

Councillor Banks, 'calls it a day'

Robin Banks, who has spent 15 years representing the people of Oban in Argyll and Bute Council, has decided to call it a day. The local elections in May this year will see the familiar figure give up his seat. Lorn Life took the opportunity to talk to Councillor Banks about his time in public service.

changed over it took on responsibilities from Strathclyde Regional Council such as education and social work.' This has led to other changes in the way the council operates: 'Well, these days over 80 per cent of our funding comes from the Scottish Executive so there's a lot of control there. I think over the next few years social work will be the real challenge as an ageing population will need more attention and funding.'

I've worked with Robin for 15 years and couldn't have asked for better support in leadership. He's also a fine figure of a man in a kilt!

Robin started his career as a lawyer as one half of the Anderson Banks firm. He has long been interested in community projects such as Lorn Agricultural Society and the Mod committee

but it was an old pal who suggested he get involved in local politics:

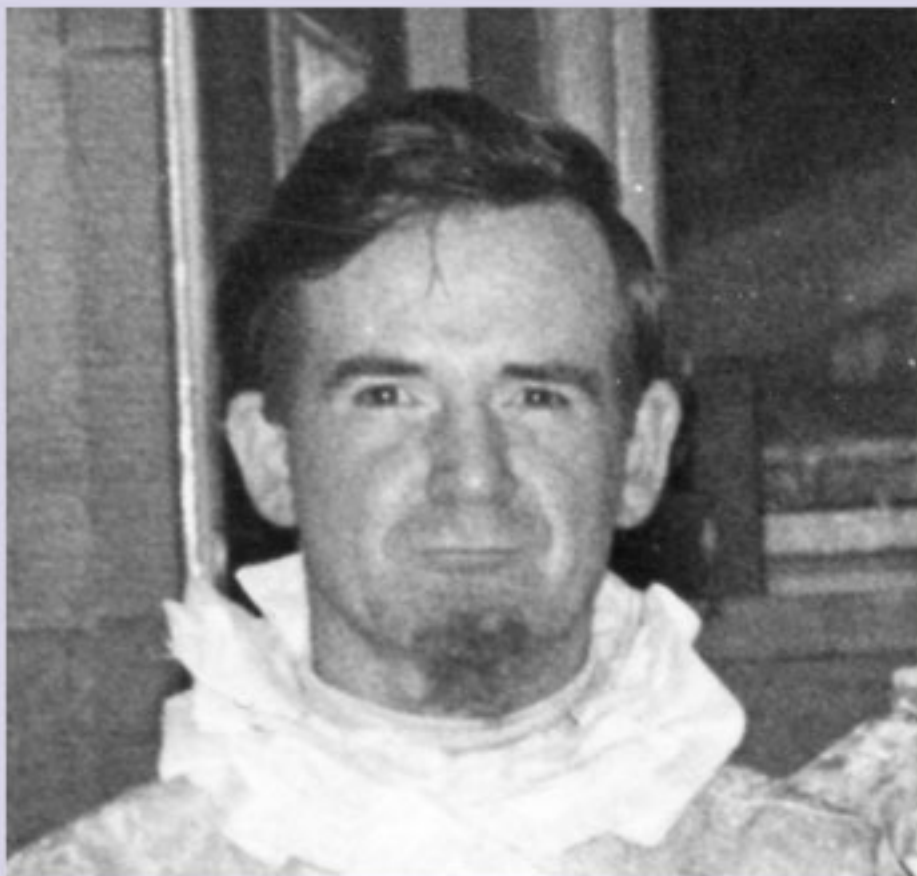
'A former Chief Executive of the Council that I knew from University tried to convince me to get involved, saying it would only be two days a month', said Councillor Banks. 'When I wound up my practice I decided to have a go at it.'

Over the years it became a bit more of a commitment though: 'When I started it was a district council but when it

His particular work in the Council was focussed on development and environment issues. 'It covers everything from planning, sport, tourism and recycling. It's wide-ranging which makes it interesting work.'

Council leader Alan Macaskill said: 'I've worked with Robin for 15 years and couldn't have asked for better support in leadership. He's also a fine figure of a man in a kilt!'

After retiring from the public sector, Councillor Banks will remain active with his hobbies as a keen hill walker and proud follower of Rangers football club. He also plans to keep up his involvement with the Gaelic movement: 'There's a lot to do every year but with the Mod in Oban in 2009 I'll certainly be kept busy.'



In his younger days Councillor Banks performed with Benderloch Drama Club.