

**Community Event Proposal**

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**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 To encourage community engagement and increase the involvement of communities the Local Area Community Planning Groups are committed to two community events annually.
- 1.2 The events will provide an ideal opportunity to consult with local communities with feedback setting the future activities, priorities and plans of the Area Planning Group. Although these events will be “flagship” events they should not be seen as the only vehicle for community engagement.
- 1.3 To progress the planning of the first Bute and Cowal community event two meetings have been held, (one each in Bute and Cowal,) involving representatives from Community Learning and Regeneration, Argyll Volunteer Centre, Step Up Project, Help Project and Cowal Youth Information Project. The recommendations below are based on the discussions held at these meetings.

**2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The first community event is scheduled for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2010 in Dunoon. If we are to maximise community involvement a week day is not the best option and it was generally agreed that a Saturday, (possibly Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2010,) would be more likely to attract a wide range of participants.
- 2.2 Dunoon Grammar School would make an excellent venue with potential to link into the school’s “Heart of the Community” campaign. It would also be the most cost effective option as the school is open on a Saturday and additional costs would be minimal.
- 2.3 The aim is to attract 100 participants (approximately 60 from Cowal and 40 from Bute.) Participants are defined as community representatives, community group representatives, volunteers, service users etc.
- 2.4 Other CPP partners attending the event (Elected Members, officers, employees etc,) will be designated as “observers,” which means they will be able to take part in discussions, workshops etc but they will not be able to vote on the day.

- 2.5 Participants will be invited to attend with the following groups being targeted:-
- Community Councils
  - Representative forums/organisations e.g. Bute Older Voices, Cowal Elderly Forum, Youth Forums, Health Groups, Voluntary Sector Forum, Bute ADG etc.
  - Trusts including the National Park groups and Dunoon Community Development Group.
  - There will also be places available to interested members of the general public.
- 2.6 Transport issues can be a major barrier to people attending this type of event especially with the travelling distances involved between Bute, rural Cowal and Dunoon. Further investigation will be carried out into the feasibility of running a free coach for participants leaving from and returning to Bute and picking up en route at Colintraive, Glendaruel, Strachur etc.
- 2.7 The CPP strapline “*Forward Together – Gach Ceum Comhla*” is an appropriate working title for the event and the programme should focus on the four key priorities identified by the Local Area Community Planning Group –
- a) Towns which are Centres of Economic Activity and have Strong Community Identity (**Town Centre Development**)
  - b) Transport Infrastructure and Services that are Good Quality, Well Co-ordinated and Support Easy Access to Services (**Transport**)
  - c) People Feel Strong, Safe and Secure in their Community (**Community Safety**)
  - d) People Feel Healthier and have Access to Services Appropriate to their Needs (**Health**)

The use of plain English is extremely important in effective community engagement.

- 2.8 The programme has to be participatory, interactive and an enjoyable experience for participants. We want to convey the message that the participant’s views and opinions are important. The programme for the day will include:-
- Speakers – one keynote speaker and perhaps an example of good practice in Community Planning.
  - Workshops – all participants will take part on four workshops based on each of the four key priorities. The workshops will encourage discussion on the main issues and identify priority action points.
  - PPVote electronic voting session – all participants will come back into the main group and hear a brief summary of feedback. They will then be asked to vote en masse for their top 3 action points (from a maximum of 8) for Town Centre Development, Transport, Community Safety and Health.
  - It may be appropriate to include a “future action” option which will give participants the opportunity to raise issues that are not covered by the four priorities.

- 2.9 A key role in the programme will be that of the chair or M.C.
- 2.10 The following methods will be used to promote the event:-
- Flyer to be distributed via primary schools
  - Newspaper articles
  - Attending planned events and meetings – “Take Time,” ADGs etc
  - Bute F.M
  - Mobile Library
  - Voluntary/statutory sector networks
- 2.11 It has been possible to access Working and Learning Together (WALT) funding of £1500 to cover the main costs involved in delivering this event –
- Transport
  - Accommodation
  - Catering
  - Publicity/marketing
  - Childcare

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Area Community Planning Group members are asked to agree or amend the proposals for the community event and give consent to progress accordingly.

### 4. IMPLICATIONS

<b>Policy</b>	The community events are consistent with CPP policy and the Community Engagement Strategy.
<b>Financial</b>	External funding (WALT) has been accessed for the main expenditure.
<b>Personnel</b>	There are no personnel implications for this project.
<b>Equal Opportunities</b>	None
<b>Legal</b>	None

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