

I attended Bute and Cowal Business day where the focus was on play parks. I asked questions about value for money, use of natural materials to create play experience, use of planting rather than fences to create boundaries and engaging with local business who could manufacture play park items. The service has provided answers post the meeting.

I have been pursuing the issue around lack of charging for EV’s. Scottish Power have provided a date of 29th November to deal with issue at Guildford Square, however I have been informed that these are approaching the end of its life cycle and the service are seeking to replace with a newer one. The rapid chargers at Rothesay Harbour are installed and will be commissioned week commencing 20th November, although no firm date has been provided for when they will be fully operational. Argyll & Bute Council are waiting on funding allocation from Transport Scotland before roll out of further charging points. I have followed up with Ross Moreland, Policy Lead for the Administration.

I can confirm that the polling station for the south of the island will return to Kingarth Hotel. There is no update on Port Bannatyne as yet.

Scottish Government are providing £608,000 of funding to support Argyll & Bute Council the devolution of Non-Domestic Rates to local authorities. The policy options are being worked up for presentation to committee with planned implementation 1st April 2024. It is hoped that the new policy will be simpler and fairer, and crucially lead to empty business premises being brought back into use.

Unfortunately the recruitment of the new Traffic Officer was not successful, this means that a number of road issues remain outstanding, these include traffic surveys. The department are stretched and are prioritising urgent matters.

Work on behalf of constituents has included issues relating to housing, transport, health and social care and leisure service provision.