

McGuire Z (Zoe)

From: Jane MacLeod [jane@janemacleod.co.uk]
Sent: 09 January 2007 16:10
To: CMNP Consultation 2006
Subject: Coastal and Marine National Park Consultation Document

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On behalf of Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce I would like to respond to the Coastal and Marine National Park Consultation Document.

The Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce is of the opinion that the proposed Marine Park areas are, at the moment, sufficiently protected by Local Planning Authorities and that the imposition of a Marine Park could only lead to more bureaucracy and a slowing down of the local economy.

In particular, this Chamber is concerned that commercial fishing in the coastal waters of this area should not be restricted and that additional Planning controls should not be imposed on the mainland parts of Mid Argyll, that is to say, areas to the north west of Lochgilphead, Jura, parts of Mull, Colonsay, Tiree, Coll and other islands of Argyll.

Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce lies very close to the Loch Lomond National Park and we have watched with horror the Planning blights on that area. Argyll and Bute Council has an effective Planning Department although current and new Planning legislation do not allow the speedy processing of Planning Applications. It is felt that the imposition of a further Planning Authority will only contribute to further slowing down of the Planning process.

Members of this Chamber are firmly of the opinion that rather than spending money on a Marine National Park funds should be devoted to improving the infrastructure of this area. Our roads, ferry and air services are lamentable. Water and sewerage services require to be improved. The population of this area has to date proved effective guardians of our natural heritage but have been let down by the lack of Government investment in services.

Finally, this Chamber is concerned that the Consultation process was not carried out effectively. I am aware of only one visit to Tarbert of the "Roadshow" which publicised the Executive's proposals. As one of the proposals includes a large mainland area of Mid Argyll consultation should have taken place in Lochgilphead and it's surrounding areas.

I would urge the Executive to take no further action with taxpayers' money on the Coastal Park proposals but instead, as I have already stated, concentrate on improving the services to this area.

Jane MacLeod
Chair
Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilphead
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