

Gourock Community Council: Community Issues Tracker (May 2026)

The strategic themes and related actions of **Caring**, **Safer** and **Accessible** Gourock have emerged from our ongoing community engagement. Live issues are grouped as such below. See community priorities.

Helping River Clyde Residents with the Cost of Living

We're again concerned about further increases in RCH heating charges and the impact on residents already struggling with the cost of living. Residents heard about this latest rise via the Greenock Telegraph. GCC were disappointed in the response received from RCH. However, they have kindly agreed to attend May's meeting.

Ensuring Cost of Living Safety Support

We're exploring how GCC can support residents struggling with the cost of living, including families in our schools (with teachers buying the food!), and communicate a 'Caring Gourock' across wider Inverclyde. This will be the focus of May's meeting, and relevant local groups will be invited to contribute to the collaborative discussion.

Supporting our local businesses

We're discussing how GCC can support our small businesses, particularly given two recent closures in Kempock St. Related CC issues of local bus access to shops and economic tourism important. Another traders meeting is being organised to address impact of weekly market and progress on tourism signage is being discussed.

Promoting Dementia Friendly Training

We have agreed to promote dementia friendly training as part of our 'Caring Gourock' strategy so that all of Gourock's residents feel supported. This will include ensuring all community councillors are trained.

Tackling Local Eyesores

We've been tackling eyesores, including supporting the redevelopment of the former Queen's Hotel and 53 Shore Street. Both have been agreed. Shore St is awaiting information from the Council and the Queen's Hotel developers are expected to initiate onsite work in the near future.

Ensuring the Community's Voice is Heard in Planning

We've raised concerns about the potential marketing and sale of the land outside Gourock railway station when it should be the community designing this space. This, and the results of GCC's ongoing community engagement will inform our contribution to the local development plan and a local place plan.

Protecting our Land from Industrial Scale Developments

We've supported our friends across the water and objected to the Giant's Burn wind farm proposal, making our views heard at local and national levels. Concerns include the impact on Gourock's view of the Cowal Hills and the protection of land, wildlife and communities from industrial scale developments. Awaiting a decision.

Binnie Lane

Binnie Lane has been raised as another local eyesore, including graffiti, damage to walls, dog poo and fly tipping. The local nursery have had to re-route their daily walk due to safety issues with dog dirt. GCC regard this as unacceptable and are currently trying to establish ownership and push for action/responsibility to address.

Submitting a Successful Cloch Road Petition

We've worked to progress Cloch Road's ferry traffic congestion and parking issues. We submitted a petition, secured a Round Table and recently a walkabout to discuss concerns about the Council's parking solution of passing places without resident permits. Extending Western Ferries car park (including toilet provision) is considered the long term traffic congestion solution. CC wrote to WF but their current position is a focus on increasing the frequency of the service where required. A joint GCC/Stuart McMillan MSP letter was then sent to WF and WF have agreed to meet post the elections. The Council have also now confirmed that an emergency traffic regulation order is possible to install resident permits at the same time as passing places. Currently awaiting a council proposal and consultation with GCC and residents.

Making Albert Road safer for Pedestrians

We're making Albert Road safer for pedestrians, especially elderly and vulnerable residents. We secured buildouts which will be monitored (summer 26 surveys), surveys for McInroy's Point/Balmoral Court (June 26), re-painting of

'Keep Clear' lines at Cloch Court (completed) and we agreed the monitoring of Ashburn Gate visibility. A solution is still required for the lack of visibility issues at Cloch Court and GCC were informed that the serious safety issues had been brought to the attention of the CE. He has since responded to a GCC letter noting that an independent consultant is now involved and we await that outcome.

Promoting Heart Start Training

We're exploring how to support Cameron McGerr's 'Pulse for Life' campaign and are in communication with schools to ensure that their defibrillators are sustainable and located to best benefit the wider community. We're also confirming any council role in the availability of defibrillators when on school premises.

Feeling Safe in the Community

We are further exploring what the community council can do to help everyone feel safe in our community. This emerged as one of the priorities for women and children. We've recently written to schools to seek the children's views on what specific actions are needed to help them feel safe.

Promoting Local Road Campaigns (Kirn Drive)

We've long supported Bill Oliver's 13 year campaign for a one way system to address Kirn Drive traffic chaos. A temporary system is now being trialled. We also recently helped prevent the installation of speed bumps in response to community concerns. Monitoring the outcomes of the trial.

Support for Changing Place Toilets

We've voiced our support for more changing place toilets via our MSP. We're delighted that Inverclyde Leisure have secured Scottish Government funding to build 3 more toilets, which are much needed facilities for residents and carers in Gourock and wider Inverclyde. We're planning more discussion/action on ASN related issues.

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

We've continued to raise the need for solutions to help residents access their town centre (which supports small businesses) and the hospital since the loss of the 540 bus route. McGills agreed at our November to help community councillors develop a business case (redirecting the 545 subsidised route to daytimes/weekends as well as 507 amendments) for Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. We've been disappointed at the lack of response from McGill's to our follow up letters but they have now agreed to meet and this is being organised. Millport buses are also exploring solutions with Stuart McMillan MSP and GCC will be included in those discussions.

More Local Play Spaces and Activities for Children

We're working with schools to explore the need children have raised for more local play spaces and activities. We asked for their views on specific actions and they have responded to say resurrect tennis courts and greater free access to school pitches during evenings, weekends and holidays or a community owned pitch. GCC are now raising these thoughts with the council.

Supporting Women's Equality and Rights.

We continue to support the rights of Gourock's women and girls, having previously raised the misogynistic behaviour experienced by one of our female councillors in Council with the Ethical Standards Commissioner. Whilst not upheld, we're proud of our zero tolerance approach for Gourock's women and girls. We've incorporated the issues raised by women, for example safety, into our work and annually promote International Women's Day..

Ensuring a Sustainable Town to Town Ferry Service

We're working with Dunoon CC friends to ensure a more sustainable future for our town to town ferry service (Calmac). Unreliable sailings impacted passenger numbers, leading to a reduced service. Cowal Transport Forum have submitted an expression of interest for an asset transfer of terminals and a new operator. Dunoon CC will potentially attend June's CC to update community councillors on developments.

Embedding Children's Rights into Community Decisions

We're committed to realising children's rights and ensuring their voice is embedded in GCC decisions. Our ongoing engagement with schools has already identified feeling safe, more leisure/play spaces and helping people experiencing poverty. All have been incorporated into our work and wider strategy. We also previously supported a young person with a complaint about the council, ensuring that the voice of the young person was heard.

Previous/monitored issues– Gourock Medical Practice changes; potential loss of scrapyards; Larkfield crossing; boy racers; litter/Finish the Jobby campaign; Albert Rd water issues; seafront railings, inconsiderate parking

Gourock Community Council Community Priorities

Caring Gourock

- Encourage friendly greetings.
- Care enough to drive safely.
- Keep Gourock clean and beautiful.
- Facilitate dementia friendly and wider training.
- Take care of our special places.
- Help people experiencing poverty.
- Support a Gourock food bank.
- Ensure more affordable housing.
- Create a free events directory.
- Warm and supportive spaces that bring the whole community together.
- Support sustainable local businesses.
- Take care of our old buildings and bring some back into use for the community.

Wider Priorities

- Maximise on economic tourism.
- Garden and pollination corridors.
- Protect our night skies.
- Climate change action.
- Max on use of the Gamble Halls.

What would you add?

Accessible Gourock

- Support local provision of changing place toilets.
- More free sport/play spaces for children.
- Explore a community owned football pitch.
- Affordable childcare and better support for carers.
- Embed children's rights into community decisions.
- Transport that helps everyone to get around.
- Accessible pavements, take your bins in!
- Accessible community spaces and activities.
- More shops with Young Scot card discount.
- More local jobs, especially for young people.
- Celebrate International Women's Day and work to remove barriers and ensure equality for women.

Safer Gourock

- Help everyone to feel safe in the community
- Stop the speeding and inconsiderate parking.
- Make it safer to cross the roads.
- Repair esplanade railings and pavements.
- Stronger lighting to ensure safety.
- Intergenerational activities to bring people together and promote community cohesion.
- Sort the potholes and pavements!
- Encourage healthy active travel and sport.
- Daily cleaning of the public toilets.
- Support women and girls and take a zero tolerance approach to misogyny and violence.
- Bring back community police!