

COLGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Sunday, 01 February 2015

Danielle Clark
Colglen Community Council
2 Ferry Bank
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Leader & Chief Executive Officer
Argyll & Bute Council
Kilmory Castle
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Argyll & Bute
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Dear Councillor Walsh & Mrs. Loudon

As a community council we recognise a growing concern in our area about the continuing decline in population here and across Argyll & Bute.

We understand that this local authority area is experiencing, and is forecast to go on experiencing, some of the sharpest drops in population in Scotland. It is imperative that our local authority is in the forefront of positive and successful action to reverse this situation.

We also understand, of course, that there is severe pressure on public finances and we are therefore concerned that the two problems taken together might create an irreversible cycle of decline.

Accordingly we would like to have answers to these questions raised by our Community Council:

- How are you proactively encouraging companies to come and set up here in Argyll and Bute?
- What obstacles are you removing to encourage inward investment?
- How are you changing planning and building restrictions to allow people to build and settle here ?
- How are you harnessing the potential of the SOA in a proactive way in order to prioritise the issue of population decline?
- How many jobs have been created and retained in Argyll and Bute by the Council and by other agencies over the past few years, especially in Cowal?
- What priority has the Council applied to reverse the declining population of Argyll and Bute?
- What budget has been allocated to tackle this issue over the next three years ?
- What are you doing to improve the infrastructure to encourage companies to base themselves here in Argyll and Bute?
- How are you co-operating with the Scottish Government to meet these objectives?
- How are you supporting communities as they strive to build their population and encourage inward investment?
- What steps are you taking to involve the wider community in these efforts including all our elected representatives at every level?

We look forward to receiving your answers which will inform our own discussions on this vital matter.

Yours sincerely.

Danielle Clark
Secretary of
Colglen Community Council