

SCCC Convenor's Report June 2019

First of all thank you to everyone for coming along tonight. For some of you tonight marks the end of year one of being a community councillor while others have been coming here for many years. I hope that on the whole you have found the year to be interesting and feel that you have contributed to making South Cowal a great place in which to live. Unfortunately, this year two community councillors have stepped down which leaves vacancies to be filled. I would like to thank Helen Campbell and Alan Chapman for all their help in the past.

I'd like to say a special thanks to our three local councillors who have attended our meetings regularly and have made great efforts to help with the various agenda items that have been raised. Your help is invaluable and I feel that we have worked well together and sorted out some problems despite the eternal shortage of money that Argyll and Bute suffers from.

Thanks also go to the Police who come along with their gruesome reports of crime in the area and frighten us half to death! Actually their reports show again what a great place South Cowal is and that is what we like to hear.

We have been represented at many of the local meetings during the year - such as the Transport Forum and the Caucus of Community Councils and also worked alongside other local groups such as the Village Hall, the Lido and Inspiring Innellan.

This year we gave £100 to each of the local schools and also the Nursery and introduced the Young Person of the Year Award to highlight the importance of young people in our area. They after all are our future.

We will continue to bring road safety issues to the fore because there are still areas where progress has been woefully slow and

improvements need to be made. For example some roads are still not up to scratch, speeding is still an issue in some areas and dropped kerbs still have to be put in so that those with prams and mobility scooters can feel safer.

The War Memorial continues to be a problem area with no obvious input from the Council despite promises made last year. No progress seems to have been made with the official take-over of the site so we will be following that up to see what can be done. Two local ladies actually resorted to tidying things up and have done a great job but the area is really in need of regular maintenance and a great deal of tender loving care.

The Trim Trail cannot be said to be an outstanding success – abysmal failure would be a better description so we really need to rethink what we are going to do with the money set aside for it. That can be discussed at our regular meeting later.

Knotweed continues to be a major problem all over Cowal. We really need a much tougher strategy than the one which is in place as the plant is spreading at a scary rate of knots especially on the shore. We are lucky to have someone locally who can help up to a point but it is a problem which needs to be raised at Council level and help given to eradicate it – I mean knotweed and not the Council.

All in all, nothing spectacular has happened in South Cowal this year and we continue to deal with issues as they arise. This doesn't make us the most exciting community council that ever was but we have a wide spread of ages and interests and I would like to finish by thanking all of you for coming along regularly and making SCCC a great group to work with.