



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 18 October – 28
November 2021

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 taken part in several events, including:

Scottish Provosts' Association AGM, City Chambers, Edinburgh, 20 October

On 20 October, I attended the Scottish Provosts' Association AGM. This gathering of all civic heads in Scotland is important to the development of the role of Provost and for networking. At this event, Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was the guest speaker.

Visit to Castlepark Community Association, Irvine, 21 October

On 21 October, I visited Castlepark Community Centre in Irvine. This was the start of many visits to a range of community groups throughout North Ayrshire which I am still undertaking. I was delighted to meet members of the Community Association and some of their user groups. The visit also allowed me to witness first-hand the incredible work that is carried out by volunteers and to thank them for all the work they do.

Visit to Café Solace, Bridgend Community Centre, Kilbirnie, 22 October

On 22 October, I visited Café Solace in Kilbirnie. It was excellent to be able to chat to the volunteers behind the project and hear how it has evolved and the positive impact it has on the local community. My thanks go to everyone involved.

Astra Gardens Official Opening, Ardrossan Academy, 22 October

I was delighted to be invited to officially open Ardrossan Academy's Astra Gardens on 22 October. The garden provides learning opportunities for pupils in horticultural skills and is now open to the local community. Partnerships have since been developed with the local foodbank and the community larders and I look forward to visiting again.



Visit Garnock Valley Men's Shed, Kilbirnie, 22 October

I paid a visit to the Garnock Valley Men's Shed in Kilbirnie on 22 October. The Men's Shed is a registered charity that positively supports men's health and wellbeing across the Garnock Valley. I was delighted to meet the people behind it. They are shining examples of the incredible work carried out by volunteers in our local communities throughout North Ayrshire.

Ayrshire Cancer Support Fundraising Ball, Ayr Racecourse, 23 October

On 23 October, I was a guest of Ayrshire Cancer Support at their fundraising ball which took place at Ayr Racecourse. I was happy to be able to attend to highlight this worthwhile cause and to show our support to all the volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to raise funds and provide support for people suffering with cancer throughout Ayrshire.

Visit to Dalry Community Garden, Dalry, 25 October

On 25 October, I visited the Community Garden in Dalry and had a chat with some of the dedicated volunteers leading the initiative. My thanks go out to everyone involved with this project and I am only too happy to highlight all the excellent work they carry out.

Visit to The Farm Basket, Towerlands Farm Community Centre, Irvine, 29 October

On 29 October, I visited the Farm Basket at Towerlands Farm Community Centre. This community food larder provides accessible and affordable groceries helping those in the local community who may be struggling with the costs of a weekly shop. It was good to speak with members of Broomlands and Bourtreehill Community Association who operate this excellent resource.

Ravenfest, Townhouse, Irvine, 29 October

Ravenfest, a celebration of Edgar Allan Poe took place in the Townhouse, Irvine on 29 October. This was the first of what is hoped to be an annual festival celebrating the life and works of Edgar Allan Poe who spent a short time in Irvine as a child.

Visit to Irvine Neighborhood Youth Forum, Irvine, 30 October

On 30 October, I visited Irvine Neighbourhood Youth Forum at their Halloween themed breakfast club in the Redburn Community Centre. The dedicated members of the Forum are involved in a range of community activities, and it is heartening to see the amount of work our young people carry out. They are excellent ambassadors for the young people of North Ayrshire.



Irvine Incorporated Trades 375th Anniversary Dinner, Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine, 30 October

I attended the Incorporated Trades 375th Annual Dinner, otherwise known as the “Big Pie”, in the Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine on 30 October. This traditional event celebrates Irvine and its ancient traditions. The Incorporated Trades are involved in many events and projects in Irvine and uphold the historical and cultural traditions of the former Royal Burgh.

Brass in the Valley Concert, Gateside, Beith, 31 October

On 31 October, I attended the second Brass in the Valley Concert. The concert, arranged by the Barmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club, was held to acknowledge the services provided by front-line workers in the Garnock Valley, during the Covid-19 pandemic. This event was a great opportunity to show our support to the many individuals and organisations who have provided vital support to their local community during these difficult times.

Visit to Choices Community Shop, Irvine, 1 November

On 1 November, I visited the Choices Community Shop on Fullarton Street, Irvine. The shop provides affordable food options for members as well as providing information and guidance to individuals requiring other types of support. I was delighted to get the opportunity to talk to the volunteers behind the project and hear about the enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes.

Visit to the Training Station, Saltcoats, 1 November

I visited the Training Station in Saltcoats on 1 November. The project led by Shibumi Karate Club, saw an underused part of Saltcoats Train Station transformed into a state-of-the-art community facility. I was grateful for a tour of the facility and to hear the background to this community-led project.

Visit to Garnock Valley Youth Forum, Walker Hall, Kilbirnie, 3 November

On 3 November, I visited Garnock Valley Youth Forum in the Walker Hall, Kilbirnie. I was delighted to officially launch their Uniform Swap Shop initiative. I was happy to meet the young people and to offer my support and encouragement for all the work they do.



Visit to Dalry Larder, Community Centre Dalry, 3 November

I visited the Dalry Community Larder on 3 November, which is another amazing project set up to support those in the local area. In partnership with the Council, initiatives like these not only provide vital support to those needing it most but bring communities together and highlight the greatest asset we have and that is our people. My thanks go to everyone involved.

Remembrance Day Service, Irvine, 11 November

On 11 November, at 11am we remembered all those brave service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Services took place throughout North Ayrshire at this time, I attended a service at the war memorial in Irvine.

Cash for Kids Mission Christmas Virtual Launch, 12 November

On 12 November, I joined the virtual launch of Cash for Kids Mission Christmas. At the launch we heard how Cash for Kids are supporting young people in Ayrshire and of the various projects in which they are involved. This is such a worthwhile cause which benefits many, particularly at this time of year.

Dorothy Lynam, 100th Birthday celebration, Woodwynd Hall, Kilwinning, 13 November

I was delighted to have been invited along to Dorothy Lynam's 100th birthday celebration in the Woodwynd Hall, Kilwinning on 13 November. Dorothy is well known for the work she has carried out in the local community for many years, and it was an honour to congratulate her on her special day.

Remembrance Sunday, Irvine, 14 November

I attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in Irvine on 14 November. Remembrance Sunday never fails to move me, but I felt this year's service was perhaps even more poignant than most. After the events of the past 18 months, it was very heartening to see us start to come back together to commemorate and honour those who laid down their lives in war, including hundreds from our own communities. I'd like to thank all the individuals and groups who made it such a special day. As time moves on, it's important that we never lose sight of what this act of remembrance means - reflecting on the sacrifices which have been made and ensure their service is never forgotten. I'd like to thank all the individuals and groups who made it such a special day.



Visit to Kilwinning Locality Team, Kilwinning Library, 15 November

I visited Kilwinning Library on 15 November, to chat with the locality team. I was given an insight into all the excellent work that has been going on behind the scenes during the Covid pandemic and the people behind it. It was great to speak with the dedicated staff who do a huge amount of work supporting local organisations and local initiatives.

Visit to the “Wee Shoap” Community Larder, Woodwynd Hall, Kilwinning, 15 November

I visited the “Wee Shoap” community larder in Woodwynd Hall, Kilwinning on 15 November. I spoke with the personnel involved and was inspired by their dedication to their local community. This initiative serves a need in the area and as well as addressing that need encourages greater community involvement and participation.

Visit to Cranberry Moss Food Larder, Cranberry Moss Community Centre, Kilwinning, 18 November

On 18 November, I visited the Cranberry Moss food larder in Cranberry Moss Community Centre, Kilwinning. This is another great example of partnership working in the local community. We have saw communities come together to support each other during the pandemic and projects like this magnify the tremendous effort of volunteers in the local area.

Showmen’s Guild Annual Luncheon, Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow, 19 November

On 19 November, I attended the Showmen’s Guild annual luncheon, in Glasgow. Fairgrounds have been an integral part to festivals and events throughout North Ayrshire for many years. It was good to meet the people involved in these attractions and to hear about how the pandemic has affected them and about their plans for the future.

Scottish Youth Parliament Election Announcement Evening, Volunteer Rooms, Irvine, 23 November

I was delighted to attend the Scottish Youth Parliament election announcement in the Volunteer Rooms, Irvine on 23 November. My congratulations go to Mais Al Diri, Logan Gilmour, Justin Jones and Pyper Quayle who have been elected to the Scottish Youth Parliament. I am very proud of these young people and I look forward to working alongside them.



Violence Against Women – 16 Days of Action, Flag-raising, Cunninghame House, 25 November

On 25 November, I raised the flag at Cunninghame House to launch this year's White Ribbon 16 Days of Action, which promotes an end to Violence Against Women and directly addresses men, so they understand the scale of the problem and become part of the solution. We all have a role to play in this campaign and the message is clear that violence against women will not be tolerated.

Jolly Beggars Burns Club, 77th Annual St. Andrew's Dinner, Bowling Club, Beith, 26 November

It was a pleasure to attend the Jolly Beggar's Burns annual St. Andrew's dinner on 26 November in Beith Bowling Club. I thoroughly enjoyed the event, which celebrated all the very best about Scotland and it was great to see communities slowly emerging from the pandemic restrictions and coming together in a social setting to enjoy themselves. Thanks to the Jolly Beggars Burns Club for arranging this event.

Royal British Legion Scotland, Centenary Concert, Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 28 November

On 28 November, I attended the Royal British Legion Centenary Concert in Edinburgh. As Veteran's Champion I work closely with veterans in North Ayrshire and with local branches of the British Legion, so I was only too delighted to attend this event and show our support to this organisation who have supported veterans throughout the UK for the past 100 years.





A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Clarkson".

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council