

Attn. Ms Elma Murray.

Arran Community Council have been involved in the various levels of discussion related to the formation of the Local Development Plan and look forward to receiving any final comments or amendments to the plan in due to course.

Several items were highlighted during the preparation of our responses which have been identified as lying outside the scope of the LDP brief and we would appreciate your guidance to ensure that these areas are properly addressed and the appropriate representations are maintained in the future.

On several occasions recently (Rural housing and Wind Turbine guidelines) we have noted the involvement of third party resources being engaged to prepare plans or guidelines for areas impacting island life and we have requested that, on these occasions, the third party should involve the Community Council at the initial stages of their activities rather than ask for feedback from an already drafted paper. We believe this would be both more efficient and timely in the preparation and also improve the relevance of any observations or recommendations.

We had raised the ongoing situation regarding roads and the travel infrastructure. This is a major concern for both residents and the business community and we have requested the preparation of a "Road Plan" for the island which would identify all areas of improvement and maintenance and should included estimated costs. This list, if prepared without prejudice to available funding, could provide the basis for ongoing agreed prioritisation of needs and could help in reducing the continuing frustrations that this topic generates on both NAC and residents. A regular review of this document and the publication of the agreed prioritisations would remove the many questions raised under the current structure.

The environment is a vital aspect of Arran's attraction and we would appreciate your guidance on how we can influence the support and development of activities such as "COAST" and "Arran access" funding etc.

Waste management has currently no obvious "Strategic" approach for the island and current practice of shipping off the island is viewed as both economically ineffective and also environmentally unfriendly. We note several approaches for the mainland centric waste but would like to be involved to develop "island based" solutions particularly regarding garden waste and areas of potential recycling which may be achieved with a minimum of financial investment and utilise existing resources. The possibility of creating a "Community Project" should be explored even if only at a pilot level.

Recent initiatives for Community involvement which have been advised across the region have not been developed on Arran and, whilst we may not have the degree of issues which exist across the "three towns", we still would appreciate the recognition of the needs for the social involvement programmes for the island.

The area of ferry travel and fares/ concessionary fares subsidies which NAC pays is another area where we believe the community council could play a more active role should also be explored.

The general position regarding island related topics is felt to be inconsistently approached in the current structure and the liaison across the NAC departments is felt to offer opportunities for improvement and we believe we could have a role to play in these changes. This would establish a position which would view Arran as an entity which does not presently exist.

The appointment of a senior NAC officer to ensure continuity across all the departments would obviously be an ideal solution but in today's climate not easily achieved and we would like to explore either an amended role for our existing NAC manager in conjunction with other bodies or some alternative structure which your group may be able to suggest.

The availability of an "Arran" programme which sets out the direction and priorities of the island would be a useful reference document for both the community, businesses and North Ayrshire Council.

Developing the Arran experience will bring visitors through the other parts of NAC and development of Ardrossan facilities and will enhance visitors' impression of the area and hopefully encourage repeat visits.

Your comments and suggestions as to how we can progress these aspects would be appreciated together with advice on the most appropriate contact within your organisation. If you feel it more constructive to arrange a meeting we would be happy to attend at your convenience.

Regards,  
John Inglis  
Chairman  
Arran Community Council