

Gourock Community Council

‘You Said, We Did’ Community Issues Tracker (December 25)

Ensuring a Caring Gourock

We’re ensuring a caring Gourock, a priority that arose from our community engagement.

The action plan includes, encouraging friendly greetings, driving safely, dementia friendly and wider training, acting on injustice, accessibility, warm spaces that bring everyone together, taking care of our special places and supporting excluded young people. Some issues are already being actioned below.

Ensuring a Safer Gourock

We’re ensuring a safer Gourock, another priority from our community engagement - especially for women and children. The action plan includes repairing pavements and railings, stronger lighting, promoting cohesion, reducing speeding and inconsiderate parking, improving road safety, encouraging acceptable behaviour in education, and calling for the return of community policing. Some issues are actioned below.

Making Albert Road safer for Pedestrians

We’re making Albert Road safer for pedestrians, especially our elderly and vulnerable residents. Agreed progress includes build outs, new Spinnaker Corner and McInroy’s Point surveys, monitoring of speed signage and Ashburn Gate visibility and re-painting yellow lines at Cloch Court. We’re monitoring progress and still calling for a more flexible council solution to address the lack of visibility at Cloch Court.

Tackling Gourock’s Eyesores (Former Queen’s Hotel)

We submitted comments in support of the redevelopment of the now ruinous former Queen’s Hotel and regularly communicated with the planning department and others. The application was improved with conditions, a building warrant has been confirmed and work is likely to begin early next year.

Tackling Gourock’s Eyesores (Shore Street’s Vacant Plot)

We called for environmental action by the private owner of Shore St’s vacant plot, given its unkempt state, and even campaigned on the streets with ‘Gourock Deserves Better’ placards. Whilst not ideal, a fence was finally erected. GCC also submitted comments in support of the site’s redevelopment and communicated with the planning officers and others. Parking was considered and planning has been agreed. Monitoring.

Supporting an Accessible Gourock

We’re committed to ensuring an accessible Gourock and this includes support for more changing place toilets. We’re awaiting the outcome of Inverclyde Leisure’s funding bid to the SG’s Changing Places Toilet Fund and have written to local ASN groups to explore how we can support them on this and other issues. Other issues include, inconsiderate parking and working with the Police and Traffic wardens. Update soon.

Standing up for Gourock’s Women and Girls

We’ve challenged anything that appears to be misogynistic behaviour. This includes raising complaints with the Council and the Ethical Standards Commissioner about the treatment of one of our local female councillors in Council proceedings. Although not upheld, we continue to take a zero tolerance approach in support of Gourock’s women and girls. GCC also actioned an International Women’s Day campaign and forum, and the emerging issues now inform our work. This includes flexible working, misogyny, accessible and affordable childcare, equal pay and promotion, and feeling safe.

Ensuring a Sustainable Town to Town Ferry Service

We’re supporting our Dunoon CC friends and ensuring a more sustainable future for our town to town ferry service (Calmac). Unreliable sailings impacted passenger numbers and resulted in a now reduced service. Ultimately, Cowal Transport Forum are pursuing an asset transfer of the terminals and a new operator to secure a thriving and sustainable ferry service. An expression of interest has now been submitted to the SG’s Find A Tender website and GCC are monitoring the situation.

Designing our Community Spaces and Buildings (Station Land)

We've raised our concerns about the potential marketing and sale of the land outside Gourock railway station when it should be the community that designs this space. This will now be incorporated into the local place plan that we have agreed to develop to ensure the community's voice directs planners.

Submitting a Successful Cloch Road Petition

We are working to progress Cloch Road's traffic congestion and parking issues following our successful petition and the multi-agency Round Table we helped secure. Implementing passing places, potentially on a trial basis, has been proposed by Council officers and given concerns about their effectiveness, an onsite visit has been agreed to discuss. An extended Western Ferries car park is still considered the best solution and this (and the lack of toilet provision) has been communicated to WF. They remain focussed on increasing the frequency of the service whilst not providing sufficient information on how they will do so. GCC are also researching the responses of other terminals where there have been similar issues. Monitoring.

Embedding Children's Rights into Community Decisions

We're committed to realising children's rights and through ongoing engagement with schools, we've already identified emerging issues for children and young people. This includes more spaces and activities, particularly a community owned football pitch, and feeling safe in the community. We're also exploring the potential of a young person's vote on the community council. Recently, we also supported one of Gourock's MSYPs (Member of Youth Parliament) when they resigned. Whilst due process follows in terms of the investigation and allegations, we wanted to ensure the young person felt supported and heard.

Supporting Transport for All (Closure of McGill's 540 Bus Route)

We continue to raise the impact of the loss of the 540 bus route and the need to find a solution to help residents access their town centre (which also helps local businesses) and the hospital. McGills attended November's meeting where it was agreed that they would work with community councillors to develop a business case for Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). A meeting is being organised to explore the potential of redirecting the 545 subsidised route to daytimes/weekends, as well as amendments to the 507.

Protecting our Land from Industrial Scale Developments (Giant's Burn Wind Farm)

We've supported our friends across the water in objecting to the Giant's Burn wind farm proposal, making our views heard at a local and national level. Our concerns included the impact on Gourock's iconic views of the Cowal Hills but wider issues, such as the protection of our land, wildlife and communities from industrial scale developments. Awaiting a decision.

Improving the Safety of the Seafront Railings

We acted quickly to make railings safe after a recent accident close to Gourock's Pool. We've pushed for wider progress on repairs and have been informed that the railings next to the pool will be fully replaced. The temporary barriers are in place whilst seeking a design solution. Quotes are also being received for the Ashburn end to progress with a formal award and programme of works and a quarterly inspection regime will be in place for the way forward. GCC are currently chasing timescales.

Promoting Local Campaigns (Kirn Drive)

We've long supported Bill Oliver's 13 years of campaigning for a one way system to address the traffic chaos at Kirn Drive. A temporary system is now being trialled. We also recently challenged and prevented the installation of speed bumps given the lack of community consultation and the concerns residents had about their impact. This included the fire service. Monitoring outcomes of temp system.

Monitored Issues– No Western Ferry toilets; potential loss of scrapyard; Larkfield crossing; Boy racers; Litter/Finish the Jobby Campaign; Water issues (Albert Road)