

Item 12 KCC meeting September 2025

Interim Submission to MCC proposed routes and correspondence with Kirsty Flanagan on Road Traffic Act

Dear Kirsty,

Thank you for your email of 10th June.

A number of residents and businesses have raised concerns with us about the lack of

pedestrian access on roads affected by the Council's road traffic order for this year's Argyll

Rally. Can you confirm that, in line with the Road Traffic Act, there will be no future road

closures that will prevent pedestrian access to properties on or adjacent to closed roads? I

would be grateful if you could provide a response before our next meeting on 30th

September.

Kind regards,

Ed Pybus

From: **Secretary Kilfinan Community Council <secretary.kilfinancc@gmail.com>**

Date: Sun, 14 Sept 2025 at 15:15

Subject: Interim response to MCC route proposals

To: <argyllrallyconsultation@gmail.com>

Cc: Sam Spencer <samwspencer@outlook.com>

We are making this interim response to the MCC proposals for the 2026 rally route. The 2026 proposals for our area are almost the same as the 2025 routes. There are 6 proposed stages in the KCC area with 34 hours of road closures and repeated closures of the same roads, without alternative access. Feedback from our communities has been clear, the level of disruption to our residents and businesses in 2025 was excessive. The proposed 2026 routes are not acceptable, we also support the points raised by Dunoon and Colglen CCs.

Planning for 2026 routes: We had a range of feedback after the 2025 rally, from our AGM in June, emails and Facebook posts, discussions with our residents and information from the Dunoon CC survey. The feedback we received largely reflected the issues we had submitted to Argyll and Bute Council in advance of the 2024 rally. Residents reported unacceptable disruption, businesses reported financial losses and disruption. We also know that tourist activity was disrupted. Some businesses reported gains where spectators could access the route.

After discussion at our August 2025 meeting we used this feedback to consider criteria which would reflect the range of positive and negative views in our community and enable us to positively engage with 2026 route planning. The criteria, which we have been testing with our communities, are that 2026 stages should:-

- Minimise the impact on businesses and avoid the closure of any business.
- Enable spectator access particularly where this benefits local businesses.
- Avoid any road closure of more than half a day.
- Avoid impacting on access for tourists.
- Not include racing after 22.00 hours.

The proposed routes will require substantial revision to meet these criteria.

Legal position: A number of our residents and businesses have contacted us to raise concerns about the denial of pedestrian access by Mull Car Club during the 2024 rally. We have asked the Argyll and Bute Council to advise us on whether, as stated in the Road Traffic Act 1984, pedestrian access to properties on or adjacent to closed roads cannot be prevented at any time. The answer to this point will also be important for framing acceptable routes.

Final response: We have widely publicised the 2026 proposals to our residents to inform our final response. We have a meeting organised with MCC later this month and would hope to agree changes to their proposals to reflect our concerns. KCC will discuss a final position at our 30th September 2025 meeting.

Consultation on 2026 routes: In making this interim response we want to highlight serious concerns about the MCC consultation process.

- KCC requested a meeting with MCC at the end of June 2025 to discuss routes in our area for 2026, but no response was received.
- A collective CC meeting was arranged for mid-August 2025. This meeting was represented by MCC as "**an opportunity to look back on the 2025 rally and give Community Council representatives a chance to raise any issues, concerns or suggestions for future events.**" MCC had indicated that they would share some "**early thoughts**" on their plans for the 2026 Argyll Rally at the meeting. At the end of the meeting detailed route and road closure plans were tabled and community councils were told these were going out for public consultation. There was clearly no intention that community councils could influence 2026 route proposals before detailed plans were developed and issued.
- The 2026 route proposals for our area are almost exactly the same as the 2025 proposals. MCC are fully aware of the detailed concerns KCC raised about those routes but have not reflected those concerns in developing 2026 routes. Our submission to Argyll and Bute Council on the 2025 routes is attached.

**Catriona Renfrew
Secretary
Kilfinan Community Council**