

# **DUNADD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Convener's Report 2018-19**

The single most striking feature of the past year has been the fragility of the Community Council's future. In spite of the distribution of information cards to every household in the Dunadd area, we failed to attract any new applicants for the April election. We were reconstituted with three vacancies that soon became five when Paul and Barbara Holness announced that they were leaving the area. One further departure would have resulted in the 'mothballing' of the Community Council. Fortunately, Sue MacLean and John McKellar responded positively to a plea for additional members and both were co-opted. Sue also kindly agreed to be the Community Council representative on the A'Cruach Grant Panel. I received dispensation from Argyll & Bute Council to take on the role of secretary as well as convener. However, this permission ends at the AGM.

This raises the important question – does it really matter if the Community Council folds? After all, the newly formed Dunadd Community Enterprise company is better placed to move forward the objectives of the Action Plan and to engage in community projects that require funding. I believe, however, that the Community Council does have a unique and important role in representing the community in all matters of planning, responding to Council initiatives, the administration of Foundation Scotland grants and microgrants and providing a platform for voices to be heard. Even in its present 'caretaker' mode, it fulfils these functions. It could do much more!

With regard to the last point, I have already intimated my intention to stand down from office. I have been convener now for seven years and in that time my commitments elsewhere have increased significantly. For the past three years I have been in training with the Church of Scotland as a Reader. This is nearly completed but my diary is filling with preaching engagements. I took office with the expressed desire to encourage communication, consultation and participation. This we achieved. Someone else needs to bring their vision for the future to enliven the Community Council.

Jim Malcolm

24<sup>th</sup> May 2019