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Innovation Network

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Inverclyde Council

Meliora Festival: Summer celebrations, reconnecting communities

The Meliora Festival was a celebration of Inverclyde delivered for and with our communities. A summer programme of events saw thousands of people visiting the area along with local people coming together to socialise and reconnect after pandemic restrictions. Community groups were supported to deliver their own activities alongside flagship events.



Meliora means “in the pursuit of betterment” and this year we wanted to bring our local communities together to celebrate the resilience and compassion they have shown over the last two years.



People-centred councils
driving social innovation
putting people first

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In addition to our headline events we offered a supportive funding opportunity for local community groups to deliver events in their area. Inverclyde Council allocated a fund of £120,000 to be split across the six locality areas. Community organisations were invited to apply for funding to provide an event within their area to encourage people to come together and celebrate togetherness.

Following an application process these funding applications were then put to a public vote with members of the community encouraged to choose the activities that they would like within their locality. This approach is part of wider work to deliver on Participatory Budgeting (PB), a form of citizen participation in which citizens are involved in the process of deciding how money is spent, giving local people greater influence and say in the decisions that affect their lives. Inverclyde Council's vision for PB is that it provides a means for communities to discuss and deliberate priorities and assist the Council in guiding its work at a locality and Inverclyde level. Our model focuses on empowering local communities and ensuring that everyone is provided with the opportunity to take part.

Community events were complemented by bigger scale celebrations over the summer months. These included family fun days, community Platinum Jubilee events, festival parades and village fetes. They ran alongside the 2022 Kip Regatta, the first major regatta of the Scottish sailing season, the British Pipe Band Championships, Scotland v England girls' under-15s international football match, Inverclyde Warrior 5k obstacle course and an arts and culture weekend at the Beacon Arts Centre featuring events, workshops, experiences and live performances from big-name stars.

Meliora Festival was a great success with family and friends coming together, and visitors being welcomed to enjoy Inverclyde.

For further information contact:

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