

**A meeting of the General Purposes Board will be held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 3pm.**

**Members may attend the meeting in person or access the meeting by remote online access. The joining details will be sent to Members and Officers prior to the meeting. Members are requested to notify Committee Services by 12 noon on Tuesday 11 June 2024 how they intend to access the meeting.**

**In the event of connectivity issues, Members are asked to use the *join by phone* number in the Webex invitation.**

LYNSEY BROWN  
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

**BUSINESS**

1. <b>Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>	Page
<b>2. Notification by County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire &amp; Argyll to hold annual Boyne Celebration Procession on 29 June 2024 through parts of Greenock/Gourock</b> Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	
<b>3. Notification by Gourock Defenders of the Faith L.O.L 345 to hold annual parade on 22 June 2024 through parts of Gourock</b> Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	
<p><b>The documentation relative to the following items has been treated as exempt information in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, the nature of the exempt information being that set out in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.</b></p>	
<b>4. Application for Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence</b> Report by Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services	

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>General Purposes Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 June 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital &amp; Customer Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LS/039/24</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Anne Sinclair</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712034</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notification by County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire &amp; Argyll to hold annual Boyne Celebration Procession on 29 June 2024 through parts of Greenock/Gourock</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to consider the notification by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll for permission to hold a public procession through parts of Greenock and Gourock on Saturday 29 June 2024 for the Annual Boyne Celebration Parade.
- 1.3 The notification has been submitted to the Council in terms of section 62 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Board are asked to consider the notification in light of the objections received by the Council and to determine whether permission should be granted to the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll in order to hold the public procession for the Annual Boyne Celebration Parade.

**Lynsey Brown**  
**Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 A notice of Proposal to hold a Public Procession was submitted to the Council by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll (“the Organisation”) regarding the intention of the Organisation to hold a procession on Saturday 29 June 2024 through parts of Greenock and Gourock for the Annual Boyne Celebration Parade. This notice was submitted in terms of section 62 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 on 3 May 2024.
- 3.2 The Notice of Proposal sets out the proposed route whereby participants will marshal in the Battery Park, Greenock, and move off at 11:30am via Eldon Street, along Cardwell Road, Broomberry Drive, Barrhill Road, St John’s Road, Shore Street, Chapel Street, Cardwell Road, Eldon Street and return to the Battery Park for a public meeting. At conclusion of the public meeting, the Public Procession will move off at 2:30pm via Eldon Street to the Esplanade terminating on the Esplanade. The number of people expected to take part has been noted on the Proposal form as 2500/3500 with 28 bands due to attend together with 50/55 buses.
- 3.3 Following receipt of the Notice of Proposal a copy of the notice with proposals regarding the procession was intimated on 7 May 2024 to Police Scotland, the Community Council and Ward Councillors for Gourock, Inverclyde Leisure and the Council’s Roads, Public Protection and Environmental Services. A Public Notice with details of the proposed procession was also published on the Council’s Website and posted at Gourock Library on the same day. Consultees were asked to respond in writing to the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services by 22 May 2024.
- 3.4 There have been no objections from Police Scotland or any of the other consultees in relation to the proposed procession on 29 June 2024. Police Scotland submitted a report to the Council on 21 May 2024 with comments in relation to the proposal. The Police report notes that there will be a disruption to traffic on the route as well as a requirement for parking restrictions on Broomberry Drive, Barhill Road and St John’s Road. The Police have no objection to this parade and there will be a police presence. A copy of the response from Police Scotland is set out in **Appendix 1** to this report. A total of 45 timeous objections have been received by the Council’s Licensing Section from members of the public and local residents, along with 1 neutral representation and 4 representations in support of the procession. A copy of the objections and representations are set out in **Appendix 2** to this report. The Organisation is being given an opportunity in terms of the 1982 Act to make representation in writing in response to the objections should they wish to do so. Any written submission from the organisation in response to the objections which is received prior to the Board meeting, will be made available to members in advance of the hearing.
- 3.5 The Organisation have been advised that they may be present or represented, either in person or remotely, at the meeting of the General Purposes Board to be held in relation to his application.
- 3.6 Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights sets out the “right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association”. It is not an absolute right and a local authority may place lawful restrictions on the exercise of the right if necessary. In terms of section 63 (8) of the 1982 Act the considerations to which the local authority shall have regard when deciding whether to prohibit the holding of a procession or impose conditions on it under this section shall include: -
- (a) the likely effect of the holding of the procession in relation to –
- (i) public safety;
  - (ii) public order;
  - (iii) damage to property;
  - (iv) disruption to the life of the community

(b) the extent to which the containment of risks arising from the procession would (whether by itself or in combination with any other circumstances) place an excessive burden on the police.

(c) where the person proposing to hold the procession has previously held one in the area of the authority or the persons likely to take part in the procession, or some of them, are the same persons as took part in one previously held in that area, or some of them: -

(i) whether the previous procession was held in breach of a prohibition under this section on its being held or of a condition so imposed on the holding of it;

(ii) whether any guidance or code of conduct issued by the authority as to the holding of the previous procession or as to the holding of processions generally was followed; and

(iii) the effect of the previous procession in relation to the matters mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) to (iv) of paragraph (a) above and in paragraph (b) above.

#### 4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

#### 4.2 Finance

There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

#### 4.3 Legal/Risk

The organisation has recourse to the Sheriff Court in the event it wishes to appeal any decision of the Board.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Consultees, including Police Scotland, Inverclyde Leisure, the Community Council and Ward Councillors for the ward, and the Council's Roads, Public Protection & Environmental Services

## **6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.

**RESTRICTED****PROCESSION SUMMARY****POLICE  
SCOTLAND****Division:** K **Station:** Paisley **Date:** 21/03/24 **Order No:** 75489**Day & Date of Procession:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024**Time outwards:** 1130 hours**Time inwards:** 1430 hours**Estimated number of persons in procession:** 3000**Name of band or association making application:** County Grand Orange Lodge of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Argyll**Applicant's name and address:** [REDACTED], County Grand Orange Lodge of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Argyll.**Route outwards:** Assemble at Battery Park, turn right on Eldon Street, onto Cardwell Road, at the roundabout onto Broomberry Drive, turn right onto Barrhill Road, St. Johns Road, turn right onto Shore Street, turn left at the roundabout, Cardwell Road, Eldon Street and turn left into Battery Park for Public meeting**Route inwards:**

Following the Public meeting the parade will leave Battery Park turn left on Eldon Street, turn first left (by Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club) to Esplanade for dispersal and to board coaches

**Names of accompanying bands or bodies:** There will be approx 30-35 flute bands participating in this procession from the 12 districts of the Orange Lodge in Argyll, Renfrewshire and Ayrshire. The entire list will be confirmed in the lead up to the day.**Reason for holding Procession / Historical Background:** (eg. Annual / First Application / Event / Anniversary etc) Annual Boyne Parade**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

**Operations Planning Unit / Divisional Enquiry Officer Risk Assessment / Observations:**  
(Please complete table below)

OBSERVATION	HIGH RISK	LOW RISK	IF 'HIGH RISK' PLEASE COMMENT
Risk to public safety?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk to Public order?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk of damage to property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Likelihood of disruption to the community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please See Below</b>
Any risk identified from a previous procession involving that parade / band / organiser?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If granted, will this parade present a risk?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Rank: PS Richard Trutwin</b>		
<b>Sub-Divisional Officer</b>			

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

(Comments / Observations): This is an annual event by the CGOL which rotates between Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Argyll. It has not been held in Gourock in recent years, and last year took place in Cumnock, Ayrshire. The last time it took place in Inverclyde was 2019 where it paraded through Port Glasgow.



The parade route has been examined and appears to be in order however there is a likelihood of major disruption to pedestrian and vehicular traffic for the duration of the event. The procession is large, consisting of approx 3000 persons and will attract large crowds of onlookers.

Despite the parade route being the most suitable option through Gourock Town centre, there are a number of challenging points/locations which will need managed. Due to the width of the road at specific sections where residents use on street parking, the implementation of parking restrictions/no waiting on Broomberry Drive, Barrhill Road, and St Johns Road are essential to allow for the safe passage of the Procession. A Police Operation will be in place to manage the movement of the Procession along its route, however the aforementioned restrictions will be required in advance of the day.

Consideration will also need to be given to implementation of a Bus Parking plan to accommodate to approx 50 buses that will attend on the day.

The applicant was spoken to on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and has agreed to the following:

1. The provision of 300 stewards escorting the parade along the length of the route, all of whom will be distinguishable by high visibility clothing. This achieves the preferred stewarding ratio.
2. To make participants aware of street furniture on the route, which may prove to be a hazard.
3. No music shall be played whilst passing any place of worship whilst services are in progress.
4. The applicant will be present and in charge of the parade.
5. The parade will not start without the presence of the police.
6. All police instructions must be followed.

There are currently no competing events within the Division at this time.

There are no Police objections to this application.

There will be a Police presence.

**Signature:**

**Rank: PS Richard Trutwin**

**Divisional Commander**

**RESTRICTED**



**RESTRICTED**

(Comments / Observations):

The Chief Constable, as a statutory Consultee to the Local Authority in connection with this proposed procession, submits the foregoing for consideration by the Authority. I am, on behalf of the Chief Constable, ready to attend any meeting which the Authority might arrange with those proposing to hold the procession to make further representations in support of this submission.

The Chief Constable recognises that should an appeal be marked to the Sheriff against a decision prohibiting a procession, or a decision imposing conditions on a procession, that there is no express, legislative requirement that the Chief Constable be convened as an interested party to such an appeal. Nonetheless, and in accordance with the Guidance for Scottish Local Authorities issued by the Scottish Ministers in terms of Section 65 (A) of the 1982 Act, the Chief Constable expects to be consulted by the Local Authority in connection with any decision which is reached or prohibiting a procession or placing conditions on it. That expectation would continue in the event of an appeal being marked to the Sheriff and particularly so in the event that the Authority contemplates reaching agreement with an Appellant to concede that a prohibited procession instead to be allowed to go ahead and / or alternate wording for any condition(s) to be put in place.

The Chief Constable is also content to indicate that Divisional Officers may be in a position to attend any such appeal proceedings as witnesses should it be felt relevant to lead evidence in connection with the Authority's decision.

**Signature:**

**Rank: PS Richard Trutwin**

**RESTRICTED**

**From:** Audrey Blincow (redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:24 PM  
**To:** Emma Peacock  
**Subject:** Proposed Boyne march through Gourrock

Dear Ms Peacock,

It has been brought to my attention that there has been an application for a Boyne march through Gourrock on 29 June 2023.

I would like to offer my objection to this march.

My reasons behind this are noted below.

The march is potentially being walked through residential areas which will result in mass road closures causing issues in a large area.

The march is regarded as a celebration of Protestant victory over Catholics which is clearly antagonist.

It will require a police presence that is stretched to the limit already.

It is of zero benefit to the community and only encourages the already unnecessary segregation that Inverclyde seems to promote.

I look forward to hearing from you acknowledging my comments.

Regards

Audrey Blincow

Classification : Official

**From:** Charles Blincow (redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:31 PM  
**To:** Emma Peacock  
**Subject:** RProposed Boyne march through Gourrock

Dear Ms Peacock,

I strongly object to the proposed Boyne Walk in Gourrock at the end of June 2024.

The concept is outdated and promotes hatred.

Rgds,  
Charles Blincow

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Broadley (redacted email address)

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 7:57 AM

To: comments

Subject: Proposed orange walk

I wish to object to the proposed orange walk from the battery park to greenock as I feel there is no place for this in our society today.

Michael and Catherine Broadley

-----Original Message-----

From: paulcassidy\_(redacted email address)

Sent: 16-May-2024 22:08:57

To: comments

Subject: Unwanted procession of bigots

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my objection to the proposed Orange Walk in Gourrock on

June 29th.

There is no place for a supremacist and sectarian organisation on the streets of Inverclyde.

Nor should there be any opportunity granted for the 'followers' to carry out their anti-social behaviours.

Paul Cassidy

**From:** Catriona Chambers (redacted email address)

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 6:03 PM

**To:** Emma Peacock

**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Orange Walk

**Subject: Proposed Orange Walk**

Dear Ms Peacock

I have been advised by my Councillor that I require to lodge with you my objections to the proposed Orange march at the end of June. I am an Inverclyde resident living in Gourrock.

My objections cover a number of issues. I find it incredulous that in this day and age Civic Scotland should be granting approval for a march promoting bigotry toward half the population. . I strongly suspect that the actual members of the LOL locally would be hard pushed to fill 2 bus shelters yet we are potentially welcoming folk from outside the area to parade their hatred in our streets. The suggested 3000 number bears no relation to the interest in this archaic organisation locally.

The past history of such marches hardly endears them given the mess they leave (cans, bottles and general rubbish) and the occasions when marchers and their entourage have urinated in public view in various gardens, closes and against walls. The Council have limited public toilets in any case and few over the majority of the proposed route.

I am unclear as to the local regulations about alcohol consumption during parades but my understanding is that it cannot be consumed in public parks so the use of the Battery Park would require additional monitoring.

As a Council Tax payer I make no comment about the cost of policing and clean up as I assume the LOL have agreed to pick up the full cost of this irrelevant display. This however does not ameliorate my concerns

The proposed route seems contrived and will cause major disruption to traffic in and out of Gourock on roads already busy with people going about their legitimate business especially at the weekend.

I am not a Roman Catholic and am deeply ashamed that this organisation is given legitimacy in this day and age and would ask the Council to be brave enough to follow Stonehaven Council's lead and ban this march.

Catriona Chambers

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**From:** Jacqueline Cowden (redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 9:53:01 pm  
**To:** Cllr Stephen McCabe; Cllr Jim Clocherty ; Cllr Elizabeth Robertson  
**Cc:** Ronnie Cowan MP  
**Subject:** Re Proposal for the annual "Boyne Celebration Parade"

Dear Councillors,

I noticed, almost in passing, this evening that there has been a proposal submitted to Inverclyde Council to hold the above event on Saturday 29th June - traditionally known locally as our "Fair Saturday".

Having never found the need to engage my local council or councillors for any reason in the 50 years I've resided in Greenock, this has prompted me to take action and being new to this, if there is a more formal way in which i should express my concerns, please do advise.

In this day and age, when we are aiming to build a tolerant society, teaching our young people the importance of seeing beyond labels, I find the concept of our community supporting a "celebration" of this nature abhorrent. Please be aware, I would feel the same way if the proposed march was arranged by those on the other side of the sectarian divide that sadly still exists on the west coast of Scotland.

Why we would allow thousands who are sworn to promote religious segregation and intolerance to march through the heart of our town ever - never mind on what has been a local holiday for generations. To do so sends a message that Inverclyde welcomes and condones this type of divisive, inflammatory presence on our streets.

I don't have to detail the many public order reasons why this type of gathering should never be brought to Inverclyde. Neither will I focus on the magnitude of public resources which will be diverted to ensure disorder is kept to a minimum - the information is widely available for anyone who cares to do their research and is clearly why communities such as Stonehaven have recently rejected requests to bring a gathering on a much smaller scale (200 as opposed to the 3000 projected to descend on Inverclyde) into the heart of their town.

Please advise what process the Council will be following to consider this application and how official objections can be made.

Yours Sincerely

Jacqueline Cowden

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



**From:** Nicola Coyle (redacted email address)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 8:55 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** DATE AND TIME – Saturday 29 June 2024 at 11.30am ORGANISATION – County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll PROPOSED ROUTE – GOUROCK

I wish to lodge an objection against the above orange march, it is 2024 and I think it is absolutely disgusting that the council are even considering giving permission for this blatant sectarian event. These marches have absolutely no place in today's society and only promote violence and bigotry.

N Coyle

**From:** Robert Daisley (redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 11:26 AM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Annual Boyne Celebration

Good morning All

I would like to express my complaint against this procession.

This should not be granted and should not be considered for the Inverclyde area.

On top of this Greenock has a Cruise call on this day so traffic disruption will already be high and adding this should never be a consideration.

Thanks

Robert

**Robert Daisley**  
Container Operations Supervisor  
Peel Ports - Clydeport



(Redacted email address)

Peel Ports Limited  
Greenock Ocean Terminal  
Patrick Street  
Greenock  
PA16 8UU

-----Original Message-----

From: (Redacted email address)

Sent: 20-May-2024 20:27:17

To: customer services

Subject: Gourock Boyne Celebration Parade

Mr and Mrs Davidson

(Redacted address)

Dear sir/madam,

We wish to formally raise our objection to the proposed Boyne celebration annual parade in Gourock.

In a modern society of tolerance and fair and balanced acceptance of all religions and faiths, we are deeply concerned that a beautiful, small town like Gourock has been chosen by the Orange Order to host/ allow such a blatant form of religious separatism.

As well as the 3000 marching group parading through our streets, there would be the thousands of followers who, from previous experiences in other towns, cause trouble and show antisocial behaviour. The route being chosen from the Battery Park, severely disrupts/ blocks all traffic entering or leaving the town as the route follows the main road into and leaving Gourock. The path through the town again would cause major disruption. Broomberry Drive is also fairly narrow with parked cars on both sides. The roads are already busy and congested throughout the day in this area. Are we to assume that there will be an enforcement of restrictions on parking on that street to allow freedom of access for a marching group? This will be an additional inconvenience to local residents. The amount of police resource necessary to police, direct traffic and uphold safety for all seems a complete waste of money to be spent from public funds on such an antiquated tradition.

We feel deeply offended that this type of demonstration should take place in our home town and we would like to respectfully request that you withdraw any plan to hold this event in Gourock.

(A copy of this email will be hand delivered to the council buildings incase this email does not reach the correct department.)

Your sincerely,

Moray & Francisca Davidson

**From:** (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 10:57 PM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Objection to the Planned March by the Grand Lodge on 29th June

The Cove  
1 Cove Road  
Gourock  
PA19 1RS

Dear Inverclyde Council

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my strong objection to the planned march by the Grand Lodge, scheduled to take place on Saturday 29th June 2024. As the owner of The Cove coffee shop situated on Cove Road, I feel it is my responsibility to voice my concerns regarding this event.

Firstly, I would like to emphasise that I fully support the freedom of expression and assembly, which are fundamental rights in any democratic society. However, I believe it is also essential to ensure that such gatherings do not promote or incite discrimination or intolerance towards any community or religion.

It has come to my attention that the Grand Lodge marches have a reputation for creating an undercurrent of conflict which often results in arrests. This is deeply troubling, as it goes against the principles of inclusivity and respect that our lovely local community of Gourock upholds. As a business owner, I strive to create an environment for our very loyal customers and hardworking team that welcomes individuals from all walks of life.

With the potential for tensions and even conflicts between participants and protesters, it is widely documented that such marches can create an atmosphere of unease and fear, making people hesitant to visit the area and negatively impacting businesses. These types of marches particularly with the numbers of participants quoted typically involve road closures and diversions, which will disrupt regular traffic flow and make it difficult for customers to reach local businesses. This will inevitably result in a significant decrease in footfall and subsequent loss of sales for local establishments. Given our frontage and large windows, like other local business in Gourock and similar to those in other towns in Scotland who have objected, I hold grave concerns surrounding an escalation in any tensions and the potential for damage to our coffee shop building.

The marches can create a negative perception of the area of Inverclyde. This can deter customers, especially those who do not support or feel uncomfortable with the ideologies promoted by the march, not to mention the wider impact on tourism, something that Inverclyde usually prides itself in.

One of the most important aspects for my objection, as a business owner, I have a duty of care to protect the safety of my team and therefore should the march proceed, I

would have no option but to close the coffee shop for the day. At a time of economic challenge, this decision, which I feel would be forced upon us would directly impact our sales and staff wages.

Overall, I am deeply concerned that this march may create an atmosphere of tension and unease in our community, potentially leading to division and conflict. The negative impact on the social fabric of our town cannot be ignored. It is crucial for the Council to consider the potential consequences of allowing such an event to take place.

I kindly request that the council thoroughly assess the nature and potential consequences of this march. I urge you to consider the impact it may have on the wellbeing and harmony of our community. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our town remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone.

I understand that accommodating the diverse needs and interests of all residents can be challenging. However, I firmly believe that finding a balance between freedom of expression and protecting the rights and dignity of all individuals is crucial. I trust that the council will carefully consider my objections and take appropriate action.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon regarding the steps that will be taken to address these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mariessa Devlin  
Owner  
The Cove, Gourock

**Margaret Diamond**



21 May 2024

Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services,  
Inverclyde Council,  
Municipal Buildings,  
Greenock,  
PA15 1LX

To whom it may concern,

**Objection to Proposed Procession: Orange**  
**walk in Gourock** By County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire  
Renfrewshire & Argyll

Gourock is certainly not a suitable place to have an Orange walk.

Why should Scotland as a whole put up with it anyway?

It commemorates something that happened in Ireland, there is no logical reason to hold it in Scotland at all.

This event just encourages division, bigotry and fear, why should we bring that here? The marchers may present themselves as peaceful, but this type of event attracts trouble makers with sectarian language, disorder and possibly (very often) violence from both sides. The local shops would be more likely to close, missing out on trading for the day and also risk damage. I also would be worried for my car on the street.

Why should we as residents put up with several thousand people descending on Gourock en masse, blocking our streets, causing widespread travel chaos and disrupting our daily lives, just for the whim of a few that fundamentally want to gloat over an event that happened centuries ago.

I also object for the reason that the money spent on policing the event and tidying up after would be extremely costly and could be put to much better use.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret Diamond



**From:** kieran Docherty (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Annual Boyne Celebration Parade Objection

Hi,

I am writing to you to raise an objection in regards to the proposed annual boyne celebration parade due to take place on the 29th June 2024.

(Redacted detail) I now feel it will not be safe to attend the park due to the high volume of Orange Order members and also due to the loud activities that usually occur around large processions organised by the Orange lodge.

Traffic around the battery park area is already an issue on Saturday afternoons and this proposed parade coupled with the reputation of the followers and organisers will make this virtually a no-go area for a lot of the public in inverclyde, even more so the Roman Catholic community.

I hope you consider my reasons and stop this procession from proceeding.

**From:** (Deleted email address)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 6:21 PM  
**To:** Emma Peacock  
**Cc:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Boyne March

Dear Ms Peacock,

I would like to register my objection to the proposed Boyne March.

Given the issues that segregation and religion cause in the west of Scotland I feel this is antagonistic to say the least.

It is inappropriate to be going to a residential area and should not be allowed.

Regards,

Joanna Dowall.



**From:** Gillian Duffy (Deleted email address)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:07 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** Proposed March 29th June

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing with my concerns about the proposed march taking place on the date mentioned above.

I am all for freedom of speech and my concern is not about the type of March it is, my concern is that with no consultation of the public and with it going out in the press with 5 days until the deadline for concerns in writing 2 of which are weekend days that we are only hearing about this.

The battery park is a space used by families alot of which don't have gardens of their own and the parks are accessible for so many users of varying abilities, to have this volume of people most of whom will be from outwith Inverclyde gathering in it at times when families would use it isn't fair.

This will be the 1st day of children's summer holidays, if it is a nice day with all the restrictions that will be in place and all of the people attending families will feel they cant use the park as they normally would.

I am concerned that this March will mean our community will miss out on being able to use a free space to take part in a number of activities and enjoy the their normal routines.

Classification : Official

From: Kevin Gallacher (Redacted email address)  
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2024 9:59 PM  
To: comments  
Subject:

Hi

I would like to make a complaint about the forthcoming march/parades by the grand orange lodge in inverclyde on the 29/6/24 .As a resident of inverclyde this parade will cause me travelling restrictions as I have to visit (Redacted detail).

Regards

Kevin Gallacher

-----Original Message-----

From: (Redacted email address)

Sent: 20-May-2024 23:00:54

To: customer services

Subject: FAO Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services

Hi,

I'm writing to share my concerns about the proposed Annual Boyne Celebration Parade on Saturday 29th June.

It is clearly an incitement to religious hatred, which just isn't acceptable in 2024. I don't want myself or my children exposed to it.

On the first day of the school holidays, they certainly won't be able to access the esplanade, Battery Park, the bunny park or the open air pool because of these bigots. The effect on children's access (and that of the general public) to these shared spaces is minor compared to the impact on local businesses as they deal with the disruption caused by limited access for the few customers willing to expose themselves to the parade.

I'm also concerned about the impact of over 3,000 people on the town. I live in (Redacted detail) up the hill from the esplanade. The noise from the parade will certainly negatively affect us. There's a risk of antisocial behaviour from supporters of the parade participants and I'm unclear why we'd encourage an event that's likely to lead to this. Is the council responsible for the cost of the policing of this event?

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours,

Orla Gilmour

-----Original Message-----

From: iain gowans (Redacted email address)

Sent: 17-May-2024 12:21:21

To: customer services

Subject: FAO: Head of Legal, RE: Plan for Proposed Public Procession, 29 June

Dear Head of Legal,

I would like to object to the proposed public procession submitted to the Council by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll to take place on Saturday 29 June. There are two grounds from my objection.

First, the practicality of the route proposed. Broomberry Drive often has cars parked nose-to-tail on both sides of the road between King Street and Barrhill Road. This will make the passing of more than 2,500 paraders challenging. Also, Broomberry Drive and Barrhill Road are residential streets, unaccustomed to the noise and disturbance of significant through traffic, let alone the noise and disturbance of a Boyne Celebration of this size. The route also provides little suitable alternative diversion for the traffic using Shore Street, Chapel Street and Cardwell Road.

Second, the celebration of the Battle of the Boyne has come to be sectarian and exclusionary in nature and goes against the inclusive values that Inverclyde Council purports to uphold. I note that a petition to stop the Orange Order Parade in Stonehaven this year on the grounds that it was "sectarian ... with a history of anti-Catholic and anti-Irish hostility" reached over 10,000 signatures.

I hope you consider my objections and that the proposal to hold this parade is denied.

Best wishes,

Iain Gowans

(Redacted address)

**From:** Michael Harkins | Murray & Henderson (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2024 12:38 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** Proposed Grand Lodge procession in Gourock on Saturday June 29th

Hi, as a business owner on Kempock Street, I wanted to pass on my objections to the proposed Grand Lodge procession in Gourock, which will disrupt trade. And, as a taxpayer, I am shocked that Inverclyde Council would even consider allowing such a procession in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Kind regards,

Michael



Michael  
Harkins  
Owner

(Redacted  
email address)



Classification : Official

From: adrianhunter (redacted email address)

Sent: 16-May-2024 14:34:39

To: customerservice@inverclyde.gov.uk

Subject: Objection To Planned Orange Walk.

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my objection to the proposed Orange Walk in Gourock on June 29th.

There is no place for a supremacist and sectarian organisation on the streets of Inverclyde.

Nor should there be any opportunity granted for the 'followers' to carry out their anti-social behaviours. Best wishes,

Adrian Hunter.

-----Original Message-----

From: (Redacted email address)

Sent: 16-May-2024 16:01:55

To: customer services

Subject: Objection to Orange Walks in Inverclyde

To: Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services, Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Greenock, PA15 1LX

From:

Rosalind Hunter

(Redacted address)

(Redacted email address)

Date: 16 May 2024

Subject: Objection to Orange Walks in Inverclyde

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the holding of Orange Walks in Inverclyde, specifically the proposed walk on 29th June 2024 in Gourrock.

While I respect the right to freedom of assembly, I believe that Orange Walks can be divisive and alienating for a significant portion of the community. Here are my reasons for concern:

**Sectarian Divisions:** Orange Walks are often seen as glorifying a particular historical perspective that excludes and potentially offends Catholic and other citizens. This can create unnecessary tension and division within the community.

**Public Disruption:** Large parades can cause disruption to traffic and businesses, impacting residents and visitors alike.

**Intimidation:** For some members of the community, particularly those from a Catholic background, Orange Walks can be perceived as intimidating and a reminder of past conflicts. (N.B. I am atheist so in no way biased)

I believe that our community should strive to be inclusive and welcoming to all. Public events should promote unity and respect for all backgrounds.

I urge Inverclyde Council to consider alternative ways for the Orange Order to celebrate their culture that do not alienate or exclude others.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Hunter

**From:** kirstin k (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 9:46 PM  
**To:** Licensing Section <  
**Subject:** Planned March

The Cove  
1 Cove Road  
Gourock  
PA19 1RS

Dear Inverclyde Council

It has been brought to my attention, along with other local businesses regarding a planned march by The Grand Lodge scheduled to take place on Saturday 29th June 2024.

I am the manager at The Cove in Gourock on Cove Road and looked to have my concerns raised in the above matter.  
I understand the Grand Lodge and such marches have participated in events for many years, most commonly in larger cities or proposed routes. My concern lies mainly I this particular choice of venue.

Tensions can often be created with such events, wether warranted or not to dome, but within the cafe in which I work I feel this would create and undesired tension or atmosphere to both staff and locals as well as uncertainty to staff and the publics safety should such a Planned march either a large quantity in attendance not be controlled or monitored appropriately.

All this aside the detriment to small local businesses in regards to possible loss of earnings due to road closures and the large effect on public transport is also an issue faced within The Cove alongside other local stores/businesses in the proximity of the event that I feel should be taken into consideration.

I understand that such marches take place allowing groups to express and assemble with others alike, but would appreciate if my concerns, along with many others, would be taken into consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future regarding the concerns stated above.

Thank you  
Yours sincerely

Kirstin Kelly  
Manager  
The Cove, Gourock



**From:** kieran kelly (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 5:23 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** Boyne orange walk

Why are you guys allowing this vile walk to happen when all it causes is a sectarianism divide in Inverclyde. How can a bill be passed regarding hate crime and allow these bigoted walk to take place. Causing congestion on inverclyde roads when we already face enough road works. A glimpse at the Greenock telegraph comments via social media should be enough to show how much of a divide this is.

Shameful

-----Original Message-----

From: (Redacted email address)

Sent: 16-May-2024 19:46:48

To: customer services

Subject: Formal Strong objection to orange order walk

I wish to contact the council to encourage a rejection of plans of the Grand Lodge to take over the battery park and walk through our streets. I am a father (Redact detail) and we adore the battery park and plan on using the wonderful parks throughout summer. I fear the intended large scale event planned for 29 June will endanger the safety of our children and I have serious concerns regarding unrest and protests within the community. Much consideration is given to planning applications through inverclyde council - I do hope the same level of consideration will be given to this proposal, and 3000+ members of the orange order will not be granted permission to take over the streets of inverclyde. Best regards. Jamie Knox  
(Redacted telephone number)

From: Rachel Leck (redacted email address)  
Sent: 17 May 2024 11:45  
To: Licensing Section  
Subject: Concern for Boyne celebration parade in Inverclyde

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding proposals for a Boyne parade in Greenock on 29th June.

These marches promote bigotry and are a moral stain on our forward thinking society. As an Inverclyde resident I am deeply concerned about the message it would send to residents and visitors alike should these proposals be approved. Other councils in Scotland have already rejected such approvals showing that there is no place for these bigoted, anti-Catholic marches in today's society.

Moreover, with such an influx of people to the town presumably additional policing will be required. So I must ask the question, why should Inverclyde residents be burdened with this additional cost when so many are already living in poverty? Couldn't the money be used in a more appropriate way that would actually benefit the residents of Inverclyde rather than supporting this bigoted event?

Once again I strongly disapprove of these proposals and hope that members of the council reject them, showing that Inverclyde is a town open to all where bigotry has no place.

Regards,

Rachel Leck

Classification : Official

**From:** Gary Lever (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 1:02 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Cc** (Redacted email address)

**Subject:** Grand Lodge Procession 29/6/24

Hi

Please note our objection to this planned procession due in the main to the certain disruption to trade on an important trading day.

Due to the nature of these marches, we object on the grounds of the likelihood of anti-social behaviour as well.

Regards

Gary for DUO

Gary Lever

**DUO**

(Redacted email address)

**From:** Ryan Lever (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 1:03 PM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Annual Boyne Celebration Parade through Gourock

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing to you with a strong objection to this proposed march through Gourock by the Orange Order.

1. The effect to trade on a Saturday (traditionally the busiest day of the week) would be catastrophic. Will the council be reimbursing local businesses for the loss of trade?
2. Why there's a group of people celebrating a battle that took place in IRELAND 334 years ago in SCOTLAND is beyond me.
3. These marches should be banned in Scotland as they are clearly hate marches designed to annoy/antagonise Catholic people.
4. This is not a good look for Gourock and Inverclyde.

I look forward to a positive outcome following the many objections that you will no doubt receive regarding this outdated nonsense.

Thanks  
Ryan Lever

**From:** Robert Lynch (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 8:18 PM

**To:** licensing section

**Cc:** Emma Peacock

**Subject:** Proposed Orange March route through Gourock on Saturday 29th June '24

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the proposed Orange march through Gourock, I would like to object to the proposed route and timing.

My reasons are as follows,

1. the numbers attending would cause significant disruption to main road traffic and bus schedules.
2. The majority of roads on the proposed route have a lot of parked cars, and could lead to restrictions regarding the available width of road.
3. The numbers attending may give rise to breaches of Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act of 2021, which came in to force on 1<sup>st</sup> April'24.
4. Proposed route passes close by St Ninian's RC church and 3 other local churches within a short distance of the route, and could cause problems with members of the public or parishioners visiting the churches.
5. Possibility of a large influx of people in to Gourock Pubs or Clubs that could lead to public disorder due to excessive alcohol consumption especially when it is taking place on Inverclyde Fair weekend holiday.

In this day and age should any type of such marches no matter what the organisation be allowed, when it is not all encompassing be acceptable to a modern all inclusive society.

Kind regards,

Mr Robert & Mrs Eunice Lynch

-----Original Message-----

From: (Redacted email address)

Sent: 21-May-2024 10:47:08

To: customer services

Cc: Lynne Quinn

Subject: FAO: Head of Legal, RE: Objection to Plans for Proposed Public Processions, 22 and 29 June

Dear Head of Legal, I would like to object to two proposed public processions submitted to the Council – by Gourock Defenders of the Faith LOL 345 to take place on Saturday 22 June, as well as that proposed by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll to take place on Saturday 29 June.

These marches are sectarian and exclusionary in nature and go against the inclusive values that Inverclyde Council purports to uphold. They are hostile, anti-Catholic events and will make many residents and visitors feel unwelcome and vulnerable. These antiquated parades have no place in a progressive, forward-looking society and do not reflect the values of the majority of Inverclyde residents. I hope you consider my objections and that the proposals are denied. Best wishes, Shauneen Magorrian (Redacted email address)

-----Original Message-----

From: kenny marshall (Redacted email address)

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 9:02 AM

To: Licensing Section

Subject: Orange Walk in Gourrock 29/06/24

Dear Inverclyde Council,

Main Road access is bad enough for the population of Inverclyde, with regular closures due to recent constant roadworks & flash flooding.

As a resident of (Redacted address), I was very disappointed to see this proposal yesterday in the Tele. There is no place in the 21st Century for these hate marches, allegedly celebrating a battle that took place 335years ago in another country, with absolutely nothing to do with Scotland.

It is not our heritage. I don't see any events commemorating Bannockburn or Culloden here. If these Lodge members want to march, let them do it in deepest Lanarkshire or Ayrshire where most of them reside. Why is Inverclyde even being considered for this? I believe most right minded people find it offensive, it brings no economic benefits to our community, only shame & revulsion.

Yours sincerely,

Kenny Marshall (Redacted address)



**From:** paul mcalees (Redacted address)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 8:31 PM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Orange order procession 29th June 2024

I strongly object to this gathering, it's nothing more than organised chaos ,Why should the good people off this town be subjected to this. ,History shows it's nothing more than a disaster waiting to happen ,,alcohol flowing, sectarian singing not to mention the mess left behind ,the biggest & most beautiful outdoor park around to be taken over by participants from all over..We really should be distancing ourselves from these kind off organisations.

Yours sincerely

Pmcalees

**From:** James McCafferty (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 11:32 PM  
**To:** Cllr Elizabeth Robertson; Cllr Francesca Brennan; Cllr Graeme Brooks; Cllr Jim Clocherty >  
**Subject:** Opposition to the proposed "Orange Walk" planned for Gourrock

Dear Councilor's Robertson, Brennan, Brooks and Clocherty,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed "Orange Walk" planned for Gourrock.

Re: <https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/24323707.grand-lodge-plans-boyne-celebration-parade-gourock/>

As a resident of Inverclyde, I am deeply concerned about the divisive impact such an event could have on our community.

The "Orange Order" and its marches have been a source of sectarian division and conflict, not only in our local area but across the country. The presence of these parades often leads to heightened tensions and has been associated with instances of anti-social behavior and public disorder. This is a matter of public safety and community well-being.

Furthermore, the allocation of public resources to facilitate an event that many find objectionable is questionable. The need for increased police presence to manage potential unrest is a clear indication that the "Orange Walk" is not in harmony with the values of our community.

The proposed parade also poses a risk of disrupting local businesses and daily activities. The negative impact on the town's atmosphere and the potential for unrest should be enough to reconsider the approval of such events.

I have provided some articles for your convenience to provide some evidence for my claims.

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-58608676>
2. <https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/13991810.police-warning-over-orange-parade/>
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58586533>
4. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/24150009.orange-order-march-thousands-call-aberdeenshire-orange-walk-stopped/>
5. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/24164169.orange-order-march-council-bans-orange-walk-uproar/>
6. <https://www.cumnockchronicle.com/news/13729791.traffic-warning-over-orange-walk-through-cumnock/>
7. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange\\_walk](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_walk)

I urge the council to reflect on these points and the message it sends to the residents of Inverclyde. It is imperative that we prioritize the peace, unity, and inclusive spirit of our community over events that have historically proven to be contentious.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I trust that the council will act in the best interest of all Inverclyde residents.

Yours sincerely,

Mr McCafferty

Please enter your details

Title Mr  
Name Callum McFadden  
Address (Redacted address)  
Email (Redacted email address)  
Phone No.

Enquiry Details

Please give details here I am writing to express concern about a public procession potentially featuring more than 3,000 Orange Order members taking place for Gourock next month. Firstly, it will cause mass disruption to the local area that is already impact by numerous road working projects. Secondly, I do not believe that a council that prides itself on inclusivity and being progressive should be willing to host an event that causes concern to members of the Catholic community and many other communities.

What action do you think we should take? Cancel the event due to logistical and safety concerns

Consent on information sharing? Yes

RECEIVED – 17 May 2024

-----Original Message-----

From: James Mcfadden (Redacted email address)

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:46 AM

To: Licensing Section

Subject: County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll - Parade Sat 29 June

I strongly object to this parade taking place in Inverclyde. These parades regularly attract drunkenness and disorder. It brings no value to the town and leaves the Battery park and surrounding area strewn with litter. The disruption to the local community with significant traffic delays and antisocial behaviour outweigh any reason to host such a divisive event.

James McFadden

**From:** laura mcgill (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 11:59 AM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** Orange Order March

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am emailing as an Inverclyde resident to register my unhappiness at the thought of there being an Orange Lodge Walk in Inverclyde on June 29th.

These March's stir up sectarianism and negativity from one section of society to another.

They have no place in Scotland in 2024 and I feel very strongly that they should not be allowed in Inverclyde.

Yours, Laura Campbell  
(Redacted address)

[REDACTED]

17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services  
Inverclyde Council  
Municipal Buildings  
24 Clyde Square  
Greenock  
PA15 1LY



**Boyne Celebration Parade**

Dear Sir

Having been made aware of the proposal which has been submitted to Inverclyde Council for the annual Boyne celebration parade, organised by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Argyll, I am anxious to convey my concerns regarding this event.

I understand that a similar parade proposed in Stonehaven was blocked by Aberdeenshire Council in March of this year for the very reasons causing my own anxiety.

The accommodation of incoming traffic and coaches and the proposed route will cause disruption to an already exceptionally problematic local road network. The behaviour of some participants in previous years demonstrated a lack of concern or respect for local residents. [REDACTED] was subjected to abuse when she objected to individuals urinating in her front garden. I would also suggest that the motivation behind the parade itself is likely to cause friction between sectors of the community rather than bring people together in celebration.

I am aware that the council will consider the likely effect of the procession upon public safety, public order, damage to property, and disruption of the life of the community, as well as the extent to which containment of risks arising from the procession place an excessive burden on the police. I trust that in the light of what I have stated the Council will act in favour of the residents of Inverclyde and refuse permission for this parade to go ahead.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Elaine McKnight

**From:** Lesley McLaren (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 11:27 AM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** Orange Walk in Gourock 29/06/24

Dear Inverclyde Council,

I am extremely dismayed to hear that this walk is being arranged in 2024 when we are supposed to be progressing as a society.

There is no place in the 21st Century for these hate marches, allegedly celebrating a battle that took place 335years ago in another country, with absolutely nothing to do with Scotland.

It is not our heritage. I don't see any events commemorating Bannockburn or Culloden here.

If these Lodge members want to march, let them do it in deepest Lanarkshire or Ayrshire where most of them reside. Why is Inverclyde even being considered for this? I believe most right minded people find it offensive, it brings no economic benefits to our community, only shame & revulsion.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley McLaren (Redacted address)



**From:** Bruce Newlands (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 11:31 AM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Objection | Grand Lodge procession in Gourrock on Saturday June 29th

Dear Sirs

As a resident of Gourrock and business owner of the popup shop at 5 Kempock Street, I would like to strongly object to the proposed Grand Lodge procession in Gourrock on Saturday June 29th.

The proposed route is from the Battery Park along Cardwell Road, Broomberry Drive, Barhill Road, St John's Road, Shore Street and Chapel Street, before heading back along Cardwell Road and Eldon Street to the Battery Park, and then to the Esplanade. The numbers of walkers is estimated to be between 2,500 and 3,000 with associated buses and traffic bringing in bands from all over Scotland.

This is completely unnecessary and will be unreasonably disruptive to both residents & businesses in Gourrock and for those wishing to travel up and down the coast on the first day of school holidays.

Whilst I do not wish for any group to be prevented from freely expressing themselves, others have simply used the extensive battery park for doing this successfully rather than disrupting our busy road network, business and residential areas.

Best Regards

**Bruce Newlands**  
Director Architect

**From:** Tom O'Connor (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 5:37 PM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Annual Boyne Celebration Parade (29 June 2024)

Dear Sir, Madam,

I would like to state my opposition to permission being granted for the proposed Boyne Celebration Parade in Gourock on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

As a resident of Inverclyde, I am concerned about the peace and harmony of our community. I believe that the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire and Argyll and their traditions, music, marches and practices are deeply rooted in sectarianism. Not only would this event - with its expected 2500-3500 marchers - severely disrupt daily activities and cause significant traffic congestion, but it also risks poisoning our peaceful environment.

Kind Regards  
Tom O'Connor  
(Redacted address)

Classification : Official

**From:** Steven O'Neill (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 8:30 AM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:**

No sectarian racist orange parade in gourock on 29th june it should be banned .

Thanks Steven O'Neill

Stewart Reed

[REDACTED]  
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services, Inverclyde Council,  
Municipal Buildings,  
Greenock,  
PA15 1LX

To whom it may concern,

Objection to Proposed Procession: Orange walk in Gourock By County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire  
Renfrewshire & Argyll

Gourock is certainly not a suitable place to have an Orange walk.

It is inconceivable that Scotland as a whole put up with the type of bigotry that is associated with these events.

It commemorates something that happened in Ireland, there is no reason to hold such an abhorrent march in Scotland at all when the good people this country are trying to make Scotland a tolerant country to live in without fear of persecution from such groups.

This event just encourages division, bigotry and fear, why should we bring that here? The marchers may present themselves as peaceful, but this type of event attracts trouble makers with sectarian language, disorder and possibly (very often) violence from both sides. The local businesses would be more likely to close, missing out on trading for the day and also risk damage.

Why should we as residents put up with several thousand people descending on Gourock en masse, blocking our streets, causing widespread travel chaos and disrupting our daily lives, just for the whim of a few that fundamentally want to gloat over an event that happened centuries ago. This is not the what Gourock nor indeed what Inverclyde wants to or should be actively supporting.

I also object for the reason that the money spent on policing the event and tidying up after would be extremely costly and could be put to much better us.

Yours

[REDACTED]

22 MAY 2024

[REDACTED]

**From:** Tam Rodgers (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 9:44 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** Grand Lodge procession in Gourrock on Saturday June 29th

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express my dissatisfaction of this upcoming event.

We have no place for this in modern society, apart from the closure of roads and disruption to local businesses, we are showing that we approve of this outdated behaviour.

Also the cost of policing such an event much he huge, which I'm sure the local authorities could do without not to mention the potential for arrests and littering.

To think we are in 2024, and this still goes on.

Please fell free to contact me with a response.

Thanks

T.Rodgers (local resident)

-----Original Message-----

From: (Redacted email address)

Sent: 16-May-2024 21:43:51

To: customer services

Subject: Boyne celebration parade, organised by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Argyll.

Dear Council,

I am writing this email to express my deepest concern regarding the planned orange walk in Gourock. Gourock is certainly not a town where any kind of bigotry and sectarian hatred displays can take place. I fear for my own safety not even mentioning the safety of my children who often cycle to a park on that exact route.

Thank you for reading this and I appreciate positive action from you.

Best wishes,

Kaska (Redacted address)

Name confirmed - Kaska Sypek

**From:** James Skelton (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 4:17 PM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Proposed public procession, 29th June 2024

(Redacted address)

Ref: Proposed public procession

ORGANISATION – County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll

DATE AND TIME – Saturday 29 June 2024 at 11.30am

To whom it may concern,

I would like to register my objection to the above procession.

I object to the fact that on a traditional holiday weekend the council tax payers will lose access to one of Inverclyde's finest public assets the Battery Park.

I find myself at a loss to understand why any modern forward looking Council would even consider accommodating this type of organisation. If we are really serious about promoting a tolerant society which is open to all, we must distance ourselves and the people of Inverclyde from this type of event.

Yours

James Skelton



21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing on behalf of Green Tangerine to express my concern about the application by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll March to host a large march in Gourrock on Saturday 29 June 2024 at 11.30am until approx 3.30.

Green Tangerine is a Community Interest Company which is an environmental organization that focuses on enhancing places of natural beauty and helping nature flourishing. One of our activities is regular litter picks in various beauty spots and public spaces across Inverclyde. If the proposed march goes ahead we would have to cancel our litter pick in Gourrock, always the last Saturday of the month. Participants value this opportunity to get outdoors, meet people and feel better about themselves through improving their local environment. I think this march will bring unnecessary disruption and stress to the community and prevent citizens going about their business on a Saturday. It is highly likely to create a lot of litter and given the proximity of the river to much of the route much of this litter will end up in the water causing harm to the marine life.

Yours sincerely,



Annette Thain on behalf of Vicky Cookson, Giulia Canata

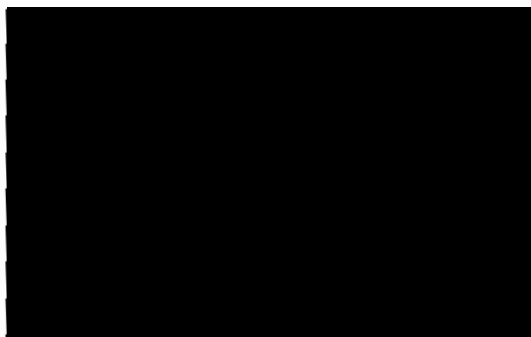
Directors of Green Tangerine



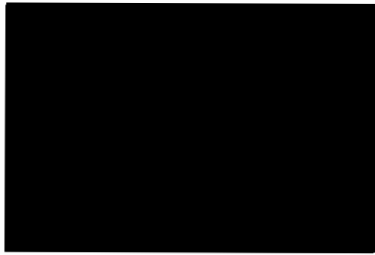
Annette Thain

E:

W:







Dear sir / madam

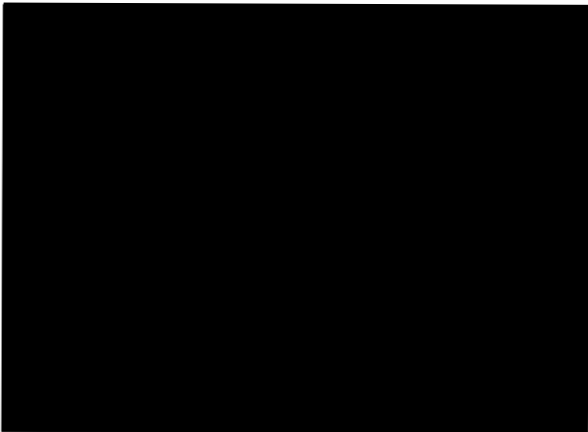
I am writing to express my concern about the application by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll to host a large march in Gourock on Saturday 29 June 2024 at 11.30am until aprox 3.30.

I think this will bring unnecessary disruption and stress to the community and prevent citizens going about their business on a Saturday. We want to attract visitors to Gourock to enjoy the scenery and visit the unique, independent shops and cafes in Gourock and this march will send the wrong message. The reason for the 'celebration' is divisive and will not enhance relationships.

Yours sincerely



Annette Thain



**From:** giulia canata (Redacted email address)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 12:50 PM  
**To:** Licensing Section  
**Subject:** Objection from Gourock Trader's Association

Good Morning,  
On behalf of Gourock Traders' Association, I would like to provide feedback on the proposed march on Saturday 29th June.

I sent an email to all traders in the group and we had the following responses:  
21 object  
3 in favour

Western Ferries were one of the objectors and are extremely concerned about the impact on transport links.

Most of the 21 who objected to the march have stated that they would need to close on that day which is normally a busy weekend - first day of school holidays/Greenock Fair, Farmers' Market Day, it is a pay weekend, and the last day of busy trading before Gourock quietens down for the Greenock fair holiday.

The 3 in favour welcome the possibility of extra trade that day.

The overwhelming majority of traders believe that:

- a closure and loss of trade this weekend would be incredibly detrimental to the traders and the local community.
- the chosen route closes the main road into Gourock from the East creating a diversion (via A78 and western Cloch Road) of around 10/11 miles so any closure of transport routes from East Inverclyde to the ferries and Gourock would effectively shut down Gourock for the day and cause excess traffic on minor roads and the coastal route.
- access to the hospital from Gourock town centre could be an issue
- the majority of shops and businesses would have to close for the full day.

I hope you can take the feedback on board and please note that the majority of traders who responded are extremely concerned about this march going ahead and the financial impact it will have on them on this normally lucrative weekend so do not support it being held in Gourock on that weekend.

Kind Regards,  
Giulia Canata

(Redacted telephone number)

(Redacted address)

**From:** Dylan Bell (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:27 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:**

sending this email to yourselves as I hear the Gourock community council At their monthly meeting on Monday night, discuss their possible objections to this parade

The residents of Broomberry Drive and Barhill Road have voiced concerns So with parking issues ? Organisers of the parade reckon the parade will take approximately one hour 45 minutes maybe less.

It has been suggested by someone that the route is purposely going down St John's Road because it's near a chapel ? This is absolutely ridiculous and as you know the Chapel is on Royal street and the parade will pass the chapels car park. Also the person that suggested this may need to have a think about what they are saying?.

Western ferries

Apparently, Western ferries are against the parade also as they say they will lose trade maybe worth pointing out to Weston ferries that we will have a large number of personnel attending the parade coming from Dunoon and outlining areas All of which will be using Western ferry's and the Dunoon ferry coming into Gourock.

as a member of Gourock LOL 345 I would point out that we have been in Gourock for 30+ years and have held a parade every year and I'm sure the police would tell you that we have never had any trouble at all.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Cairns (Redacted email address)

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 6:46 PM

To: Licensing Section

Subject: Proposed orange walk

Hi

I am sending this email to yourselves as I hear the Gourock community council At their monthly meeting on Monday night, discuss their possible objections to this parade

The residents of Broomberry Drive and Barhill Road have voiced concerns So with parking issues ? Organisers of the parade reckon the parade will take approximately one hour 45 minutes maybe less.

It has been suggested by someone that the route is purposely going down St John's Road because it's near a chapel ? This is absolutely ridiculous and as you know the Chapel is on Royal street and the parade will pass the chapels car park. Also the person that suggested this may need to have a think about what they are saying?.

Western ferries

Apparently, Western ferries are against the parade also as they say they will lose trade maybe worth pointing out to Weston ferries that we will have a large number of personnel attending the parade coming from Dunoon and outlining areas All of which will be using Western ferry's and the Dunoon ferry coming into Gourock.

Last, but not least as a member of Gourock LOL 345 I would point out that we have been in Gourock for 30+ years and have held a parade every year and I'm sure the police would tell you that we have never had any trouble at all in all these years.

Mark Cairns

**From:** James Devenny (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 6:32 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** Orange order parade

Hello

I am sending this email to yourselves as I hear the Gourock community council At their monthly meeting on Monday night, discuss their possible objections to this parade

The residents of Broomberry Drive and Barhill Road have voiced concerns So with parking issues ? Organisers of the parade reckon the parade will take approximately one hour 45 minutes maybe less.

It has been suggested by someone that the route is purposely going down St John's Road because it's near a chapel ? This is absolutely ridiculous and as you know the Chapel is on Royal street and the parade will pass the chapels car park. Also the person that suggested this may need to have a think about what they are saying?.

Western ferries

Apparently, Western ferries are against the parade also as they say they will lose trade maybe worth pointing out to Weston ferries that we will have a large number of personnel attending the parade coming from Dunoon and outlining areas All of which will be using Western ferry's and the Dunoon ferry coming into Gourock.

Last, but not least as a member of Gourock LOL 345 I would point out that we have been in Gourock for 30+ years and have held a parade every year and I'm sure the police would tell you that we have never had any trouble at all in all these years.

Regards

Jim Devenny

[Redacted signature]

**From:** Jamie Wilson (Redacted email address)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 5:52 PM

**To:** Licensing Section

**Subject:** County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Argyll parade 29th June 2024

Good afternoon

I am writing to voice my support of the above named parade.

Most, if not all, Boyne parades by this County Grand Lodge pass off peacefully and with no public order or damage to property.

I understand there will be traffic disruption for the time that the parade will come through Gourock but disruption happens with most events held in this area, most notably the Highland Games, which are also held in the Battery Park.

I am reliably informed that the members of this parade will be back in Battery Park before the estimated time of 1pm.

County Grand Lodge have held parades in this area before, most recently being around 2010

Kind regards

James Wilson

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>General Purposes Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 June 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital &amp; Customer Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LS/040/24</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Anne Sinclair</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712034</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notification by Gourock Defenders of the Faith L.O.L 345 to hold annual parade on 22 June 2024 through parts of Gourock</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to consider the notification by the Gourock Defenders of the Faith L.O.L 345 for permission to hold a public procession through parts of Gourock on Saturday 22 June 2024 for the annual parade.
- 1.3 The notification has been submitted to the Council in terms of section 62 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Board are asked to consider the notification in light of the objection received by the Council and to determine whether permission should be granted to the Gourock Defenders of the Faith LOL 345 in order to hold the public procession for the annual parade.

**Lynsey Brown**  
**Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 A notice of Proposal to hold a Public Procession was submitted to the Council by the Gourock Defenders of the Faith LOL 345 regarding the intention of the organisation to hold a procession on Saturday 22 June 2024 through parts of Gourock for the annual parade. This notice was submitted in terms of section 62 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 on 9 May 2024.
- 3.2 The Notice of Proposal sets out the proposed route whereby participants will gather at Darroch Car Park at 4pm and proceed along Drumshantie Road, Kirn Drive, Arran Road, MacMillan Drive, Skye Crescent, Iona Crescent, Queensway, Ailsa Road, Divert Road, Bute Street, Arran Road, Tower Drive, Drumshantie Road back to the Darroch Car Park where the procession will terminate. The number of people expected to take part has been noted on the Proposal form as 70-80 with 1 band due to attend together with 1 bus.
- 3.3 Following receipt of the Notice of Proposal a copy of the notice with proposals regarding the procession was intimated on 10 May 2024 to Police Scotland, the Community Council and Ward Councillors for Gourock and the Council's Roads, Public Protection and Environmental Services. A Public Notice with details of the proposed procession was also published on the Council's Website and posted at Gourock Library on the same day. Consultees were asked to respond in writing to the Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services by 24 May 2024.
- 3.4 There have been no objections from Police Scotland or any of the other consultees in relation to the proposed procession on 22 June 2024. Police Scotland submitted a report to the Council on 14 May 2024 with comments in relation to the proposal. A copy of the response from Police Scotland is set out in **Appendix 1** to this report. A total of one timeous objection has been received by the Council's Licensing Section from a member of the public. A copy of the objection is set out in **Appendix 2** to this report. The organisation is being given an opportunity in terms of the 1982 Act to make representation in writing in response to the objection should they wish to do so. Any written submission from the organisation in response to the objection which is received prior to the Board meeting, will be made available to members in advance of the hearing.
- 3.5 The organisation have been advised that they may be present or represented, either in person or remotely, at the meeting of the General Purposes Board to be held in relation to his application.
- 3.6 Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights sets out the "right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association". It is not an absolute right and a local authority may place restrictions on it if necessary. In terms of section 63 (8) of the 1982 Act the considerations to which the local authority shall have regard when deciding whether to prohibit the holding of a procession or impose conditions on it under this section shall include: --
- (a) the likely effect of the holding of the procession in relation to –
    - (i) public safety;
    - (ii) public order;
    - (iii) damage to property;
    - (iv) disruption to the life of the community;
  - (b) the extent to which the containment of risks arising from the procession would (whether by itself or in combination with any other circumstances) place an excessive burden on the police.
  - (c) where the person proposing to hold the procession has previously held one in the area of the authority or the persons likely to take part in the procession, or some of them, are the same persons as took part in one previously held in that area, or some of them—



- (i) whether the previous procession was held in breach of a prohibition under this section on its being held or of a condition so imposed on the holding of it;
- (ii) whether any guidance or code of conduct issued by the authority as to the holding of the previous procession or as to the holding of processions generally was followed; and
- (iii) the effect of the previous procession in relation to the matters mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) to (iv) of paragraph (a) above and in paragraph (b) above.

**4.0 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial		X
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty Children/Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

**4.2 Finance**

There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget Years</b>	<b>Proposed Spend this Report</b>	<b>Virement From</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>With Effect from</b>	<b>Annual Net Impact</b>	<b>Virement From (If Applicable)</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A					

**4.3 Legal/Risk**

The organisation has recourse to the Sheriff Court in the event it wishes to appeal any decision of the Board.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Consultees, including Police Scotland, Inverclyde Leisure, the Community Council and Ward Councillors for the ward, and the Council's Roads, Public Protection & Environmental Services

## **6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.

**RESTRICTED****PROCESSION SUMMARY****POLICE  
SCOTLAND****Division:** K **Station:** PAISLEY **Date:** 10.05.24 **Order No:** 76242**Day & Date of Procession:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**Time outwards:** 1600 hours**Time inwards:** n/a hours**Estimated number of persons in procession:** 70**Name of band or association making application:** Gourock Defenders of the Faith LOL 345**Applicant's name and address:** **Route outwards:** Darroch car park, Drumshantie Road, Kirn Drive, Arran Road, MacMillan Drive, Skye Crescent, Iona Crescent, Queensway, Ailsa Road, Divert Road, Bute Street, Arran Road, Tower Drive, Drumshantie Road, Darroch Car Park.**Route inwards:****Names of accompanying bands or bodies:** Pride of the Village Thornliebank**Reason for holding Procession / Historical Background:** (eg. Annual / First Application / Event / Anniversary etc) Annual Parade.**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

**Operations Planning Unit / Divisional Enquiry Officer Risk Assessment / Observations:**  
(Please complete table below)

OBSERVATION	HIGH RISK	LOW RISK	IF 'HIGH RISK' PLEASE COMMENT
Risk to public safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk to Public order?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please see below</b>
Risk of damage to property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Likelihood of disruption to the community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please See Below</b>
Any risk identified from a previous procession involving that parade / band / organiser?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If granted, will this parade present a risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Signature:**

**Rank: PS Richie Trutwin**

**Sub-Divisional Officer**

(Comments / Observations): This is an annual event and there have been no issues in the past.

The parade route has been examined and appears to be in order. However, there is some likelihood of disruption to pedestrian and vehicular traffic should the parade go ahead.

The applicant was spoken to on 10/05/24 and has agreed to the following:

1. The provision of 7 stewards escorting the parade along the length of the route, all of whom will be distinguishable by high visibility clothing. This achieves the preferred stewarding ratio.
2. To make participants aware of street furniture on the route, which may prove to be a hazard.
3. No music shall be played whilst passing any place of worship whilst services are in progress.
4. The applicant will be present and in charge of the parade.
5. The parade will not start without the presence of the police.
6. All police instructions must be followed.

There are currently several competing events within the Division which will not impact on this event.

There are no Police objections to this application.

**Signature:**

**Rank: PS Richie Trutwin**

**Divisional Commander**

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

(Comments / Observations):

The Chief Constable, as a statutory Consultee to the Local Authority in connection with this proposed procession, submits the foregoing for consideration by the Authority. I am, on behalf of the Chief Constable, ready to attend any meeting which the Authority might arrange with those proposing to hold the procession to make further representations in support of this submission.

The Chief Constable recognises that should an appeal be marked to the Sheriff against a decision prohibiting a procession, or a decision imposing conditions on a procession, that there is no express, legislative requirement that the Chief Constable be convened as an interested party to such an appeal. Nonetheless, and in accordance with the Guidance for Scottish Local Authorities issued by the Scottish Ministers in terms of Section 65 (A) of the 1982 Act, the Chief Constable expects to be consulted by the Local Authority in connection with any decision which is reached or prohibiting a procession or placing conditions on it. That expectation would continue in the event of an appeal being marked to the Sheriff and particularly so in the event that the Authority contemplates reaching agreement with an Appellant to concede that a prohibited procession instead to be allowed to go ahead and / or alternate wording for any condition(s) to be put in place.

The Chief Constable is also content to indicate that Divisional Officers may be in a position to attend any such appeal proceedings as witnesses should it be felt relevant to lead evidence in connection with the Authority's decision.

**Signature:**

**Rank: PS Trutwin**

**RESTRICTED**

-----Original Message-----

From (Redacted email address)

Sent: 21-May-2024 10:47:08

To: Customer Services

Cc: Cllr Quinn

Subject: FAO: Head of Legal, RE: Objection to Plans for Proposed Public Processions, 22 and 29 June

Dear Head of Legal, I would like to object to two proposed public processions submitted to the Council – by Gourock Defenders of the Faith LOL 345 to take place on Saturday 22 June, as well as that proposed by the County Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Renfrewshire & Argyll to take place on Saturday 29 June.

These marches are sectarian and exclusionary in nature and go against the inclusive values that Inverclyde Council purports to uphold. They are hostile, anti-Catholic events and will make many residents and visitors feel unwelcome and vulnerable. These antiquated parades have no place in a progressive, forward-looking society and do not reflect the values of the majority of Inverclyde residents. I hope you consider my objections and that the proposals are denied. Best wishes,  
Shauneen Magorrian (redacted address)