



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 10 May– 20 June 2018

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.

Ground Breaking Ceremony, Watt Court, Dalry, 11 May

On 11 May I was delighted to attend the Ground Breaking ceremony to mark the start of our new housing development at Watt Court, Dalry. The site will provide 22 new homes within a sheltered housing complex, eight amenity bungalows and a Local Housing Office. This new project will continue the Council's ambitious affordable house building programme in North Ayrshire.

Polish National Day - Reception and Concert hosted by Consul General of Poland, Edinburgh City Chambers, 11 May

On the evening of 11 May I attended a reception and concert, hosted by the Consul General of Poland in Edinburgh City Chambers. The event was organised to celebrate Polish National Day and was attended by civic leaders throughout Scotland.

The Salvation Army West Scotland Division - Advisory Board AGM, Glasgow, 14 May

On the 14 May I attended the Salvation Army West Scotland Division - Advisory Board AGM in Glasgow. The Division covers North Ayrshire and I was interested to hear about the work this particular organisation carries out in our local communities and communities throughout Scotland.

Creative Pathways – Exhibition, Trinity Church, Irvine, 16 May

On 16 May I was delighted to attend an exhibition and pop-up shop featuring environmental-themed artwork and upcycled items by young people taking part in the Creative Pathways employability programme. Ten unemployed 16-17 year olds from North Ayrshire had been working with Impact Arts' artists and employability staff, learning creative skills and making artwork while getting guidance and support to find employment, education or training.

It was excellent to be able to acknowledge the achievements of these young people.

Poppyscotland Ayrshire, Mental Health Awareness Open Day, Kilmarnock, 17 May

On 17 May, I went along to Poppyscotland Ayrshire who in conjunction with a number of their specialised Armed Forces Mental Health related partners, hosted a Mental Health Awareness Open Day. The aim of the event was to:

1. Inform and increase awareness of mental health support for our Armed Forces Community in Ayrshire, how to access and give knowledge of other services available.
2. Reduce stigma and promote mental health pathways for our Armed Forces Community in Ayrshire.
3. Inform statutory, third sector agencies, the general public and our Armed Forces Community of the support available in Ayrshire.

Launch of Confucius Primary Hub, St Mary's Primary School, Largs, 18 May

On 18 May I joined Consul General Pan from the Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh at the launch of the Confucius Primary Hub at St Mary's Primary School in Largs. During the launch there were excellent performances from our talented pupils and Scottish Opera. The Hub concept promotes joint planning of cultural activities, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture.

The Opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh 19 May

On 19 May the Executive Director (Place) and I were joined by Lord Provosts, Provosts, Conveners and Chief Executives from local authorities throughout Scotland for the Opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Guests gathered at Edinburgh City Chambers then paraded to the Assembly Hall for the official opening which included the installation of the Moderator, Rev. Susan Brown who is Minister of Dornoch Cathedral. This year the General Assembly celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women to the ministry of word and sacrament.

43rd Annual May (Burgh) Ball, Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine, 19 May

On the evening on 19 May I was in Irvine for the 43rd Annual May (Burgh) Ball. The event arranged by Irvine Incorporated Trades celebrates the Town's rich cultural history. It is a tradition at the event that the Provost gives the reply to the toast of the Royal Burgh, which I was delighted to do. I also took the opportunity to acknowledge the positive role the Incorporated Trades play in promoting Irvine and its history to audiences both locally and nationally.

ADP Cup, Kilwinning Community Sports Club, 22 May

On 22 May I attended the ADP (Alcohol and Drug Partnership) Cup Event at Kilwinning Community Sports Club. Hosted by the FITba4u project, service users took on staff at what is now an annual footballing challenge. This was a great occasion for everyone involved and highlighted all the hard work taking place, the range of interventions offered and the positive impact the FITba4U project has on the service users and their quality of life.

Lawthorn Primary School, Irvine 31 May

On 31 May, I attended a school assembly at Lawthorn Primary School where I got the chance to wish all the P7s well on the next chapter of their education journey to Secondary School. I also got the opportunity to wish Mrs. McCall our very best on her retirement. I was also delighted to return to the School on 14 June to shortleet their citizenship awards nominations

Mr. and Mrs. Brennan, Diamond Wedding Anniversary, Saltcoats, 31 May

On the afternoon of 31 May it was a great pleasure to visit Mr. and Mrs. Brennan from Saltcoats on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding anniversary. 60 years of marriage is a huge milestone and I was only too delighted to mark this celebration.

Year of Young People Civic Reception, Saltcoats Town Hall, 31 May

2018 is Year of Young People and I was delighted to host a civic reception to mark the achievements of our young people here in North Ayrshire. Over 100 young people from the world of sport and music were recognised at the event for their national or international successes. The event, held in Saltcoats Town Hall on 31 May, opened with performances from North Ayrshire's highly acclaimed Schools' Senior Concert Band, who secured a Gold award at the National Concert Band Festival earlier this year. This gave way to a street dance show by pupils from Whitehirst Park and Caledonia primary schools.

Young people were then invited on stage to collect certificates – one from the Council, and the other issued on behalf of the First Minister as part of the Year of Young People. Our own Year of Young People Ambassadors greatly assisted in organising this special event which I am truly grateful for.

Official Opening of Largs Campus, Largs 13 June

It was an honour to officially welcome my colleagues and guests to the formal opening of Largs Campus by the First Minister on 13 June. It has been a long road for us to finally get to this point, with the planning for this building commencing five years ago. The facilities available for the schools and the community are truly amazing and I hope they will be well used for many years to come.

Ardrossan Academy Nail Bar Launch, 15 June

Ardrossan Academy officially launched their Nail Bar project on 15 June. With the help from Developing Young Workforce and the Princes Trust, the Project helps develop pupils' skills and prepare them for future employment.

Walking with Heroes Reception and Concert, Kilmarnock, 15 June

On 15 June, I attended a civic reception and concert hosted by Provost Todd from East Ayrshire Council in support of Armed Forces charity Poppyscotland. Scotland's State Band, the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, performed as part of a national tour 'Walking with Heroes' marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. This is their first ever national tour and they hope to raise tens of thousands of pounds. 'Walking with Heroes' featured classical compositions and folk tunes as well as traditional Military / brass band musical pieces.

Opening of Ardrossan Castle Carnival, Ardrossan, 16 June

On 16 June I officially opened the Ardrossan Castle Carnival. The event is now in its third year and is going from strength to strength. A huge range of activities were on offer arranged by the volunteers who make up the Ardrossan Castle Heritage Society. I cannot emphasise enough the amazing work carried out by volunteers in our local communities, they work tirelessly throughout the year, normally without recognition, for the benefit of others and my gratitude goes to each and every one of them.

Scottish Provost's Association, Edinburgh, 19 June

I travelled to Edinburgh City Chambers to attend a meeting of the Scottish Provost's Association on 19 June. The guest speaker was from the Scottish Government's Protocol and Honours Team who discussed the honours system and the role of Provost in it. We also had a general discussion on the future of the Association prior to the AGM later in the year.

Children's Panel, Award Ceremony, Greenwood Centre, Dreghorn, 19 June

The Provosts from East and South Ayrshire joined me on the evening of 19 June at the Greenwood Centre in Dreghorn to recognise and thank those people throughout Ayrshire who serve on the Children's Panel. All panel members devote considerable amounts of time to their task, preparing for hearings, undertaking the hearings themselves and then a significant amount of continuous training which is so willingly undertaken. The decisions that hearings take significantly change children's and young people's lives for the better, not infrequently these are, literally, life saving interventions. They offer a better chance to live safe, happy and fulfilled lives.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council