

## SOUTH ISLAY NEWS



Dec 2022

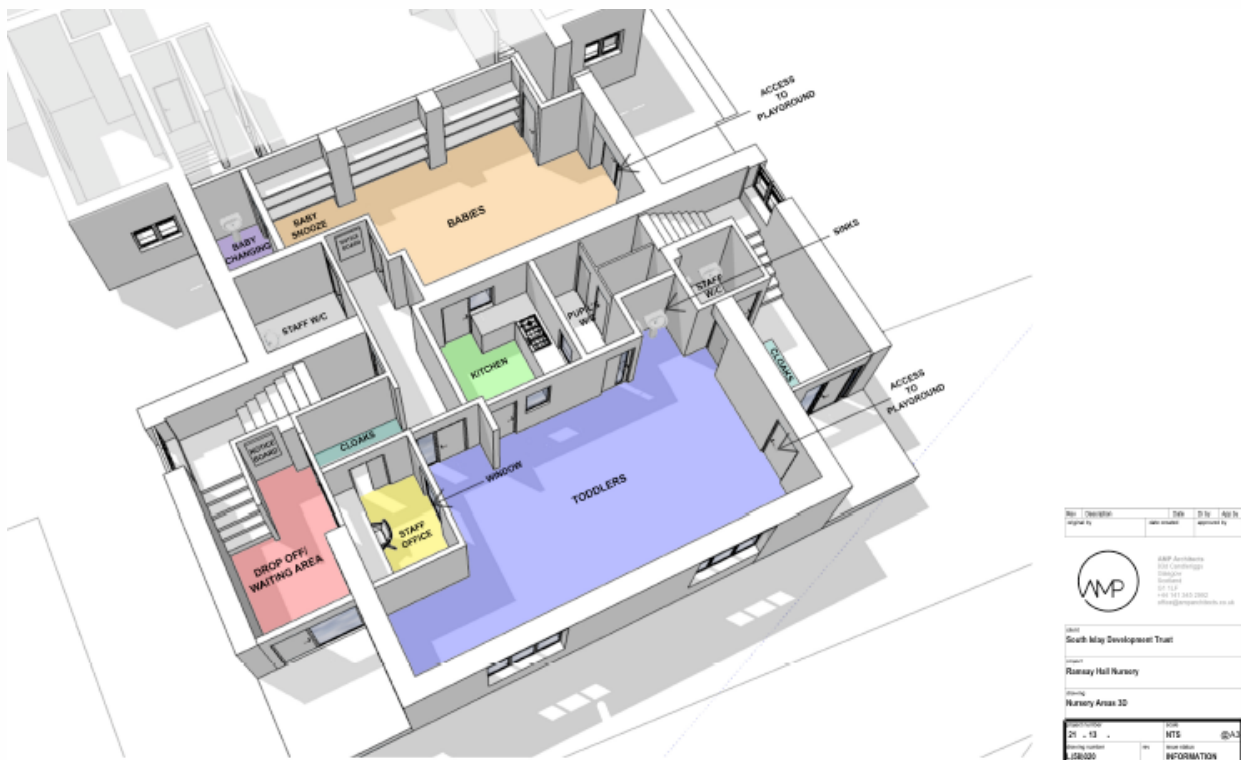
### Potential Childcare Facility

The Sonas Childcare committee has been working with AMP Architects and Argyll & Bute Council to look at the Ramsay Hall as a potential building for housing childcare. Within this building, they have looked to retain the community hall with improved services (kitchen, bar, storage), a childcare facility for children under 3 years (with access to outdoor space on Port Ellen Playing Fields) and improved upstairs space (investigating changing rooms or office space for SID).

So, what happens next?

- Develop the principal drawings for The Ramsay Hall with community consultation in the New Year.
- Update the business plan for the building.
- Continue to work with local and national partners to secure childcare facilities.

Here is the initial draft plan for a childcare space: -



Please get in touch at [southislaydevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:southislaydevelopment@gmail.com) to discuss this further.

# Port Ellen Playing Fields - What a Year!

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As 2022 draws to a close it seems like a good time to give an update on the last year at Port Ellen Playing Fields. Although construction hasn't yet begun SID have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the project continues to move forward. Here's a round-up of the last 12 months...

**January 2022:** The year got off to a good start as SID went out to tender for a construction team on Public Contracts Scotland. SID and the design team optimistically expected the building to begin in Spring 2022!

Islay Energy Trust awarded funding towards an air source heat pump and solar panels to be installed on the new building. This will help keep running costs down in the long term. This funding, alongside all other project funding, is currently secured until construction is underway.

**February 2022:** SID received the news that a decision on the Planning Permission had been delayed. Further delays occurred due to a lack of construction tender returns. In the post-covid building boom, there were so many building projects underway that no contractors could commit the time or workforce to the project. While good news for Islay's builders, not such good news for SID.

**March-May 2022:** At a Pre-Determination Hearing in March SID presented the project to Argyll & Bute Council. Planning Permission was finally granted, by a unanimous vote from all the Councillors present! This was fantastic news and the SID Board began to look forward to getting the new facilities up and running. In April SID received the further good news that the Building Warrant for the new building had been approved.

A revised tender was issued in March; however, it took until May 2022 before two tenders were finally received. Unfortunately due to rapidly increasing construction costs at the time both of these were significantly over budget, and SID was unable to appoint a contractor.

**June - August 2022:** The difficulty in securing a construction team was new territory for everyone involved. SID worked alongside the design team and funders to try and secure extensions for the existing funding while also finding a way to progress the project.

Alongside this, work continued to discharge the Planning Conditions. Argyll Archaeology carried out a site evaluation, and confirmed the good news that no detailed archaeological investigation was required before construction!

**September 2022:** SID took advice from Highlands & Islands Enterprise, and began work with a procurement specialist to try and secure a construction team. Work continued on the new play park plans and Port Ellen Mother & Toddlers choose two new pieces of play park kit to be included in the relocated play park.

**October 2022:** Following feedback from contractors and the procurement specialist the decision was made to split the project into two smaller lots and re-tender. Lot 1 now includes the relocation of the play park, the access upgrades, roads and parking and the motorhome area. Lot 2 will be the new community building. This allows contractors to bid for either one or two lots, depending on their available resources and will ensure both lots progress as quickly as possible.

**November - December 2022:** Following a positive response from interested contractors the tender was reissued. SID and the design team expect tender returns in early January and all going to plan, work to begin on site in Spring 2023.

***Fingers crossed that 2023 will bring some positive changes to the Playing Fields as construction begins!***

***Thank you all for your patience and continuing support throughout 2022***

***and please keep an eye out for the next Playing Fields update early next year.***

# THE ARDBEG ALL ISLAY FUND

## ARDBEG LAUNCHES £1MILLION DONATION FOR ISLAY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

South Islay Development (SID) is delighted to be working in partnership with Ardbeg Distillery to identify and fund projects the length and breadth of Islay over the next 5 years. A £ 1 million fund, **THE ARDBEG ALL ISLAY FUND**, has been established following the sale of a rare Ardbeg 1975 cask sold to a private investor for £16m.

The fund will benefit organisations, projects, and enterprising activities across the whole of Islay. SID and Ardbeg have worked together over several years in the planning of a new Community Hub for Port Ellen.

£200,000 will be available annually over a 5-year period from the fund. It is vitally important that the fund is set up and administered diligently and to this end there will be a panel of 7 people recommending, advising, and approving all applications. 2 SID directors, 5 members of our community and one Glenmorangie Company director. This will take time and commitment from the panel and SID are seeking expressions of interest from those who may be interested in joining the advisory panel. Experience of funding applications be may an advantage.

*John Findlay, chair of SID commented:* 'This is a real one-off donation to Islay, and we are now very excited to see and hear about the projects and ideas across the island which this money could help.'

Working together, SID and Ardbeg will launch **THE ARDBEG ALL ISLAY FUND** early in 2023, inviting applications from groups and projects right across the island which meet some of the following criteria:

- **Supporting Active Lives:** ensuring access to a range of physical and healthy activities;
- **Building Community Resilience:** helping residents access learning and training, supporting carers to access external services or supporting local cultural activities and facilities;
- **Enhancing The Environment:** establishing or supporting environmental schemes such as CO2 reduction, recycling, or land use, including biodiversity improvements and peatland restoration.

So, get your thinking caps on! There is still some work being done to establish the exact timeline for the launch date and application forms are being drawn up, but expect to hear more in the New Year, both in the Ileach and on SID's social media pages.

**Please direct any questions or express an interest in being on the panel  
to Alyson MacGillivray at [southislaydevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:southislaydevelopment@gmail.com)  
or pop into the office for a chat**



**Motorhome Service Point Online Booking**  
[www.southislay.co.uk](http://www.southislay.co.uk)



# Upcoming Events



Port Ellen  
**Lunch Club**  
Every Wednesday  
**11th Jan to 29th March**  
SeaSalt Restaurant  
12.30pm  
£12 per person  
(This includes hot main meal, tea/coffee and traybake)  
Please contact the SID Office to book  
Tel: 01496 300 579  
to allow us to have a estimate of numbers.

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**Port Ellen Filling Station**  
would like to wish all our  
customers a very  
**Merry Christmas!**

**Festive Opening Times**

Saturday 24th December	- 8am to 1 pm
Sunday 25th December	- CLOSED
Monday 26th December	- CLOSED
Tuesday 27th December	- CLOSED
Wednesday 28th December	- 8am to 5.30pm
Thursday 29th December	- 8am to 5.30pm
Friday 30th December	- 8am to 5.30pm
Saturday 31st December	- 8am to 1 pm
Sunday 1st January	- CLOSED
Monday 2nd January	- CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd January	- CLOSED
Wednesday 4th January	- 8am to 5.30pm
Thursday 5th January	- 8am to 5.30pm



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*Pop in and see us!*

**The SID Office is OPEN!**  
**Office located at the rear entrance**  
**of The Ramsay Hall.**

**Alyson MacGillivray - SID Development Manager**  
**Rosie MacLellan - PEPF Project Manager**  
**Rose Mota Dos Reis - Admin and Finance Officer**

**Monday to Thursday 9 am – 4 pm**  
**Friday 9 am – 2 pm**

These hours may be subject to change as staff continue to work  
a mixture of home and office-based hours.

**If the office is closed when you visit, please call or email:**

Call SID Office: 01496 300 579

Email Alyson: southislaydevelopment@gmail.com

Email Rosie: portellenplayingfields@gmail.com

Email Rose: southislayassistant@gmail.com

## Get to know your SID and SITCo Directors:

John Findlay - SID/SITCo Director/Chair

Patrick McGrann - Director/Vice Chair

Alex Gillespie - Director

Dionne Johnston - Director

Gordon Currie - SID/SITCo Director

Ian Faggetter - SID/SITCo Director

Jackie Thomson - SID/SITCo Director

James McFarlane - Director

Jim Porteous - Director

Jordon Paisley – Director

Rosie Gordon -Director

Niall Kirkpatrick - SITCo Director

Frazer Campbell - SITCo Director

