**Tiree Community Council**

**Response to letter from Argyll Estates Jan 2023 regarding excessive extraction of sand and gravel from Tiree beaches**

**For discussion/approval at meeting on 08/02/2023**

TCC is very clear in recognising the value of crofting and farming to the island’s economy, culture and population. TCC is also clear that local sand and gravel currently play a key role in making this industry more economically viable here, and in improving the welfare of livestock. We also recognise that it is obviously in the long-term interests of our community, including crofters and farmers, for such extraction to be sustainable, and avoid potentially contributing to future damage of homes, businesses and roads.

Tiree Community Council (TCC) shares the concerns of many of our constituents about the erosion of parts of the island’s coastline. The extent to which sand and gravel extraction is a significant factor in this is currently unclear, and we would strongly urge the responsible authorities to do more research into the matter and provide useful guidance.

Serious allegations have been made about excessive sand and gravel extraction from beaches that go beyond reasonable crofting purposes. TCC would encourage Argyll Estates to work constructively with the crofting community to provide more clarity on what constitutes acceptable and sustainable use, and guidance on locations where long term impact on coastal erosion would be minimal, or entirely balanced by natural replacement. If we can be of assistance in helping to disseminate such information, we would be glad to do so.