# Samantha Kane challenges community council dissolution amid fierce local divide in Sutherland



A self-styled lady of the manor is embroiled in a legal dispute following the disbandment of her local community council in Sutherland. Samantha Kane, a barrister and the owner of the historic Carbisdale Castle, is vehemently contesting the decision by the Ardgay and District Community Council, claiming it is rooted in bias against her. Following a meeting which saw the council unanimously vote for dissolution, Kane has announced plans to petition Scotland's top court, arguing that her human rights have been infringed upon and that the meeting was predetermined with the explicit goal of removing her.

Kane, who affectionately refers to herself as Lady Carbisdale, purchased the dilapidated castle in 2022 for £1.2 million. Since acquiring the property, she has invested millions in its restoration, envisioning it as a destination for paying guests that could also revitalise the local economy. However, her relationship with the community has been fraught with tension. Following the council's decisive move to dissolve in a recent meeting attended by around 150 people, she voiced her outrage, describing the gathering as a “lynch mob” and asserting that many attendees were not even eligible voters in the community.

This incident is not an isolated one; it reflects a deeper rift between Kane and local residents, exacerbated by her controversial comments regarding the community’s readiness for a transgender custodian of the castle. At a previous council meeting, reports of homophobic remarks directed at her surfaced, prompting police involvement. This climate of tension ultimately led to the council's disbandment. Kane's contributions to the community, particularly her intent to restore the surrounding land, have been overshadowed by complaints about her conduct during meetings. Council Chairman Les Waugh has previously described her behaviour as "appalling," likening it to that of a child throwing a tantrum.

Kane has also faced allegations of bullying and transphobia from residents, prompting her to label the hostile environment as a "campaign of bullying." With her commitment to restoring the castle and creating job opportunities in the area, Kane's vision includes a conference at the castle aimed at fostering dialogue and healing divisions within the community. She maintains that the castle's historic status should be preserved for future generations, voicing her desire to be part of a constructive solution.

Despite being embroiled in legal proceedings, Kane's ambitions for Carbisdale Castle remain intact. She recently acquired an adjoining plot of forest land, a strategic move believed to facilitate her long-term restoration plans. However, the evolving dynamics within the council reveal ongoing skirmishes and a persistent divide, raising questions about governance and representation in this small Highland community.

The convoluted saga surrounding Samantha Kane and the Ardgay and District Community Council highlights broader societal trends around inclusivity and identity, particularly in rural settings. As she continues to navigate these disputes, Kane's story encapsulates the complex interplay of wealth, identity, and community within modern Scotland.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14745815/castle-owning-lady-manor-lynch-mob-victim.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/6738060/controversial-transgender-carbisdale-castle-owner-faces-removal-highland-community-council/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14745815/castle-owning-lady-manor-lynch-mob-victim.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/29/ardgay-castle-homophobic-scotland-trans-lady-carbisdale/), [[4]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/6738060/controversial-transgender-carbisdale-castle-owner-faces-removal-highland-community-council/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands-islands/6381248/carbisdale-castle-owner-buys-forest-land-surrounding-landmark/), [[6]](https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/carbisdale-castle-chatelaine-condemns-campaign-of-bullying-335609/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14745815/castle-owning-lady-manor-lynch-mob-victim.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/castle-chatelaine-samantha-kane-calls-for-conference-at-carb-363689/), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/29/ardgay-castle-homophobic-scotland-trans-lady-carbisdale/), [[6]](https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/carbisdale-castle-chatelaine-condemns-campaign-of-bullying-335609/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands-islands/6381248/carbisdale-castle-owner-buys-forest-land-surrounding-landmark/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14745815/castle-owning-lady-manor-lynch-mob-victim.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/castle-chatelaine-samantha-kane-calls-for-conference-at-carb-363689/> - Samantha Kane, owner of Carbisdale Castle, has called for a summit at the castle to resolve disputes following the election of seven new members to the Ardgay and District Community Council. She emphasized the importance of preserving the castle and its surrounding land for future generations and the local community.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/29/ardgay-castle-homophobic-scotland-trans-lady-carbisdale/> - Samantha Kane, a barrister who has changed gender three times, faced alleged homophobic remarks during a community council meeting in Ardgay. The incident led to police involvement, with Kane expressing concerns over the discrimination she encountered while attempting to acquire land surrounding Carbisdale Castle.
4. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/6738060/controversial-transgender-carbisdale-castle-owner-faces-removal-highland-community-council/> - Ardgay and District Community Council voted to dissolve, aiming to remove member Samantha Kane, owner of Carbisdale Castle, due to complaints about her behavior. Kane, who identifies as transgender, considers the move discriminatory and is contemplating legal action against the council's decision.
5. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands-islands/6381248/carbisdale-castle-owner-buys-forest-land-surrounding-landmark/> - Samantha Kane, owner of Carbisdale Castle, purchased a 7.4-acre plot of forest land from Forestry and Land Scotland. This acquisition is crucial for her plans to restore the historic castle and develop it into a hotel, aiming to boost the local economy and create employment opportunities.
6. <https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/carbisdale-castle-chatelaine-condemns-campaign-of-bullying-335609/> - Samantha Kane, owner of Carbisdale Castle, condemned a 'campaign of bullying' amid claims of transphobia following her attempt to acquire additional land around the castle. She highlighted the dehumanization and disrespect she faced, calling for mutual respect and protection of LGBT rights within the community.
7. <https://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/barrister-transfers-5m-highland-castle-to-community-group-after-transphobic-abuse> - After facing transphobic abuse, Samantha Kane transferred ownership of Carbisdale Castle to a community interest company. She aims to benefit local residents and preserve the castle, moving away from her initial plans to restore it as a private members' club.