



The Cludgie Trail (Toilet Trail), Isle of Cumbrae

About the Project

Cumbrae Community Development Company (CCDC) took over the running of the island's public toilet blocks from North Ayrshire Council in April 2017 after local authority financial constraints meant North Ayrshire could no longer allocate funds to or maintain the facilities. CCDC works on behalf of the community to ensure that these essential public amenities remain available for both residents and visitors.

The Isle of Cumbrae has a strong reputation as a visitor destination, attracting cyclists, walkers, golfers, nature enthusiasts and day visitors throughout the year. With tourism supporting a significant proportion of local employment, access to clean, well-maintained public toilets remains vital for both the community and visitors exploring the island. The public toilet blocks are located at Cumbrae Ferry Slip, Fintry Bay, West Bay, Garrison House "Bomb Shelter" and Crocodile Rock.

Pit Stop Funding has enabled the installation of solar panels and battery storage systems at all toilet blocks, except for Cumbrae Slip. These renewable energy measures are helping to reduce electricity costs and improve the long-term sustainability of the facilities.

The Fintry Bay toilet block will soon reopen, and will operate entirely off-grid, demonstrating how community managed facilities can embrace innovative and environmentally responsible solutions. Further sustainability measures include the installation of waterless urinals across locations, helping to reduce water consumption and ongoing utility costs.

To improve accessibility and convenience for users, payment

facilities continue to be enhanced. Coin and card payment systems are now available at Crocodile Rock, Cumbrae Slip, Fintry Bay and the Bomb Shelter, providing flexible payment options that go directly to supporting the ongoing operation and maintenance of the facilities.

Community defibrillators have been installed at all locations, ensuring that lifesaving equipment is available across key points on the island.

To further enhance the visitor experience, new electronic information boards will be installed at the Crocodile Rock and Fintry Bay locations. These will provide up-to-date visitor information, including ferry service updates, queue information and local notices, while also creating advertising opportunities for island businesses and organisations.

The toilet facilities form part of the island's popular visitor infrastructure, supporting those cycling or walking the ten-mile circular route around Cumbrae as well as day visitors and residents. Maintaining and improving these facilities helps ensure that Cumbrae remains a welcoming, accessible, and sustainable destination for all. The toilets are open 7 days a week year-round, except for West Bay, with those facilities opening from Easter until the end of the October school holidays annually.

"We depend heavily on tourism, and we must ensure that we are in the position to carry on offering these amenities".

Deborah Ferris
Chair Cumbrae Community
Development Company



Location: East Ayrshire

Type: Find

When Set Up: 2017

How Funded: Highland and Islands Enterprise and North Ayrshire Council, fundraising on an annual basis and a 40p entrance fee at Crocodile Rock Toilets.

Beneficiaries: Visitors to the islands especially those either cycling or walking the circular route with the 6-toilet trail and the local community.

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