

Reponses to Biodiversity Consultation 2024 by Kilmaronock Community Council.

Q	How does connecting with nature make you feel?
A	Relaxed, uplifted, inspired.
Q	Where is your favourite place in the West Dunbartonshire area to connect with nature?
A	My garden, Balloch Castle Country Park, anywhere on the loch particularly the islands.
Q	What do you think are the important geographical areas for local nature?
A	Woodlands, rivers and lochs, open land such as muirs.
Q	Are there particular species or habitats that you think should be afforded special protection?
A	Yes
Q	If yes, please provide more information.
	Species : Salmon, raptors and bees.
A	Habitats : Rivers and burns, peatlands and woodlands.
Q	Are you part of a group involved in wildlife and nature in some capacity?
A	No
Q	If no, would you be interested in joining a group?
A	No
Q	Do you already carry out small scale nature restoration?
A	Yes
Q	If Yes, what have you been doing and where?
	Litter picks on country lanes around Gartocharn and Boturich. Planting wildflowers in home garden and provision of hedgehog shelters, bird boxes and small bird feeding stations.
A	
Q	Are you involved in wildlife surveys or biological recording?
A	No
	Do you keep a personal record of the biodiversity you see and would you be interested in sharing this in the future to help inform management decisions?
Q	
A	No
	West Dunbartonshire are establishing a biodiversity network to bring together everyone involved and interested in nature in the district. The views of this group will contribute to future planning around nature conservation. If you are interested in finding out about future biodiversity consultations and network events please provide your email below
Q	
A	secretary@kilmaronockcc.org

Q	Do you have any other comments you'd like to make regarding biodiversity in the West Dunbartonshire area ?
A	During community consultations when preparing a Local Place Plan, biodiversity and the preservation/improvement of natural spaces were mentioned as a priority to the community.
Q	As part of the biodiversity network we are also seeking views on how businesses and landowners including farmers are already involved or would like to become more involved in nature conservation in West Dunbartonshire. If you fit in this category can you please provide information or your area of interest below.
A	https://portnellanfarm.co.uk/the-farm/ - an organic farm providing volunteering opportunities, educational partnership with Glasgow University Veterinary School and Royal Highland Educational Trust working with school children. There is also a certified Net-Zero farm in the area.
Q	What age group are you part of?
A	55-64
Q	How would you describe your sex?
A	Male
Q	Do you consider yourself to have a disability according to the terms given in the Equality Act 2010?
A	No
Q	How would you describe your ethnic group?
A	White (White Scottish or White
Q	Is this a formally constituted group?
A	Yes
Q	Can you please also describe the area you work in as sometimes the map can have some technical issues.
A	Kilmaronock stretches from Balloch to Drymen to Croftamie and back to Bonhill. It includes some of the southern islands of Loch Lomond and Gartocharn is the main village within it.
Q	Are you working with other local groups?
A	Yes
Q	If you are working with other groups can you please provide more information
A	Kilmaronock Community Trust is a development trust also based in Gartocharn. They fundraise for local projects including natural environments and access to them. Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group who are working to bring BCCP back as a community asset including the creation of a Nature Hub with educational focus on young people. Royal Highland Educational Trust who also focus on young people and their understanding of farm to table food production.

Q Do you apply for funding for your activities?

A Yes

Q What support do you already receive?

Grants are sourced from a variety of funders on a topic specific basis. These are all researched and applied for by volunteers of the respective organisations mentioned above.

Q What other support would you like?

Grant applications are incredibly onerous on volunteers time and knowledge. Access to funding professionals would be a great resource. Not having any communal premises, storage of our own equipment is a problem. A shared space with other community groups would allow us to own and maintain our own equipment.

Q Do you have equipment?

A Yes

Q Is there any equipment you would like that you don't have?

A lockable, secure storage facility would be top of the list, then we could have our own litter picking equipment and consumables. We also aspire to having communal gardening equipment and tools.