



***'FOR INFO' meeting** of FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FSWCC) meeting*
10th December 2025, 6.30pm,
Working For Wallacetown ('hub') building, 37 George Street, Ayr, KA8

**Note: Inquorate meeting therefore no binding decisions made*

Chair (inquorate meeting): Ian MacLeod
Minute-Taker (inquorate meeting): Ian MacLeod

Attendees/ panel:

Jane Corrie (Ayrshire Roads Alliance staff - Head of Roads), Carol Fisher (CC member), Michael Hitchon (CC member), Ian MacLeod (CC member), Bob Shields (SAC member), George Weir (SAC member).

Members of Public:

Mike Clark, Lianne Hackett, Nigel Hackett, Jan Johnson, Gordon Kelly, Beryl McKinlay, John Monaghan, John Warner.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ian MacLeod welcomed attendees and informed the meeting that **there is not a quorum - i.e. enough FSWCC members - to make/ record decisions.** However, the meeting can proceed as an information-sharing meeting. Members present - Carol Fisher, Michael Hitchon, and Ian MacLeod - agreed Ian would deputise as Chair.

Ian MacLeod introduced the panel to the public present and highlighted the presence of guest speaker Jane Corrie – Head of Roads at Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA).

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from members Eric Armstrong, David Connelly, Alan Roseweir, Robert Singer, Denise Somerville, Forbes Watson.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared, but meeting is not making decisions given members are not quorate.

4. Approval of Minutes – 8th October 2025

Members present postponed this item because meeting is not making decisions given members are not quorate.

5. Matters Arising

Members present postponed this item because meeting is not making decisions given members are not quorate.

6. SAC Elected Members Report

* 2026-2027 increases to SAC service charges *

Councillor Weir reported that charges for some services will rise in 2026-2027, giving the example of funeral charges.

2026-2027 Budget

Councillor Shields gave insight from his membership of the SAC budget panel: Hypothetical 5% savings across all spending would halve the deficit needed to produce balanced budget for 2026-2027. Scottish Government is yet to finalise allocation of funds to local authorities. Therefore, it remains possible that council tax will rise by a significant percentage to fund the budget deficit.

7. Reports

a. *Treasurer (Michael Hitchon)*

Michael Hitchon reported we have funded awards for best shopfront and that the winner is in Dalblair Road. Michael disseminated his monthly statement of income and expenses. .

b. *Common Good*

No discussion

c. *Fundraising and Grants*

No discussion

d. *Guest Speakers*

No discussion

e. *Licensing*

No discussion

f. *Planning*

No discussion

g. *Police*

No discussion

h. *Roads*

Presentation by Jane Corrie, Head of Roads - Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA)

- Dalblair Road speeding concerns

Jane stated she had been contacted by MSP Siobhan Brown to address concerns about process of assessing concerns raised about speeding in Dalblair Road. Jane reported that analysis from August 2024 (approximately sixteen months ago) found that the key bulk (eighty-five percentile) drive less than approximately 26mph (6 - six - mph above the speed limit), on average. Jane stated that this key bulk's excessive average speed is sufficient for police to deploy targeted enforcement action and that, duly, ARA have informed the police. ARA will not do structural change because of preminent possibility of SAC restructuring work ('Accessible Ayr' project).

However, Jane reported that ARA will implement 'repeat signage' as first attempt to reduce incidences of speeding and will monitor and analyse speeds - All by early months in 2026. If the average speed of the key bulk (85 percentile) has not reduced sufficiently, ARA's escalated response would be to erect 'vehicle-reactive' road signage, e.g. alert speeding drivers.

- *General roads matters addressed by Jane*

- ARA will investigate reports that ARA's defect report portal does not list 'road signs' as a category.
- ARA urge the public to report defects as resource limitations mean the public are the best-placed detectors of problems.
- ARA's duty to repair dangerous defects as a priority means maintenance generally is on a reactive rather than pro-active basis.

(end of presentation by Jane Corrie)

Ayr Parking Strategy (2025), scheduled for SAC member meeting 11th December 2025 (item 9.)

Each member of public attending this evening's FSWCC meeting who recorded this matter as their matter of public business was asked to state their prime point of concern about the SAC proposal. Seemingly, the members of public raising this matter were residents of the Fort area's public streets (as opposed to the developments with private off-street parking). Two matters appeared to have the unanimous or broad support of that cohort:

- *residents would not have exclusive parking rights to restricted parking in any cluster of parking spaces.*
- *based on historic and current observation of SAC parking restrictions enforcement in the area, scepticism that enforcement will deter overstayers/ non-compliant parking.*

Councillors Shields and Weir acknowledged the strength of feeling and intimated that they would try to influence the course of the proposal to be more sympathetic to the concerns of the acutely affected area of the Fort/ 'beach' interface that attracts many users for various amenities. Councillors Shields and Weir reminded our meeting that there are competing interests such as generating income in place of reduced revenue from the town centre two-hour free parking policy.

Jane Corrie (ARA) contextualised the Ayr Parking Strategy ('the strategy') in the town being an outlier for under-charging residents car parking permits relative to other Scottish towns and cities, and that any SAC 'approval' of the strategy prompts a consultation period where public opinion and debate will take its course.

-Action: (inquire, therefore not a decision): *FSWCC members present today will take the Fort residents' concerns to the next meeting of FSWCC in expectation that it will be a quorate meeting to decide about what position FSWCC will take and state to SAC*

i. *STLs – Short Term Lets*

SAC policy review

Ian MacLeod reiterated the significant information from our last meeting:

- SAC members have tasked SAC officers with drafting proposals for a revised policy for STLs that will redress concerns expressed by the public about the effects of STLs.
- SAC has an STL policy consultation survey open to all.

Commercial Refuse Charges for Guest Houses vs Residential classification of STLs

Additionally, a member of the public who operates a guest house in the Fort area asked attendees to consider the disparity in charges for refuse collection between operators of guest houses as opposed to operators of STL: Guest houses must pay commercial charges for refuse collection, whereas STL operators use presumably regarded as residential dwellings which incurs no direct user-charge for refuse collection. Council Weir suggested the member of public contact him directly.

j. *Town Centre Regeneration and Events*

Pride In Place (PIP) funding

Ian MacLeod reported that draft minutes from SAC member meeting 6th November 2025 noted that the scheme will have an independent 'Town Board' (i.e. independent from SAC) but that SAC will provide secretariat to the board and be accountable for management of the funding.

Additionally, Ian read aloud the written update from FSWCC member Alan Roseweir that Alan is on the board of the PIP funding group but that funding eligibility (locations, purposes) are still being devised by the grant-givers (UK Govt).

Furthermore, Ian read the update from the office of MP Elaine Stewart that matched the position reported on behalf of Alan Roseweir.

High Street aesthetic

Member of public Beryl McKinlay sought suggestions about route to obtain answers from SAC about specific matters she has pursued so far through SAC officer email addresses.

Jane Corrie suggested that people use SAC's online portal and/ or the generic customer-services e-mail address so that contact is catalogued (reference number given to enquirer) and relayed into correct SAC workstream

Action: Ian MacLeod to contact Beryl by email to provide SAC web-page links to the routes SAC prefer.

k. *Wallacetown Community Energy Project*

no discussion

l. * Place Planning - Ayr South(-west)*

No discussion.

8. Adding Ayr North ward area Wallacetown North to our community council area

No discussion

10. Date of Next Meeting

18:30, Wednesday 14th January 2026 at Working For Wallacetown ('hub'), 37 George Street, Ayr,