

Gourock Community Council

‘You Said, We Did’ Community Issues Tracker (Oct 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, encouraging acceptable behaviour in education, and calling for the return of community policing. Some of these 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, fresh Spinnaker Corner and McInroy’s Point surveys, monitoring of speed signage and Ashburn Gate visibility and re-painting yellow lines at Cloch Court. We are monitoring the implementation/impact and pushing for action to address Cloch Court visibility and safety.

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’ve 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 and we continue to monitor.

At the same time, we submitted comments in support of the redevelopment of the site and have regularly communicated with the planning department and others. Parking required consideration but a solution has been agreed which will now allow the application to be determined. GCC monitoring.

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, feeling safe, accessible and affordable childcare, and equal pay and promotion.

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 is designing this space. We agreed to develop a local place

plan to design this and wider community spaces/buildings but the summer deadline was too tight. We are querying a late submission whilst exploring other ways to ensure our community voice is heard.

Submitting a Successful Cloch Road Petition

We continue to push for progress with Cloch Road's traffic congestion and parking issues following our successful petition and the multi-agency Round Table that we helped to secure. Previous action had been unsuccessful and the Council had not met with residents. Implementing passing places, potentially on a trial basis to more speedily address the traffic issues, has been suggested and this requires a committee decision. We're currently exploring next steps with the Council and residents.

Embedding Children's Rights into Community Decisions

We're committed to realising children's rights and through our 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 young people when they resigned as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. Whilst due process will follow in terms of the investigation into what has been alleged, we wanted to make sure the young person felt supported and heard..

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.

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

We've advocated for those impacted by the loss of the 540 McGill's bus route, and supported the efforts of Cllr Reynolds and Stuart McMillan MSP to secure a solution. In September, we were informed that Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) have limited powers over private operators and that a well-used My Bus Service would strongly influence. GCC will join elected members in promoting this service

Supporting an Accessible Gourock

We're committed to ensuring an accessible Gourock and recently, this has included raising inconsiderate parking on pavements and therefore restricting access. GCC are working with the Police and Traffic wardens and hope to provide an update soon in terms of a solution/action.

Short term issues – Shore St drains (Yay, cleared!); edible trail damage; phone box cleaning

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