

## **Gourock Community Council: Community Issues Tracker (Feb 2026)**

*The priority 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 are again concerned at the decision of River Clyde Homes to further increase their heating charges and the impact of this on residents already struggling with the cost of living. Residents have shared that they first heard about this via the Greenock Telegraph. CC have written to RCH as agreed at Jan meeting. Awaiting response.

### **Gourock Medical Centre**

The new appointment system was raised as a concern at the January 26 meeting and in addition to previous wider concerns about GP/appointment access. The Practice Manager has kindly agreed to speak at February's meeting.

### **Ensuring Cost of Living Safety Nets**

We're exploring how to support Gourock residents struggling with the cost of living whilst encouraging a caring Gourock and addressing the stigma involved. We've met with Inverclyde foodbank to discuss Gourock's access to food bank provision and are currently considering action relating to promotion, discussion and volunteering.

### **Supporting our local businesses**

We're discussing the ways we can potentially help support local small businesses, particularly given two recent closures in Kempock St. Related CC issues of local bus access to shops and economic tourism important. GoGourock being approached for advice and support and Regeneration Committee for update on tourism.

### **Promoting Dementia Friendly Training**

We are exploring the local provision and accessibility of dementia training and how the community council can best promote so that all of Gourock's residents feel supported.

### **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 and we are awaiting notice of start dates.

### **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 our ongoing community engagement will help GCC to shape a local place plan to direct community planners.

### **Protecting our Land from Industrial Scale Developments**

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.

### **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 (include toilet provision) is considered the long term traffic congestion solution. CC wrote to WF but their focus is increasing the frequency of the service. MSP to write in support of WF extension. CC awaiting council update on parking/permit solution.

### **Making Albert Road safer for Pedestrians**

We're making Albert Road safer for pedestrians, especially elderly and vulnerable. Agreed Council action includes build outs, new Spinnaker Corner and McInroy's Point surveys, monitoring of speed signage and Ashburn Gate visibility and re-painting of Cloch Court's 'Keep Clear' lines. Solution still required for lack of visibility at Cloch Court. Currently being considered by the Council's CC and awaiting update. Update needed on all actions.

### **Promoting Heart Start Training**

We're exploring the local provision of heart start training and how the CC can best promote to keep all of Gourock's residents safe. We've also contacted Cameron McGerr in support of his 'Pulse for Life' campaign.

### **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'll liaise with schools to put some shape on it and with women as part of International Women's Day.

### **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 raise the need for solutions to help residents access their town centre (which helps 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. Still chasing date for that meeting.

### **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, including a community owned football pitch. Ongoing liaison with schools and council.

### **Supporting Women's Equality and Rights.**

We strongly support equality for women and girls. We 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. In March, we will celebrate International Women's Day and continue to embed women's priorities into our work.

### **Inconsiderate Parking**

We continue to raise inconsiderate parking with the Police and Traffic Wardens to help ensure Gourock's pavements are accessible for everyone.

### **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. GCC monitoring.

### **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 identified feeling safe and more leisure/play spaces – including a community owned football pitch – as amongst the children's top priorities. We're exploring the potential of a young person's vote on the CC and recently supported a young person with a complaint about council.

**Previous issues being monitored**– Date for former Queen's Hotel development; date for 53 vacant plot development; potential loss of scrapyards; Larkfield crossing; boy racers; litter/Finish the Jobby campaign; Albert Rd water issues; regeneration and safety of seafront railings

# 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!