

Working with others, we are seeking a round table with Visit Scotland to discuss the future of the Discovery Centre. It is expected that Jenni Minto will Chair with a number of local organisations represented. Angela Callaghan and Jean Moffat have set up a petition for people to sign and show their support for retaining the services for community and visitors alike.

At a special meeting Argyll and Bute Council the strategic opposition group put forward three motions to bring about changes to the political make-up for Administration of the Council. These motions were to:

- Nominate Douglas Philand, Argyll First, for role of Provost – this motion was successful after 18-18 votes led to decision by lot
- Nominate Jim Lynch, SNP, for role of Leader - this motion was successful after 18-18 votes led to decision by lot
- For all other elected member roles to become vacant until 25th April 2024 when a new administration will be put in place – this motion passed un-opposed.

A further special meeting will be held on 15th April 2024, at which it is hoped the 10% council tax increase put forward by previous Administration will be reversed.

The threat to Thomson Court Day Services has been temporarily abated with a review of Adult Service planned for the year ahead. I have been working with Jean Moffat to ensure that local stakeholders are properly engaged with any review. An initial dialogue with Community Planning Partners and local organisations will form part of the next Bute and Cowal Area Planning Group meeting.

I have attended meetings with Bute BID, Councillor Wallace and Amenities Service to progress a small children’s play park on the Esplanade. There have been a few issues with the project which was planned for Children’s corner. However following consultation with local stakeholders and parents a new location is being looked at which would be near the kiosk of the second putting green. There are a few additional actions to complete which Bute BID are working through with the service before procurement of a design and build contractor takes place.

In support of Disability Bute, I have arranged a meeting with the Service to discuss how an action plan could be taken forward to increase accessibility with focus on Rothesay at this stage.

I am supporting residents of Columnshill Street who have raised issues around amenity of green spaces on either side of the Lade and the Lade itself. I have engaged with Amenity Service, ACHA and Mount Stuart with some promising responses so far.

I am pressing for Council departments to engage with Castle Street Action Group to understand what options are open to gaining resolution of the derelict state of the buildings there.

I continue to support individuals with a range of issues from abandoned vehicles to planning. I would urge people to use the Report It page on Argyll and Bute Council website - [Report It | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-council/report-it)

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