

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE ISLE OF CUMBRAE

A new website has launched aimed at giving residents on the Isle of Cumbrae a quick and simple overview of the many projects, initiatives and groups on the island, as well as community events. Until now, information about the island has tended to focus on supporting tourists and visitors. Cumbrae.org has been created for the 1,300 people who live, work and go to school on the island.

Cumbrae.org includes a directory of the many projects, organisations, representatives and groups on the island, with links to relevant websites and facebook groups. The aim is to help people see what's going on, from special interest groups to events, as well as to see which organisations are responsible for what on the island.

Alex Harvie, Chair of Cumbrae Community Council said: "Cumbrae is lucky enough to have a number of significant capital projects underway, including The Flood Defence Scheme, the Marina, Millport Town Hall and The Cumbrae Wave. As well as this we have a large number of thriving community groups, initiatives and clubs. We hope the website will give people an overview of what is going on so they can keep up to date and maybe join something new."

In response to the strong interest from people looking to move to the island, the website includes a section to help people better understand what it is like to live on Cumbrae. This includes a link to a recent BBC film made by P5 and P6 children in Cumbrae Primary School about how much they love living on the island.

Julie McAleese, Head Teacher, Cumbrae Primary School said: "One of the highlights of my job is seeing how much the children love learning and are engaged by the exciting activities we can offer them in our unique setting. This website captures the rich variety of what is going on here on Cumbrae and we welcome it."

Alan Hill, Partner at Robert Duff & Co, said: "We've seen increased interest in the island from families and people wanting to move here to work remotely, taking advantage of our superfast broadband. It's great that we now have a number of residents working remotely in digital and the tech industries. The island is attracting people who may not have considered a small island as a viable place to live and work before."

John McHenry, Vice Chair of Cumbrae Community Council said: "This website has been created by people of the island, for the people of the island. Cumbrae Community Council aims to create a stronger community voice so that we are more involved in decisions that affect our lives."

Councillor Alex Gallagher said: "This website is an excellent and much needed development. With the imminent publication of the ten-year Cumbrae Island Plan and the centrality of Community Wealth Building to our strategy, it is important that we have a united community to carry through the ambitions of the plan in line with the wishes of the island population."

Councillor Ian Murdoch said: "It's great to see this community-focused website. The people of Cumbrae have a large number of events, groups and initiatives running on the island and this website will help people see the wide range of what is happening. It is really important that people are supported in getting the most out of island life, and this website is a great step forward."

Councillor Tom Marshall described the website as: “A welcome addition to Cumbrae with lots of good information and easy to follow links and an ideal source of ideas for people that want to either visit or to come to reside on the Island.”

Editor’s notes

About Cumbrae Community Council

Cumbrae Community Council was created to listen to islanders’ views about key issues affecting Cumbrae and to make sure they are heard.

Community Councils are Scotland’s most local tier of statutory representation (ie their purpose is set out in law). Members of the Community Council are democratically elected by those who live on the island.

Community Councils form an important connection between communities and the local council (as well as other public bodies) by sharing views and needs. In North Ayrshire, Community Councils also act as formal members of Locality Planning Partnerships.