

Campbeltown Community Council – Councillor’s Report

Councillor Jennifer Kean – 13th May 2025

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1. Roads - Campbeltown Traffic Management System review

Previous note from Jan 25 - I have been continuously asking for a review of the traffic management system within the town for over a year and have finally pushed the service to agree to a meeting in the next few weeks to start this process. Following my meeting with Police Scotland, they confirmed that they also agree that the “unofficial” crossing points on the A83 through the centre of town are dangerous as is the current situation with traffic exiting Burnbank Street on to Kinloch Road with no clear visibility of vehicles either side. There are a number of issues throughout the town that need to be addressed by a full review of the current system and the appropriate safety measures (proper crossings, nibs etc) being installed where required. 3. Cars parking on Ralston Road/Smith Drive junction causing obstructions - update Previous note from June - I was made aware of cars parking on Ralston Road near the Smith Drive which were causing obstructions particularly at the beginning and end of the school day for school traffic and buses. They are also causing visibility issues for anyone coming out of Smith Drive onto Ralston Road. I spoke with council officers and have asked that they look to getting a Traffic Restriction Order in place in this area and in the meantime they have spoken with the local policing team as whilst there are no lines to prohibit parking, the police can still move cars on/charge cars if they are causing a dangerous obstruction. Previous update from November Following on from the above, I received further complaints about this issue over the last week with concerned parents getting in touch to advise that people are again parking in this area, causing worry and alarm for parent’s with children who walk to school by themselves as well as causing issues for the flow of traffic, particularly for the buses at drop off/pick up times. I have raised this again with the Council officers and asked for an update on their work to put a Traffic Restriction order in place in this area to prohibit parking immediately opposite Castlehill Primary School. I have also contacted Police Scotland direct again and asked for their support with this in the meantime. After speaking to West Coast Motors they have advised that this issue is still causing serious problems for the buses. This is ongoing – council officers are currently refusing to engage with this issue further. I raised this again at the MAKI area committee meeting and visited the area with Roads & Infrastructure (RIS) representative following the meeting. The RIS representative then met with the Chair of the Friends of Castlehill parent council during the school/nursery finish time of 3pm that afternoon to see the issue in real time. I then organised a meeting with Police Scotland to discuss the issue further and stressed the need for regular policing in this area to move people from parking on the corners and causing a dangerous obstruction. The Police advised that, in their professional opinion, they do not believe this area to be an issue/ dangerous. The Police advised that they do believe that parking and traffic management at Dalintober Primary School to be dangerous. I have continued to receive complaints about the issue on Ralston Road and have received communication from hospital and surgery staff regarding cars parking along the road from Ralston Road

towards the hospital leading to further traffic management issues and posing a hazard/danger/delay to ambulances being able to access the hospital during an emergency. I am continuing to push for this to be dealt with as soon as possible.

Previous report – March 2025 *I chased the above up multiple times with the officer from Roads & Infrastructure and did not get a response. I therefore brought this up yet again at the MAKI area committee meeting last week and was told by the officer that they were awaiting the new parking warden being in post for a few weeks to see the results of parking enforcement before looking at the issues further. I made it clear that a number of issues (traffic coming on to Kinloch road, unsafe crossing points, lack of lines in areas) would not be dealt with by the parking warden's work and therefore a full review is still required regardless of the enforcement work. I also raised the issue of the unsafe crossing points on the A83 in town with the officer from Transport Scotland who was in attendance and highlighted the problems with these points once again.*

Update – Cllr Armour and I met with the Network & Standards Manager in Campbeltown 2 weeks ago to discuss various issues regarding traffic management in town to finally get a formal review underway. We will be having a further follow up meeting at the beginning of June to discuss progression of same. We are looking at parking issue in the centre of town with a view to installing parking on one side of Longrow South initially. We also discussed the potential for a new long stay carpark within the town and this being looked into. I raised the issue of the junction exiting Burnbank street onto Kinloch Road and the traffic issue at Ralston/Smith Drive again and asked that these are also dealt with. Furthermore, I enquired about the national speed limit reduction in some areas from 30 to 20 mph and pointed out the surveys had already been completed a number of years ago which confirmed that both Davaar Avenue and Ralston Road hit the criteria to be reduced to 20mph. I asked if these areas will be noted as a priority when the works are carried out and the officer said that he would hope so but cannot confirm.

2. Roads – Capital Roads Programme – 2025/2026

The Capital Roads programme has now been released for 2025 /2026. Please see below document attached to email. Apologies – it would not let me copy the Kintyre section into this word document and I asked the department to send me a word copy but I hadn't received same by time I needed to send this report.

3. Kidney Dialysis Unit

The unit is currently running locally with agency staff in place however the A&B wide review of the service is still currently on going. We are awaiting proposals from officers regarding the potential outcome for the service. If anyone is interested in the future of the service I would urge you to join the stakeholder meetings which are being organised to make Kintyre's voice heard on this matter. If you are interested please let me know and I can pass relevant details over.

4. Campbeltown Hospital - Temporary Reduction of beds

We are receiving 4 weekly updates on the situation in the hospital during this temporary bed reduction. The latest update was received yesterday, 12th May and noted the following;

"Activity levels within A&E have been higher in this four week period.

No patients have been transferred to an alternative hospital due to capacity issues. One two-day delay in repatriating a patient from Glasgow was highlighted on the 16/04. Delays in transferring patients back from Glasgow are not uncommon and can be caused by a variety of factors.

Patient numbers are recorded at 9am each day, when numbers are higher than six this has been either been because people have been admitted for EOLC or admitted through A&E for a period of short observation. The balance of staffing numbers and acuity of patients continues to be risk assessed ongoingly.

Community teams are working exceptionally hard to support people within the community and avoid hospital admission

Recruitment

One new staff nurse joined the team on Monday 24th March and is currently completing her orientation and induction. Another staff nurse is due to commence on the 13/05. Interviews were conducted on 09/05 and will continue on 12/05. An advert aimed at nurses due to graduate this year has received a promising amount of interest, it is anticipated that interviews will be carried out in June.

Impact on SAS

There has been no impact on SAS due to the reduction in bed numbers as no transfers have been requested that were not medically necessary."

5. Victoria Hall

I am delighted to have received news that the Victoria Hall has been selected as one of the projects to benefit from a share of the £496,000.00 Scottish Government's Place Based Investment (PBI) Programme which fund repairs and refurbishment for the entire front elevation of the building. Refurbishment of the Victoria Hall is an issue I have been chasing and pushing for for a long time so I am really pleased this is finally coming to fruition. This fund is also planned to upgrade CCTV in town centres across A&B.

6. Kilkerran Cemetery

During our meeting with the Network and Standards Manager he updated on the current situation with the proposed Kilkerran Cemetery expansion. The MOD have slowed progress due to difficulties with communication however the council are still pushing this and hopefully we see some progress on this issue soon.