

## **LISMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL - CONVENOR'S REPORT 2024**

LCC continues to operate with five Community Councillors. A by-election has been held since the main election but was unsuccessful in attracting candidates.

LCC has addressed a range of issues during the year.

### Ferries

We have continued to send multiple emails and letters to Calmac, Transport Scotland and Ministers on timetable reductions and the much needed work on the Oban slip. Jenni Minto, our MSP, has also taken up the issue with Ministers on behalf of the community.

The matter of sailings leaving early been resolved and (hopefully) is not happening.

LCC were consulted on alterations to the Calmac timetable from June 2024 due to changes to train timetables and the need to retain integration. The input provided by LCC resulted in the daily 14:00 sailing from Oban being moved to 14:15 and the 16:00 sailing on a Sunday being retained (the proposal was to bring it forward to 15:45, which would have been less suitable for islanders returning home following a weekend away).

### Graveyard extension

Following LCC's successful lobbying in 2022, A&B Council had confirmed that the graveyard will be kept open. LCC assisted the Council in securing agreement from CoS and the tenant to purchase some Glebe land for an extension, as the graveyard is close to capacity. Despite their agreement, the Council had to pursue a Plan B as SEPA advised that an extension would not comply with current regulations protecting Private Water Supplies. LCC has continued to Liaise with the Council as work progresses.

Work is currently underway on excavating the unused portion of the existing extension, digging lairs and back-filling with earth, which will provide capacity for 20 – 30 years. Planning permissions are already in place covering this ground.

### Church

LCC led the community consultation on the potential community ownership of the Church and Church House, and both facilitated and participated in, the Church Futures Group that took forward the feasibility study and business plan. These studies are now complete; further development funding is being sought from Scottish Land Fund; discussions are underway with CoS and the aim is to reach a community decision in early 2025, with funding decisions made around that time.

### Roads and car parks

LCC continues to raise any issues on road repairs and maintenance with the Council. Some of the large areas of road damage have been repaired but further work is apparently to be done later this year.

Problems with car parking at Point are ongoing. Second home owners and other non-residents continue to leave their cars parked for weeks or months at a time. LCC has written to the Council to seek assistance in addressing the issues and for an update on road repair schedules.

LCC is represented on a working group in Appin, chaired by Appin Community Development Trust, which is considering parking issues in Port Appin. The proposal is to create up to 65 more parking spaces along the shore-front. However, although this will ease parking in the short term, it will be insufficient to meet demand and is likely to create demand. In the absence of other measures, very soon parking will be at capacity and the same issues will arise but with even more vehicles. A plan for managing parking is required.

### Boreholes

A list of viable sites has finally been sent to Glensanda and we await their response. A change in company policy means that decisions on this type of assistance needs to be made centrally at a senior level.

### R100 broadband project

LCC has continued to liaise with Scottish Government on the roll-out of the project, which has been completed apart from some properties that were either pending wayleave agreements; experiencing technical issues or were not on the original address list.

### Visitors and dogs

Significant numbers of visitors do not leash their dogs and there have been incidents of livestock harassment in the past year. LCC has liaised with the local Police Scotland officer and is in the process of organising a consultation on establishing a by-law. This would require people to keep dogs, other than island working dogs, on a lead when on other people's ground unless they have the express permission of the landowner/ tenant.

### Resilience and Emergency Plan

LCC agreed previously to revisit the island's Emergency Plan and to facilitate discussion on wider resilience issues. This has not yet happened but will be prioritised in the next few months.

### Fish farm planning application

LCC has collaborated with the Appin and Duror/Kentallen Community Councils on the proposed semi-enclosed fish farm at Lurignish. The CCs established a working group, which has had dialogue with the developer; researched and gathered information; liaised with community groups and others involved in similar applications elsewhere and drafted a comprehensive list of pre-application questions that were sent to the developer many months ago. A response is still awaited but the questions will inform the proposals pre-application. A planning application is expected to be submitted later in the summer. At that stage, LCC will organise a public meeting on Lismore to discuss the application and to decide on any submissions to the Planning Authority.

### Representation

LCC continues to represent the community to Government, its agencies and other decision making bodies, reacting to issues as they arise and proactively when this is in the interests of the community.