



MarPAMM-Argyll Community Drop-in Events – Report

1. Events

Tuesday 30th April – Oban – The Rockfield Centre – 2pm-8pm

Day one of the three day MarPAMM-Argyll community drop-in events began in Oban at the Rockfield Centre. Resources were made available to the public and included: the wider MarPAMM project leaflet, a two-page summary of MarPAMM-Argyll, an A3 map of the Argyll Marine Region, an A1 map illustrating the MPAs in Argyll, a summary table of the MPAs in Argyll listing the features as well as various site-specific summary documents previously produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

A range of stakeholders engaged with us in Oban including a member of staff from Argyll & Bute council, recreational anglers and a few members of the local community. In total seven people attended the event. Generally the discussions were not issue specific, but more a holistic overview of what the project aims to achieve and discussing the possible forms the management plans could take.

Wednesday 1st May – Campbeltown – Kintyre Community Education Centre – 2pm-8pm

Day two of the drop-in events took place at the Kintyre Community Education Centre in Campbeltown. As with the Oban event, seven people came along however we interacted with two distinct groups of stakeholder throughout day: individuals from the commercial fishing industry and Marine Scotland Compliance. One of the attendees from Marine Scotland Compliance was Joanne (Jo) Holbrook who is a member the Steering Group formed as part of the MarPAMM-Argyll project. This allowed the MarPAMM-Argyll Project Officer to give Jo a more detailed background on the project and provide clarity prior to the first Steering Group meeting in June.

Discussions at this event predominately orientated around commercial inshore fisheries representation on the MarPAMM-Argyll Steering Group and the fisheries management measures currently in place. Four local fisherman attended the event, two of which had not had not heard of the West Coast Inshore Fisheries Group (WCIFG). This paired with the fact that the chair of the WCIFG does not live or actively fish in Argyll meant that the individuals felt that the chair of the WCIFG could not adequately represent their interests. Two individuals from the commercial fishing industry also noted that they had heard about the event through the Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA), who had requested a meeting with the MarPAMM-Argyll Project Officer six days earlier.

Attendees of the Campbeltown event also mentioned they came along to the event to see if new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were being proposed. Each time it was ensured that the confusion was corrected and the purpose of the MarPAMM project explained.

Thursday 2nd May – Lochgilphead – Lochgilphead Community Education Centre -2pm-8pm

Day three took place at the Lochgilphead Community Education Centre. The session was busy from the start, with as many as six attendees at a time. A range of interested stakeholders attended the Lochgilphead event with attendees from the commercial fishing industry, local environmental non-government organisations (NGOs), the local community and community councillors and individuals from the recreation sector. The layout of the centre meant that people were able to come in and have a chat while waiting for other activities to begin. A total of 18 people attended this event.

Throughout the day issues surrounding the availability of information was highlighted (with respect to fisheries management measures and the different types of MPA). There was also a fair bit of confusion regarding the purpose of the project, again with many thinking new MPAs were being proposed. As with the Campbeltown event it was ensured the confusion was corrected and the purpose of the MarPAMM project explained. While interesting discussions were had over the course of the day, we did need to remain cautious that conversations did not veer too far off topic.

An issue that has been highlighted throughout the life span of the project to date has been the differences between the boundaries of Argyll & Bute Council and the Argyll Marine Region. We must make clear the distinction going forward and something we should highlight to the Steering Group. Furthermore, we need to reinforce the work currently being undertaken in the Clyde by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP).

2. Lessons learned

2.1 Communications

- A press release of the MarPAMM-Argyll project was printed in The Oban Times and advertisements of the events were displayed in each of the towns' local papers (The Oban Times, The Campbeltown Courier and The Argyllshire Advertiser; see **Annex 1** and **Annex 2**) a week prior to the events. Unfortunately there was a miscommunication with the SNH communications team and therefore our events were not advertised on SNH's social media pages, however we did have advertisement of the events on the MarPAMM twitter page on the day of each event. In future it may be appropriate to extend the advertisement range by placing posters in local shops and community boards in order to reach a broader demographic.
- Going forward we need to continue to correct confusion by clarifying that we are not proposing new MPAs and to highlight the differences between the boundaries of Argyll & Bute Council and the Argyll Marine Region.
- We will continue to reinforce the work going on with respect to marine management in the Clyde by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) and will ensure that the Steering Group are aware of the CMPP.

2.2 Organisation

- Most of the venues appeared fairly accessible and were chosen due to their parking availability. During our Campbeltown event it was highlighted by most attendees that the venue was not easily accessible, with many not knowing where to find the building/entrance and the room in particular was difficult to find as it wasn't on the ground floor. Although this may be difficult to mitigate, for future events selecting a more locally known venue may be more appropriate (e.g. the aqua centre or a location on the seafront).
- Concerns were raised over the timings of the events. Those within the commercial fishing industry generally are out fishing in the daytime during the week. Although we tried to be as flexible as possible by extending the event running times into the late evening, this may be something we cannot mitigate completely.

Pictures of the events can be found in **Annex 3**.

Annex 1 – The Oban Times press release for MarPAMM-Argyll community drop-in events

4 NEWS

The Oban Times
Thursday 25 April 2019

Soroba to focus on better sports pitch

A better football pitch for Oban youngsters could be completed in Soroba, but only if residents get behind the campaign.

Improving the park and sports pitch and hosting a gala day this summer were discussed at Soroba Community Enterprise's annual general meeting last Tuesday.

Soroba Community Enterprise, which runs Soroba Community Centre, also set up the Oban Viewpoint Group. The group initially hoped to build a new community centre in Soroba for Oban, however, a feasibility study concluded funding for a project of that scale would be difficult to secure. Our focus now is tidying up the play area and to try and make it into a sports field,' chairwoman Marri Malloy said at the AGM.

'If we can get the community park up and running, it might raise our profile and we might get support from the community.'

*Considering the amount of

houses we have here, we don't know what we can do to get support.

Vice chairman Andrew MacDonald said: 'The group that did it [the feasibility study] has advised that because of the uncertainty in the country at the moment, it would be very difficult to get funding.'

Despite the bad news, the group is keen to progress and discuss potential plans with builders. Secretary Nicola Wilson highlighted successful community events that took place throughout the year, including Halloween and Christmas events.

'They look forward to having a Halloween and Christmas party. They are great, but we need more people involved with the group,' said Nicola. There was also talk of putting on a 'big event' like the old Soroba gala day that used to be held in the summer.

To help with the group and future events, search Soroba Community Centre on Facebook and send a message.

Match streaming kicks off in Oban

by David McPhee
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

People in Oban will be able to watch Oban Saints' cup final match live, thanks to a new community project.

Oban LiveStreams, set up by Calum Fox and GHProductions Argyll, hopes to broadcast Oban's shinty and football matches to those unable to attend games.

The first live match will be the West of Scotland Amateur Cup final between Oban Saints and Bannockburn on Friday May 3 at New Douglas Park.

To watch the game, search Oban LiveStreams on YouTube.

Calum said: 'I put a post on Facebook saying I was looking to stream a couple of games myself. I was asking



Oban LiveStreams was set up by Stuart Abercrombie, Calum Fox and Gary Hamilton.

about cameras and kit. Gary Hamilton got in touch saying it sounds like a good idea.

Calum met with GHProductions and they tested the equipment. Posting on their social media page, they said: 'Tested out

the first live stream today out at Ganavan. Delighted to say it worked great.'

To produce weekly broadcasts in all weather though, the team will need a raised platform, a shelter and a power source. Gary

Hamilton of GHProductions said: 'We are all volunteers and want to ensure it stays that way. It is a community project.'

Oban LiveStreams is now on the hunt for businesses which would like to sponsor the stream to help fund its future. One person, who is unable to make it due to health reasons, thanked him for starting the project and said: 'The streams will make my weekends.'

Calum commented on a previous Oban Saints game for Oban FM. He said: 'I have wanted to do it again and thought why not live stream it as well.'

For more information or to help with the project, email ObanLiveStreams@hotmail.com or get in touch with Oban LiveStreams on social media.

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Views sought on regional Marine Protected Area management

A new way of marine management will be in the spotlight at drop-in events across Argyll.

Members of the public are being encouraged to attend the meetings to hear about the Argyll Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring project.

Argyll has been selected alongside the Outer Hebrides to trial regional marine protected area (MPA) management in Scotland as part of the project, funded through the INTERREG VA funding programme.

The events will take place at The Rockfield Centre, Oban, on Tuesday April 30 from 2pm to 8pm; Kinisyre Community Education Centre, Campbeltown, on Wednesday May 1 from 2pm-8pm; and at Lochgilphead Community Education Centre on Thursday May 2 from 2pm-8pm.

Amie Williams, Argyll MPA planning and data project officer for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), is running the project in Argyll. She said: 'This is a novel approach to marine management that we hope will be more user-friendly. The development of the

Argyll MPA management plan will be guided by a steering group made up of representatives from various sectors such as tourism, aquaculture and local authorities, who will meet to discuss and direct regional MPA management in Argyll.

'The aim is to deliver resources that will be relevant to different sectors. For example, for the Argyll and Bute Council planners we might deliver information on how to prioritise overlapping designations.'

'For the public we can provide more user-friendly information on the special nature of the marine environment of Argyll.'

'By developing regional management while recognising the aspirations of maritime stakeholders, we hope to develop a shared vision for MPAs in Argyll.'

Argyll is home to a number

of MPAs, including three Nature Conservation MPAs, three Historic MPAs, which protect wrecks, and six Special Areas of Conservation, as well as numerous Special Protection Areas for birds, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest protecting species and habitats including flame shell beds, common skate, seals, common tern and harbour porpoise.

Until now, management has largely been site and feature specific, with little consideration of issues that could be managed regionally. To start discussions on which features and areas might be more important to stakeholders, SNH has launched an online survey to gather opinions and steer the project.

To view or take part in the survey, visit www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MarPAMM-Argyll

Assisted travel booking time reduced

ScotRail has reduced the time needed to arrange assisted travel, from at least three hours in advance to two hours.

ScotRail's free assisted travel service is open to anyone needing support when travelling on one of its trains – from wheelchairs and prams to customers with visual impairments or large items of luggage.

Annex 3 – Pictures taken at the community drop-in events

