



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 17 June 2019 – 15  
September 2019

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of  
meetings and events attended by the Provost of North Ayrshire  
Council, Councillor Ian Clarkson.

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Since the last meeting of the Council I have attended various events throughout North Ayrshire.

## ***Visit to St Mary's School, Largs, 17 June***

I was delighted to pay a visit to the P6 class at St. Mary's Primary School, Largs, on 17 June with our Waste Awareness Officer. I previously received letters from the pupils outlining their concerns about food waste. This was a great opportunity to explain to the young people how North Ayrshire Council are addressing their concerns.

## ***Launch of Beehavin' Project, Garnock Campus, Glengarnock, 19 June***

On 19 June, I visited Garnock Campus to launch their new project, Beehavin', which gives pupils the opportunity to learn about beekeeping and gain and develop new skills. An apiary has been installed in the school and it is hoped that the pupils will be producing and marketing their own honey in the local community. The project is supported by the Prince's Trust and Developing Young Workforce. Projects like this aim to improve young people's employability skills.

## ***Cash for Kids Ascot Day, Gailes Hotel, Irvine, 20 June***

On 20 June, West FM Cash for Kids held their annual Ascot Day to raise funds for disadvantaged children in Ayrshire. I was happy to support the event and highlight the activities of Cash for Kids and the excellent work they carry out in Ayrshire. A large proportion of funds raised is allocated to groups and individuals in North Ayrshire.

## ***Ground-breaking Event, Flatt Road, 24 June***

On 24 June, I was delighted to attend the "ground-breaking" event at Flatt Road, Largs. This new housing development will continue the Council's ambitious affordable house building programme. 122 new homes are being built, including general needs housing, amenity bungalows, wheelchair livable properties, sheltered housing and supported accommodation.

### ***Active Travel Hub Launch, Trinity Church, Irvine, 25 June***

On 25 June, along with several of my colleagues, I attended the launch of the Trinity Active Travel Hub in the former Trinity Church in Irvine. The Hub provides advice on local active travel routes and public transport as well as access to bikes, maintenance and equipment, and training on cycle confidence. After the launch we visited the new closed circuit cycle route at The Circuit, Quarry Road, Irvine. The loop will be used to provide cycling training to local people and groups.

### ***Citizenship Ceremony, Saltcoats Town Hall, 26 June***

On 26 June, I had the pleasure of welcoming new UK citizens to North Ayrshire at a special citizenship ceremony held in Saltcoats Town Hall. These celebratory events mark the end of the journey for those applying for UK citizenship.

### ***Care Home Open Day, Fullarton Care Home, Irvine, 28 June***

On 28 June, I visited Fullarton Care Home in Irvine. The theme of the Open Day was "Celebrating Art in Care". A range of activities were arranged on the day including arts and crafts and musical entertainment. It was good to get the opportunity to speak to some of the residents and staff.

### ***Scottish Parliament's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, 29 June***

On 29 June, I attended the Scottish Parliament's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Rothesay, formally addressed Members of the Scottish Parliament and guests. The ceremony also included performances celebrating the best of Scottish music and culture. Earlier in the year, the Scottish Parliament announced a year-long programme to mark the 20 years since its creation.

### ***Armed Forces Day Parade, Irvine, 30 June***

Along with many community organisations, veterans and serving Armed Forces personnel, I took part in the Armed Forces Day Parade in Irvine on 30 June. The event gave us a great opportunity to show our appreciation of those brave men and women who serve or have served in our Forces.

### ***North Ayrshire Open Art Exhibition, Eglinton Park, Kilwinning, 5 July***

I was delighted to attend the preview of this year's North Ayrshire Open Arts Exhibition which took place in Eglinton Park on 5 July. The event, which is now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, is arranged by a team of volunteers who provide support and encouragement to the local arts community. An excellent range of art works were on show, highlighting the artistic flair and talent of individuals in North Ayrshire and beyond.

### ***BEINGS Exhibition, Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning, 25 July***

I visited the BEINGS exhibition on 25<sup>th</sup> July in Eglinton Country Park. The exhibition was arranged in partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

Young people from North Ayrshire, alongside others from across Scotland, created the exhibition, which explored mental health and wellbeing. It charted their emotions with powerful works of art, offering up creative insights into young people's minds.

### ***Chinese Consul General Farewell Reception, Chinese Consulate, Edinburgh 30 July***

On 30 July, I attended an event in the Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh to bid farewell to Consul General Pan, who has retired from office and has returned to China. Consul General Pan, during his term of office, attended many events in North Ayrshire and was very supportive of cultural activities in our schools and in our local communities. I look forward to meeting the new Consul General in due course and welcoming them to North Ayrshire.

### ***Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Eid Fellowship Dinner, Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh, 13 August***

I was delighted to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Eid Fellowship Dinner on 13 August in Edinburgh. The Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society is a body committed to enhancing relations across people of faith and no faith in Scotland. They have committed to hold an Eid Dinner annually to sustain and strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship between Muslims and members of Scotland's faith families marking the auspicious Islamic festival.

### ***Marymass Festival, Irvine, 15-26 August***

This year's Marymass Festival in Irvine was a great success. The festival took place over twelve days, with an extensive programme of events and special activities. I participated in as many events as I was able to and witnessed first-hand all the excellent work that goes into the festival by a huge number of volunteers. The festival attracts thousands of people each year to Irvine where communities come together and celebrate the town's history and heritage. I hosted a civic reception on Irvine Moor after the Marymass Festival parade, welcomed guests from home and abroad, and was given the opportunity of showcasing Irvine at its very best.

### ***Dickson Drive Development, Irvine, 16 August***

I was pleased to return to the development at Dickson Drive to mark the start of an exciting new stage in the works. Five of the 24 houses were handed over to the Council's Building Services team, who will now complete the internal construction. A dedicated team is currently working hard to deliver these properties whilst expanding their housebuilding experience, and I am really looking forward to going back later this year to see the completed homes. Alongside general needs homes, wheelchair properties and amenity bungalows, this site will also include two unique 'Sustainable Demonstrator Homes'. These homes will showcase the latest sustainable design and technology and set a benchmark for building sustainable properties in our extensive housebuilding programme.

### ***Upgrade of Nelson's Gun Battery Site, Saltcoats, 23 August***

The Nelson's Gun Battery site, which lies at the top of Auchenharvie steps in Saltcoats was recently upgraded. I was delighted to attend the official launch on 23 August with those involved in initiating this project.

### ***Greenwood Academy Prizegiving, 28 August***

I attended the Greenwood Academy Prizegiving on 28 August. It is always a pleasure to attend events like these where we can promote and celebrate our talented pupils who excel in many areas.

### ***Opening of Largs Viking Festival, Largs, 31 August***

On 31 August, I had the privilege of opening the 40<sup>th</sup> Largs Viking Festival. The festival is a highlight in Scotland's rich and diverse annual events programme, spanning eight days and incorporating a wide range of events and special activities. I am continually inspired by the extraordinary and invaluable voluntary work that goes on in our communities throughout North Ayrshire. My thanks go to all those volunteers who were involved in staging this year's festival.

### ***Syrian Crafts and Culture Exhibition, Heritage Centre, Saltcoats, 2 September***

On 2 September, I attended an exhibition in the Heritage Centre, Saltcoats, called "Syrian Crafts and Culture". Members of our Syrian community created artwork that culturally represents the lives of those now living in North Ayrshire, which consisted of photographs, paintings, crafts and costumes.

### ***Beating Retreat and Reception, Penicuik House, Midlothian, 2 September***

On 2 September, I attended a Ceremony of Beating Retreat at Penicuik House in Midlothian. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland with their pipes, drums and bugles, supported by the band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, were welcomed on the evening. This was a thoroughly enjoyable event providing excellent networking opportunities.

***Irvine Royal Academy Prizegiving, 5 September***

I was delighted to attend the prizegiving ceremony in Irvine Royal Academy on 5 September. This was a great opportunity to meet staff and pupils and to congratulate them on their outstanding achievements.

***Ayrshire Apprentice of the Year, Park Hotel, Kilmarnock, 6 September***

I was delighted to host a table of apprentices from North Ayrshire at the Ayrshire Apprentice of the Year Awards, held in the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock on 6 September. The event, arranged by Irvine Incorporated Trades, was a success and highlighted the excellent work of apprentices and their employers in Ayrshire.

***251 (Ayrshire) Transport Squadron Open Day, Army Reserve Centre, Dreghorn, Irvine, 7 September***

On the morning of 7 September, I attended the 251 (Ayrshire) Transport Squadron Open Day at the Army Reserve Centre in Dreghorn. I received an insight into the excellent work carried out by the men and women of the unit and how they engage with the local community.

***Garnock Valley Carves, Beith, 7 September***

I attended Garnock Valley Carves in Beith on the afternoon of 7 September. Many visitors attended this popular chainsaw carving event to see the skills of the talented wood carvers. Garnock Valley Carves was arranged by volunteers who put in an immense amount of work into the event and to their local community.

***Corsehill Primary School - Garden Festival, Kilwinning, 11 September***

It is always a pleasure to visit our primary schools, and on 11 September I went along to Corsehill Primary School for their Garden Festival. This was an excellent environmentally friendly event with music, plant and vegetable sales and garden games.

## PROVOST'S REPORT



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Clarkson". The script is fluid and cursive.

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**