

UPDATE ON STAYCATION PROPOSALS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The council allocated two funding pots to support staycations in Argyll and Bute. £500,000 was allocated from the 2021/2022 budget and supplemented by a further £100,000 from the 2022/2023 budget to support the delivery of a range of facilities across Argyll and Bute necessary to support camping and motorhome staycations. A new Staycation Graduate Project Officer was employed in April 2022, until the end of March 2023, to help administer the council's investment. Four council wardens are in the process of being appointed for the period April to October 2022 to raise awareness in respect of visiting responsibly. In addition to this, £20,000 has been set aside from the Staycation budget to support four community groups/trusts to employ temporary wardens.
- 1.2 The majority of the staycation facilities approved at the December 2021 Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) report, for 2022 have been set up and running. There is an ongoing process of developing new waste disposal points and supporting local business/community groups in upgrading and developing existing and new campsites.
- 1.3

doubt as a result of the communication and physical interventions put in place in 2021 and the fact that the vast majority of tourist facilities are now fully operational albeit hampered by staff shortages. It was therefore imperative that we revisited these interventions for 2022/23. Many of the interventions are already in place for 2022/23.

Staycation Interventions

- 4.3 Economic Growth initiatives, through close engagement with Environmental Health, Planning and Roads and Infrastructure, resulted in number of activities mitigating negative effects on our countryside and tourism sector. **Appendix 1** gives an overview of the interventions/actions to be taken forward in 2022/23.
- 4.4 **Waste disposal facilities for camping/campervans.** Officers are continuing to engage with campsite providers across Argyll and Bute in an attempt to encourage usage of existing waste disposal facilities by non-resident campervans and motorhomes. Officers continue to follow up with a number local businesses through providing an expression of Interest form.
- 4.5 **Public Toilets.** All public toilets are open. In 2021 stickers were designed and rolled out for all public toilets offering a link to the waste water disposal facilities map on our website to prevent irresponsible disposal in public toilets which are still in use. Through funding from the staycation budget, **eleven temporary toilets** have again been deployed by contractor at five locations (Westport, Bridge of Orchy, Glen Orchy, Kilchurn Castle and Victoria Bridge). This includes maintenance checks on a daily basis.
- 4.6 Council officers hold regular **staycation meetings** to discuss issues with a wide range of partners some of whom have taken forward their own initiatives.
- 4.7 **General Waste.** To promote responsible behaviour about 200 bin stickers have been put up on council bins at some hot spots by wardens and due to their durability they will remain throughout 2022. Local Amenity Officers have fed back that it seems to have some influence on behaviour and resulted in visibly reduced bin overflow.
- 4.8 **Additional Warden Posts and Staycation Officer.** Four wardens

Stuart Trust to cover all of Bute and £5,000 grant to Appin Community Development Trust for a community warden. Two opportunities remain.

£

- 4.10 **Web pages and Social media posts.** To mitigate the impact on the environment an interactive map of locations of PC and caravan touring sites with information about waste disposal facilities available across Argyll and Bute was created - [Touring sites and filling stations \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](http://argyll-bute.gov.uk). These pages are updated on a regular basis.

Partnership Working

- 4.11 Friends of Loch Lomond were provided £3,500 funding for Portaloos at Arrochar and Luss for 2021 with a further £12,500 committed for 2022.
- 4.12 Alongside these activities, officers have been working closely with the tourism industry via the Argyll and the Isles Strategic Tourism Partnership (AISTP) to develop a robust new tourism [P]-20(a)-6(r)21(t)7(sm)20(D-6(.)28(1)-TBT1 0 0 1 107.37 59

Appendix 1: List of actions being taken forward

Action Point	Date of Implementation and activity	Responsible Officer	Action to date 4 th April 2022
Web pages; social media posts and communication plan	Content continually reviewed and now available	Jane Jarvie	Ongoing

LGE 9 post to assist Economic Growth Tourism Officer	Staycation project Officer is in post since 4th April 22	Jim Paterson	No further update
Community wardens	4 grants of £5,000 allocated for Community wardens	Jim Paterson	Funding granted to the Mount Stuart Trust; grant to Appin Community Development Trust
There are a number of larger scale interventions planned at Tobermory, Arrochar Car Park; Duck Bay etc.	Completed for 2023	Jim Paterson, Hugh O'Neill	Completed for 2023

Appendix 2 Staycation Expenditure 2021/22

Headline	Detail	Spent or Committed	Actual Expenditure £	Committed Expenditure £	Comments
Staycation Officer 2021/22	Temporary post for 1 year to progress Staycation proposals. recruited	Spent	14,741		Only part year
Staycation Officer 2022/23	Temporary post for 1 year to progress Staycation proposals. recruited	Committed		35,000	

Additional Police 2021 To

Temporary Campsite 2021	Colonsay - contribution to overall project costs	Committed	4,778		
Publicity 2021	information - leaflets etc	Spent	13,131		
Staycation car park improvements (17 locations) 2021	lining and information	Committed			