

Chairs Report
Kilmacolm Community Council AGM 2023
30th May, Kilmacolm Community Centre

I am delighted that since our last AGM in 2022 the Community Council have continued to create opportunities to engage with local groups through community events and support local causes. We continue to fight to protect greenbelt space while sympathetically reviewing planning applications. I hope to strike the right balance between protecting a beautiful rural community while assisting residents to develop modern, efficient, accessible homes. Our ongoing dialogue with Inverclyde Council around pressures on local amenities such as parking and public transport continues, however with the help of the ICs communications and engagement teams I believe we are developing more open lines of discussion, this was demonstrated in IC seeking feedback on park development. I continue to be disappointed with the approach to some aspects of Inverclyde Council's work having received not a single response from head of roads about the disruption caused by various works in the village centre. However council member John Spence and myself are attending regular Association of Inverclyde Community Council Workshops to hopefully share ideas and best practise with other CCs within Inverclyde.

Our successful £5000 bid for Meliora funding last summer allowed us to host a well-attended fete in June at Birkmyre Park, where we benefited from excellent entertainment provided by local dancers and The St Columba Pipe Band. October saw us support a third annual Scarecrow trail, a great venture which I am pleased to be involved with and hope to work with more participants this coming year.

At Christmas our annual raffle raised £641 which was distributed between Inverclyde Womens Aid, Ardgowan Hospice and Inverclyde Food Bank. The Elf returned for his second year visiting schools, businesses and local landmarks. These activities aid us in promoting the Community Council and help to raise the social media profile to community members. I'm mindful that while we now have 434 facebook members our online presence is an area of development for us this coming year as a way to engage with residents.

Throughout the early part of the year we supported the warm space initiative, planted a tree on land acquired by Green Action Trust and engaged with Scottish Water on a new top up tap, completed a Spring litter pick around the village and provided funding to the Kilmacolm Dramatics society for props and to Colourful Kilmacolm for bulbs. Following feedback from residents, we are shortly installing a dog poo bag dispenser on a trial basis in the village centre and are supporting applications for funding additional bins to tackle the issue of litter.

Our Coronation collaboration with Carriages provided excellent family entertainment and the cyclathon raised £536.19 for Kilmacolm Playgroup and Toddlers. Thank you to cyclists and sponsors.

I intend to stand for a further year as Chair and thank the other council members for their time and effort this past year.