



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 19 May – 12 June 2022

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



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Since the last meeting of the Council, I have taken part in several events, including:

Opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, 21 May

On 21 May, I was in Edinburgh on my first official engagement as Provost. The event was the opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Many other local authorities throughout Scotland were represented at this annual event. I took part in a procession to the Assembly Hall which was followed by the Official Opening Ceremony and ended with a reception hosted by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Barmill Jolly Beggars' Burns Club, Platinum Jubilee Celebration, Beith, 28 May

On 28 May, I attended the Barmill Jolly Beggars' Burns Club, Platinum Jubilee Celebration, in Beith. My congratulations go to the organisers of this community celebration which was enjoyed by many. Events like these bring people together and put the spotlight on the hard-working volunteers who do so much in their local community.

Cunninghame Choir Concert, Community Centre, Beith, 29 May

I attended the Cunninghame Choir Concert, in Beith Community Centre on 29 May. This was their first concert in two years. The evening presentation started with some audience participation prior to treating the audience to a performance of Fauré's Requiem. They were wonderfully led by Tiffany Vong, accompanied by Maciej Granat, and supported by guest soloists Tamsin Birch and Michael Longden. The concert also raised money for DEC Ukraine.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, 2-5 June

Some of the amazing work that goes on in our communities was highlighted during The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, I attended as many events as I was able but was aware of many other events taking place throughout North Ayrshire at this time and my appreciation goes to all those who arranged and supported these activities.



In the afternoon of 2 June, I took part in Beith's Platinum Jubilee events, which included a special parade, performances, raising of the jubilee flag and an official proclamation by the Town Crier.

On the evening of 2 June, I had the pleasure of lighting Irvine's Beacon alongside Depute Lieutenant Evelyn McCann and Jayden Smith, Coastwatch Volunteer of the Year. This formed part of the national Platinum Jubilee celebrations where over 1,500 beacons were lit throughout the nation, Commonwealth capitals and UK Overseas Territories in recognition of Her Majesty the Queen's remarkable 70 years on the throne.

On 5 June, I along with the Depute Lieutenant and colleagues attended the Platinum Jubilee Service, in Old Parish Church, Irvine followed by the Big Jubilee Lunch in the Church Hall. This was a great opportunity for me to meet representatives from the many voluntary organisations in the Irvine area.

Arran Pride, Isle of Arran, 4 June

On 4 June, I was delighted to attend and support the first ever Pride event on the Isle of Arran. It was heartening to see so many individuals, groups and organisations taking part, not just from the Island but from throughout Scotland.

The atmosphere was incredible and was testament to the wonderful inclusive country in which we live. The event was a celebration of our individuality and culture and instilled me with a great sense of Pride. My thanks go to the organisers and to all those community groups and organisations who supported the event.

Heritage Centre Visit, Saltcoats, 9 June

On 9 June, I along with some colleagues visited the Heritage Centre in Saltcoats. I viewed the current exhibition "Following the Lights: the history of Scottish Lighthouses" and looked at the wonderful artefacts pertaining to North Ayrshire that are on display. I would encourage you to visit if you have not done so already.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary, Irvine, 9 June

On 9 June, I visited Mr and Mrs Auld from Irvine who were celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary. I was delighted to be able to congratulate the couple on behalf of the Council.

Sir Tom Hunter School Challenge, Centerstage, Kilmarnock, 9 June

On 9 June, I attended the Sir Tom Hunter School Challenge where the finalists got to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges. Garnock Campus represented North Ayrshire and successfully presented their product “mindfulness munchies” and went home with £1500 for their school. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Cancer Research UK, Race for Life, 12 June

On 12 June, I was invited to start Cancer Research UK’s Race for Life event at Irvine Beach Park. I was delighted to lend my support to such a worthwhile cause. Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, raises funds for world-class research to help beat 200 types of cancer – including bowel cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, testicular cancer, brain cancer, children’s cancers and leukaemia.

Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band, Jubilee Concert, Dreghorn, 12 June

On the afternoon of 12 June, I was entertained by Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band at a concert held in Dunlop Memorial Hall, Dreghorn. The theme of the concert was The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The concert was excellent and enjoyed by all.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthea Dickson".

Councillor Anthea Dickson
Provost North Ayrshire Council