



Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust

Community Plan 2023 to 2026



Tarbert

The village of Tarbert has a long history influenced both as a safe natural harbour on the west coast of Scotland and as a strategic point guarding access to Kintyre and the Inner Hebrides. It is situated around East Loch Tarbert at a narrow isthmus at the north end of Kintyre. This important location has influenced its development over time with Tarbert Castle's strategic position and the growth of the fishing industry shaping the village.

The village hugs the natural harbour and quayside and nowadays tourism and the marina are major economic drivers. The village has its own primary and high schools, health services and a wide range of retail outlets and non-essential service providers. In any village some retail outlets close, offering opportunities for other activities.

There are several vacant sites and buildings in disrepair in key locations, namely the Tarbert Hotel, two former filling stations, the VisitScotland property and the old Londis store.

Following a recent survey and discussions with a wide range of the community:

The top three issues for the younger members of the community are:

Wellbeing



Housing



Climate Change



The top three issues for the adult community of Tarbert are:

Housing



Employment



Amenities



Skipness

Skipness is a village on the east coast of Kintyre in Scotland, located just over 7 miles (11 km) south of Tarbert and facing the Isle of Arran. The village is accessed by a single track road that is in urgent need of repair. The village is located adjacent to stunning beaches and is a popular destination for holiday makers.

The village boasts several facilities including:

- Skipness Castle
- The Seafood Cabin
- Skipness smokehouse and shop
- St Brendan's Chapel
- Village Hall
- Village Shop

Following a recent survey and discussions with a wide range of the community the top three issues for the adult community of Skipness are:

Road Repair & Traffic Management



Housing



Connectivity



Healthier

Work with partners to address dampness and poor insulation of housing

Address water quality and supply to Skipness and Claonaig.

Promote walking and cycling

Improve play facilities

Renovate tennis courts into accessible games space

Develop opportunities that help address mental health challenges in younger and older isolated residents

Competitive, Educated & Working

Develop Tarbert Life heritage project to include heritage trail and archive of Tarbert and Skipness community in searchable database

Develop proposals for commercial space

Promote apprenticeships

Support development of Tarbert Harbour Authority initiatives

Work with partners to improve strength, quality, and reliability of broadband and mobile coverage – Skipness

Agree plan for housing in Skipness

Work with partners for construction of affordable homes in Tarbert

Greener & Sustainable

Organise and complete beach and verge cleans

Improve the footpath network within Tarbert.

Develop and implement plan to reduce marine plastic waste

Repair Claonaig to Skipness Road

Develop and launch community energy management courses to minimise energy usage

Welcoming, Vibrant & Confident

Agree management plan for cars and camper vans

Improve traffic calming measures in both Tarbert and Skipness

Create an Emergency Plan working collaboratively with the Emergency Services

Renovate Skipness Village Hall

Create new cycle/pedestrian path to Kennacraig ferry terminal.

Inclusive, Fair & Caring

Manage ongoing dispersal of funds to advance the Community Plan from windfarm and other funds

Maintain current services including cash point, post office, library, village hall, healthcare, Tarbert Academy, emergency services.

Investigate potential for operation of a local transport scheme.