

# Build cost shock for affordable homes

A group of North Ayrshire housing representatives, including Arran, were met with disappointment when they visited Dunoon to see a housing scheme.

The group included North Ayrshire Council's Arran member Margie Currie, Henry Murdo, chairman of HIFAR (Housing Initiative for Arran Residents), Jim Nichols, chairman of the local housing forum and Andy Martin, manager of Isle of Arran Homes, as well as NAC housing service representatives.

Last Friday they visited a Fyne Homes affordable housing scheme comprising a number of large homes faced in spruce.

However, the surprising factor was the unit cost of constructing the houses, which are targeted for the Homestake scheme.

Councillor Currie said: 'The houses were lovely, and large, with four or five bedrooms. However, we were greatly surprised to learn that the unit cost was no cheaper than conventional construction.'

Henry Murdo agreed, but said, however, this was not putting HIFAR off its plan to build affordable homes on Arran to ensure local people and workers remain on the island.

The Homestake scheme aims to help first-time buyers and others whose life circumstances may have changed so that they denied the opportunity to buy.