represent the interests of the local community, respond to public concerns, support community projects, engage with partner organisations, and improve communication with residents.

The year saw significant work undertaken in relation to community engagement, event planning, environmental initiatives, tourism development proposals, resilience planning, public consultations, and strengthening the visibility and presence of Dunoon Community Council within the wider community.

Administration and Governance

Throughout the year, routine administrative duties continued to be carried out, including:

- Preparation and publication of agendas and minutes
- Responding to public and stakeholder correspondence
- Website and social media management
- Public consultations and surveys
- Liaison with Argyll and Bute Council and external organisations
- Supporting community projects and events

The Community Council also continued to improve its public communication methods through increased use of social media and the ongoing development of its website.

During the year, the Dunoon Community Council Facebook Group was formally closed, with focus moving towards the official Dunoon Community Council Facebook Page to provide clearer communication and improved moderation.

Community Engagement and Public Concerns

A number of public concerns were raised and addressed throughout the year. These included:

- Parking issues within Dunoon

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- Public access to ATM services
- Road safety and speeding concerns
- Ferry timetable concerns relating to CalMac services
- Traffic Regulation Order consultation concerns
- Community feedback relating to local events and infrastructure

Two public surveys were created regarding the CalMac ferry timetable to gather community feedback and strengthen local representation.

The Community Council also engaged with residents regarding concerns raised during the Save Cowal's Hills meeting.

Website and Social Media

The Dunoon Community Council website and social media platforms continued to grow significantly during the reporting period.

Highlights included:

- Over 15,000 website views recorded since October 2023
- Consistent monthly engagement through website articles and updates
- Significant traffic redirected from social media platforms
- Increased public interaction and visibility online

The website became an increasingly important source of information for residents regarding meetings, consultations, projects, and local initiatives.

Events and Community Activities

VE Day Commemorations

Significant work was undertaken in preparation for the VE Day commemorations held within Dunoon.

This included:

- Booking Argyll Gardens and Castle Gardens
- Completing risk assessments
- Holding planning meetings with stakeholders
- Coordinating volunteers and marshals
- Liaising with Roads and Amenities teams
- Supporting arrangements for national press attendance

The event represented a major community occasion and highlighted the importance of partnership working across local organisations.

Markets and Community Presence

Preparations were undertaken for participation in a number of community markets during 2026. These events were intended to:

- Promote the work of Dunoon Community Council
- Encourage volunteer recruitment
- Increase engagement with residents
- Raise funds for local initiatives, including support for the Christmas Lights Committee

The proposal to purchase a branded gazebo for use at events and community work parties was also brought forward during the year.

Best Dressed Property Competition

The annual Best Dressed Property Competition continued to support local community spirit and encourage local shopping through the use of local gift vouchers as prizes.

Environmental and Community Projects

Morag's Fairy Glen

Initial meetings were attended regarding improvement and support work associated with Morag's Fairy Glen.

Meetings involved representatives from:

Dunoon Community Council

Dunoon BID

Argyll and Bute Council Roads and Amenities

The project demonstrated positive partnership working aimed at supporting local environmental and tourism assets.

Argyll Beach Clean Support

Support was considered for the Argyll Beach Clean group, including proposals to assist with the purchase of waterproof clipboards to support environmental monitoring activities.

Westbay Play Park

Work continued regarding the Westbay Play Park project, including the circulation of plans to members and ongoing discussions relating to the use of funds previously raised.

Tourism and Economic Development

West Bay Moorings Project

One of the most significant development proposals considered during the year was the potential installation of visitor mooring buoys within West Bay.

Work undertaken included:

- Discussions with Argyll and Bute Council
- Consultation with legal and harbour authorities
- Engagement with Peel Ports and Crown Estate
- Initial financial forecasting and feasibility work
- Liaison with marine specialists and local stakeholders

The proposal aimed to:

- Increase marine tourism to Dunoon
- Generate sustainable income for community projects
- Improve visitor infrastructure within the town

Projected figures indicated the potential for the project to generate significant annual income for reinvestment into local initiatives.

Community Resilience and Partnership Working

Throughout the year, the Community Council continued to participate in resilience planning meetings and engage with partner agencies and organisations.

Meetings were attended with:

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Dunoon BID
- Emergency Planning representatives
- Community groups and local organisations

This partnership working strengthened local communication and improved coordination on community matters.

Half Marathon Proposal

Initial planning commenced for a proposed Half Marathon event in support of Poppy Scotland.

Work undertaken included:

- Initial route and event planning
- Grant funding applications
- Contact with local sponsors

- Discussions regarding associated community market events
- Early volunteer planning

The proposal aimed to create a major community event while supporting charitable fundraising and increasing visitor numbers within Dunoon.

Following further investigation and planning work, it was concluded that the operating and organisational costs associated with delivering the event would be prohibitive. As a result, the proposal will not be progressing at this time.

Membership and Governance

During the year, recruitment and retention of Community Councillors remained a key priority.

New members joined or were proposed for co-option during the reporting period, helping strengthen the Community Council moving forward.

Concerns were also raised regarding:

- Future Community Council elections
- Maintaining quorum levels
- Increasing youth representation
- Encouraging wider community participation

The Community Council continued to actively promote opportunities for local residents to become involved.

Poppy Appeal

The annual Poppy Appeal saw strong community support, raising a record-breaking total of **£15,650.05** despite a shortened appeal period due to supply chain issues.

This reflected the continued generosity and support of the Dunoon community.

Looking Forward

During the next reporting period, Dunoon Community Council will continue to focus on:

- Improving community engagement
- Supporting environmental and tourism initiatives
- Increasing membership and volunteer participation
- Developing community events
- Strengthening relationships with partner organisations
- Continuing work on the West Bay Moorings proposal

- Supporting local resilience planning
- Expanding the Community Council's public presence

Conclusion

The 2025/2026 reporting period was a productive and progressive year for Dunoon Community Council.

A significant amount of work was undertaken by members and volunteers across a wide range of projects and initiatives aimed at supporting and improving the local community.

The Community Council would like to thank all members, volunteers, partner organisations, local businesses, and residents who have contributed their time, support, and engagement throughout the year.

Continued partnership working and community involvement will remain essential as Dunoon Community Council moves forward into the next reporting period.

Transport Annual Report 2025/2026

Prepared by: David Clough – Transport Lead
Reporting Period: May 2025 – May 2026

Introduction

This annual report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Dunoon Community Council Transport Lead during the 2025/2026 reporting period.

The past 12 months has seen ongoing communications between DCC and West Coast Motors, Western Ferries, CalMac, Scotrail, other Community Councils and to a much lesser extent Transport Scotland.

The Transport Lead has attended all meetings of the Cowal Transport Forum (CTF) (May, August, December and April) and the Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Ferry Stakeholder Group (June and December) and all Argyll Rally Community Council liaison meetings (June, August, February, March and April).

The Transport Lead also led the Cowal – Gourock Transport link Expression of Interest document posted on the Public Contract Scotland web portal for the provision of a ferry service between Gourock and Dunoon.

We now have a cleansed database of contact e-mail addresses to Transport Scotland, MSP's, CTF members and other Community Councils.

Connectivity

This is brought up at every CTF, and all parties have worked together positively to make improvements within the limitations set by Argyll and Bute Council (bus mileages), ferry availability and working hours legislation.

Buses

Following a request by Residents at Cragroy the 480 was re-routed to run the entire length of the sea front from Hunters Quay to Dunoon.

Various minor tweaks to the 489 service were also agreed.

The Transport Lead has also spent considerable amount of time investigating and costing the re-instatement of the 907 bus service from Dunoon to Glasgow. A hybrid solution is being suggested that would see the current Ferry service stopped in favour of a 2 hourly service between Dunoon / Glasgow and a 20 minute service between Dunoon and Gourock Railway station. The Ferry survey referenced below has this as an option, hence seeking community views before progressing further.

Ferries

We have continued to lobby all 16 MSP's who represent Cowal and InverClyde. I personally met Jenny Minto in February 2026 to voice our concerns about lack of tangible progress to replace the Gourock / Dunoon ferries.

Transport Scotland provided an update in November which failed to give any reassurance that any progress for new Ferries following the Community Needs Assessment done in late summer 2024 was being made, and no timescales could be given.

Following a Community Survey in the late summer there was a minor amendment to the afternoon single vessel service to improve connectivity with Scotrail / West Coast Motors.

In early 2026 a presentation on possible options to be pursued by DCC was given to members, and we have another survey to seek the Community views about to go live.

Argyll Rally

The annual post Rally survey yet again demonstrated overwhelming support from the residents of Dunoon for the Rally. We have again this year agreed to distribute the Rally Letters to residents on the route (done in April) and will be distributing the Residents Information packs in the next few weeks once they are available.

Cowal Transport Forum

Following the lack of movement to organise a CTF in 2026 I took the lead and set up an April meeting at which a new chair was elected and dates/times of next meeting agreed.

Looking Forward

During the next reporting period, I will continue to focus on:

- Improving connectivity

- Timelines and budgetary approval for new Gourock / Dunoon ferries

Annual Report for Environment

Prepared by: Debz Wright – Environmental Lead

Reporting Period: May 2025 – May 2026

1. Achievements in year 2025/26.

Morag's Fairy Glen – Progress Report and Site Inspection Summary

1. Overview

This report summarises recent progress regarding Morag's Fairy Glen (MFG), including two successful engagements with Cllr Ross Moreland, Tom Murphy of Argyll & Bute Council, Ross Petro Director Argyll Forestry Services Ltd and Tom McCowan and Debz Wright from Dunoon Community Council. The findings from an on-site inspection carried out 21st April 2026. The purpose of this document is to outline current site conditions, identify priority works, and highlight opportunities for community involvement and phased reopening.

2. Engagement with Argyll & Bute Council

Two constructive meetings have taken place:

- 17th February 2026: Initial meeting to discuss the future of Morag's Fairy Glen, project aims, and potential collaboration between community groups DCC, Dunoon Presents, Argyll & Bute Council and other groups and public who would like to help with restoration of MFG. The project would create a lot of opportunities for Dunoon and the wider community, such as being a good news story for Dunoon. How a community came together to reinvigorate a lost attraction that many hold fond memories.
- 21st April 2026: A guided tour of the site with council representatives to assess conditions, discuss access, and identify required works.

Both meetings were positive and demonstrated strong shared interest in restoring and reopening the site for community use.

3. Site Inspection Findings

3.1 Entrance and Access

- The entrance pathway is significantly overgrown, primarily due to laurel encroachment. The laurel has spread extensively and is obstructing safe access.
- Several large fallen trees—including a substantial oak near the entrance—are blocking the burn. These trees exceed the capacity of volunteer teams and will require removal by trained forestry professionals.
- Access for tools, materials, and equipment will need to be routed through the grounds of the former Glenmorag Hotel. Permission from the new owners will be required.
- The use of quadbikes was discussed as a potential method for transporting equipment; however, several sections of the site are too narrow to accommodate them.

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3.2 Environmental and Structural Concerns

- Evidence of rock falls was observed, likely caused by fallen trees destabilising slopes and/or high-water volumes following repeated storms.
- Multiple bridges-constructed from wood or mixed wood/metal-are in poor condition and require full replacement.
- All wooden handrails show clear signs of decay and will need to be replaced.
- Metal handrails on higher levels appear structurally sound but should undergo a formal inspection to confirm safety.

3.3 Vegetation and Landscape Stability

- Laurel removal is essential. The species is contributing to erosion and destabilisation of rock and bank faces, and it obscures key views of the glen.
- The volume of laurel growth, combined with storm-damaged and ageing trees, presents a risk to both visitors and the long-term stability of the site.

3.4 Pathways and Ground Conditions

- Pathways and steps remain structurally intact but have been heavily colonised by vegetation. These areas will require clearing, digging out, and resurfacing with stone or wood chippings.
- Several areas of the footpath are boggy and muddy, indicating poor drainage. Improvements will require:
 - Drainage interventions to redirect water
 - Selection of appropriate surface materials to ensure long-term durability
- A lower section of pathway near the first bend appears to be a dislodged manmade structure, now lodged sideways in the water. This could be replaced with a small platform, enabling a short circular walk on the lower level.

4. Required Professional Works (Stage One)

The first stage of restoration must be carried out by qualified contractors, not volunteers. This stage includes:

- A full inspection of rock faces, slopes, and areas affected by previous rock falls.
- Assessment of all older trees, including:
 - Trees showing signs of storm damage
 - Trees at risk of future failure
 - Trees that may pose long-term structural or safety issues
- Removal of large fallen trees currently blocking the burn.
- Systematic removal of laurel to prevent further erosion, protect bank stability, and restore visibility throughout the glen.

These works require professional expertise due to the scale, safety considerations, and technical nature of the interventions.

5. Opportunities for Community Involvement (Stage Two)

Once the professional works are complete, there is strong potential for community participation in the next phase of restoration. Opportunities include:

- Volunteer involvement in constructing new handrails and bridges (under supervision).
- Vegetation clearance and pathway maintenance.
- Participation in a community upskilling programme, running alongside ongoing professional works.

This approach would strengthen community ownership, build local skills, and support long-term stewardship of the site.

6. Phased Reopening Strategy

A phased approach to reopening was discussed:

- The first section of the glen-once cleared, repaired, and made safe-could be reopened as an initial circular walk.
- This would provide early public access while more complex forestry and structural works continue in deeper sections of the site.
- Early reopening would also help build community engagement and demonstrate visible progress.

7. Summary of Required Actions

Immediate Priorities

- Secure permission for access through the former Glenmorag Hotel grounds.
- Commission a qualified forestry and environmental team to:
 - Remove large fallen trees
 - Inspect rock faces and slopes
 - Assess and remove storm-damaged or high-risk trees
 - Remove laurel to protect stability and restore visibility
- Conduct a formal inspection of metal handrails.

Short- to Medium-Term Works

- Replace damaged bridges and all wooden handrails.
- Clear vegetation from pathways and steps; resurface as required.
- Improve drainage and select appropriate surface materials for boggy sections.
- Assess and replace the dislodged lower-path structure with a suitable platform.

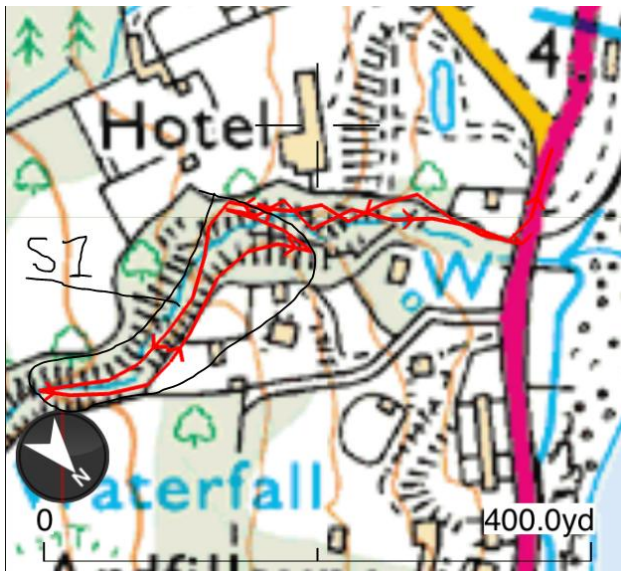
Community-Led Opportunities

- Volunteer involvement in constructing handrails and bridges (post-contractor phase).
- Vegetation clearance and pathway maintenance.
- Participation in a community upskilling programme creating a skilled team of volunteers working closely with ABC council to help maintain MFG and other green areas in and around Dunoon.
- Invite other community groups to come onboard, as it is a community asset that would benefit everyone living and working in Dunoon. A good news story with the potential to go on for years.

8. Conclusion

Morag’s Fairy Glen remains a site of significant natural and community value. The recent meetings with Argyll & Bute Council have been highly productive, and the site inspection has clarified the scope of work required to restore safe access. With coordinated effort between the council, forestry professionals, and the local community, the glen has strong potential for phased reopening and long-term revitalisation.

community, the glen has strong potential for phased reopening and long-term revitalisation.



Annual Report for Resilience & Emergency Planning

Prepared by: Debz Wright – Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead
 Reporting Period: May 2025 – May 2026

Community First Responder Development Work (2024/25)

1. Achievements in 2025/26

Creation of the Dunoon Community Resilience Booklet

- Developed a clear, accessible Community Resilience Booklet designed to help residents understand what to do during emergencies, disruptions, and severe weather events.
- Wrote the content in plain, friendly language, ensuring it is suitable for all ages and abilities.
- Included practical guidance on:
 - Local emergency contacts
 - Preparing for storms, power cuts, and flooding
 - How neighbours can support each other
 - Where to find help during unexpected events
- The booklet has been completed and shared with Dunoon Community Council for review.
- Distribution to the wider community has not yet taken place, pending DCC approval and decisions on rollout.

Strengthening Awareness and Foundations for Resilience

- Although not yet distributed, the booklet has already helped raise awareness within DCC of the need for accessible, community-centred resilience information.
- The process encouraged early conversations about preparedness, local support networks, and how best to communicate with residents.

Building Partnerships

- The booklet project opened constructive dialogue with local organisations and community groups, helping to strengthen relationships between:
 - Dunoon Community Council
 - Third-sector organisations
 - Local resilience partners
 - Community volunteers
- This groundwork supports future collaboration and ensures Dunoon is better positioned for coordinated resilience planning.

2. Community First Responder Development Work

Exploring a Community First Responder Model for Dunoon

During 2024/25, I met with Phil Keetley to discuss the development of a Community First Responder training programme for Dunoon. This initiative was explored in response to ongoing pressures on local ambulance provision and the increasing number of incidents where residents have experienced long waits for emergency medical assistance.

Why This Work Matters

- Dunoon currently has only three ambulances and two ambulance crews covering the town and surrounding areas.
- When crews transport patients across the water, they may be dispatched to calls in Gourock or Greenock, leaving Dunoon without immediate cover.
- Residents have frequently waited 45 minutes or more for an ambulance, with some having to make their own way to local or mainland hospitals.
- For life-threatening emergencies such as cardiac arrest, defibrillation ideally needs to be delivered within seven minutes.
- Many public defibrillators in Dunoon are:
 - Locked
 - Inside buildings
 - Inaccessible out of hours
- Some residents live more than a seven-minute round trip from the nearest device, and additional delays occur when callers must phone for access codes.

These challenges highlight the need for a trained, community-based response team able to provide immediate, lifesaving intervention while waiting for ambulance crews to arrive.

Proposed Structure of the First Responder Scheme

- Recruit 15–20 volunteers across Dunoon to ensure reliable daily cover, including during holidays and sickness.
- Volunteers would receive NHS-delivered community first responder training.
- Each Community Council area in Dunoon would hold a First Responder kit bag, costing approximately £800.
- Volunteers would operate on a rotating on-call system, swapping kit bags at the end of each shift.
- Responders would attend medical emergencies when no ambulance is immediately available, providing early intervention until professional crews arrive.

Personal Contribution

- Successfully applied to become a volunteer and passed the necessary checks, including DBS and Occupational Health clearance.
- After careful consideration, I have chosen not to continue in the formal resilience post due to my own work commitments.
- However, I remain fully committed to supporting the wider resilience effort and am happy to continue as part of the community resilience team where my availability allows.

Models for Inspiration

Two established First Responder teams were identified as strong examples for Dunoon to follow:

1. Trossachs Search and Rescue – <https://trossachs-sar.com/>
2. Largs First Responders – <https://www.facebook.com/largsfirstresponders/photos/>

These groups demonstrate how community-based responders can work effectively alongside the Scottish Ambulance Service to improve outcomes and reduce response times in rural areas.

4. Aspirations for 2026/27

- To grow and develop Dunoon Community Council's Resilience and Emergency Planning.

Report prepared by Debz Wright

Date 05th May 2026

Public Health Annual Report 2025/2026

Prepared by: Gill Robertson

Reporting Period: May 2025 – May 2026

Introduction

This annual report provides an overview of the work in the Public Health and Social care portfolio in the period May 25 – May 26.

There was little activity in this portfolio until a member of the public approached me to raise the issue of lack of contraception and sexual health provision in Cowal

I sent an email to surrounding Community Councils seeking support on raising issue above / received response in the affirmative from South Cowal, Kilmun, Strachur

Raised at CC meeting in April and agreed that we would keep on top of this issue

Letter written to Evan Beswick – Chief Officer A and B HSCP asking for up to date information and seeking reassurances that this issue is being dealt with - awaiting response.

Discussion with Convenor and Jenny Minto MSP re issue about which she is well aware and is pursuing.

Local paper to follow up.

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

Annual Report for Planning and Licensing

Reporting period – May 2025 to May 2026

1. This year seen a small number of planning and licensing applications within our boundaries.
2. No objections were raised in relation to planning or licensing applications.

DRAFT