

**MINUTES of MEETING of BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held via  
MICROSOFT TEAMS  
on TUESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2021**

**Present:** Willie Lynch – Dunoon Community Council (Chair)  
Charles Dixon-Spain – Colglen Community Council (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Jean Moffat – Argyll and Bute Council  
Councillor Liz McCabe – Argyll and Bute Council  
Councillor Jim Anderson – Argyll and Bute Council  
Councillor Audrey Forrest – Argyll and Bute Council  
Councillor Bobby Good – Argyll and Bute Council  
Councillor Jim Findlay – Argyll and Bute Council  
Councillor Gordon Blair – Argyll and Bute Council  
Stuart McLean – Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council  
Rhona Grant – Community Learning & Development Officer, Live Argyll  
Alex Edmonstone – Active Schools And Sport Manager, Live Argyll  
Barbara Halliday – Business Advisor, Argyll and Bute Council  
Susan MacRae – Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland  
Faye Tudor – Local Centre Manager, University of Highlands and Islands  
Christopher Crawford – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Rodden Shaw – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Fiona Samuel – Rothesay Boys Brigade  
Lorna Bryden – Fyne Futures  
Sue Wallis – Volunteer Cowal South West Group  
Robert MacIntyre – Bute Community Council  
Mark Rowthorn – Ardentinny Community Council

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Alastair MacGregor – Argyll Community Housing Association;  
Ann Campbell – Dunoon Area Alliance;  
PC Laura Evans – Community Planning Partnership Officer;  
Iain Cameron – Station Commander SFRS; and  
Lucy Sumsion – National Farmers Union Scotland.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Audrey Forrest declared a non-financial interest in relation to item 5 (c) Community Learning Service Update and item 6 Community Learning Partnership Plan, as detailed on the published agenda, as a board member of Live Argyll. She claimed the benefit of the Standards Commission Dispensation as this is a Council appointment and advised that she would remain in the meeting and take part in the discussion and decision.

Councillor Jim Anderson declared a non-financial interest in relation to item 5 (c) Community Learning Service Update, as detailed on the published agenda, as a board

member of Live Argyll. He remained in the meeting and took no part in the discussion or the decision at this item.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **(a) Meeting of the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group held on 17 August 2021**

The minutes of the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group meeting held on Tuesday 17 August 2021 were approved as a correct record.

### **4. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Group considered a briefing note which provided an overview of the discussion which took place at the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee meeting on 29 September 2021.

#### **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group noted the briefing note.

(Reference: Briefing note by Committee Manager, dated 2 November 2021, submitted)

### **5. PARTNERS UPDATE**

#### **(a) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon - Q2 - 2021/22**

A report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) FQ2 review of local performance within Cowal, Isle of Bute and Dunoon for 2021-22 was considered by the Group.

Discussion focused on the way in which investigations are undertaken to establish the causes of fires and what public safety information had be issued to local residents.

#### **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group reviewed and noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Watch Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, submitted)

The Chair ruled, and the Group agreed, to change the order of business in order to facilitate partner attendance. The items were discussed in the order they appear in the minute.

### **6. COMMUNITY FOCUS - ROTHESAY BOYS BRIGADE**

The Group considered a presentation from Fiona Samuel on the activities of the Rothesay Boys Brigade, which is a volunteer-led Christian youth organisation with a focus on providing a safe place for young people to learn, grow and discover.

## **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. congratulated Fiona Samuel on an excellent presentation and thanked all those at Rothesay Boys Brigade on the good work done.

(Reference: Presentation by Fiona Samuel, Rothesay Boys Brigade, dated 2 November 2021, submitted)

## **7. PARTNERS UPDATE**

### **(a) Community Learning Service Update**

The Group considered an update from Argyll and Bute Council's Community Learning Service (CLS). The CLS detailed that they had moved back to Thematic remits for Adult Learning and Youth Services Work whilst continuing to engage and work with both Partners and Learners to establish and deliver support provision around identified needs and collective Partnership working.

## **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Community Learning and Development Assistant, dated 2 November 2021, submitted)

### **(b) Opportunity for verbal updates by Community Planning Partners**

#### Argyll College

Fay Tudor advised that the new academic year had started which was being held partially in person prioritised on a needs basis with the rest of students being supported remotely. The Group noted that there was a continuation of support for those in digital poverty such as students being provided with dongles and laptops; there was new staff in Rothesay; and an open day would take place in the coming weeks with details to be posted on their website.

#### Business Gateway

Barbara Halliday advised that the Business Gateway had supported businesses through the Scottish Government covid grant process for existing businesses as well as business start-ups. Barbara highlighted that those in the food, drink and tourism sector had a good summer and had adapted well during the pandemic but that some businesses were struggling with online competition and retaining and recruiting staff with Brexit continuing to impact on businesses involved in imports and exports. Due to the move to more digital ways of working the Group noted that Business Gateway was able to offer workshops delivered via webinars which had increased accessibility and they were able to offer more subjects compared to pre-pandemic, resulting in increases in their client base. This had culminated in customer satisfaction rates being above the Scottish Government's national average.

## Fyne Futures

Lorna Bryden advised that the second cohort had now began their 26 week programme which is a paid placement based on developing horticultural skills. The placement follows a formalised personal development plan with work experience placements and volunteering opportunities.

## **8. COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP PLAN**

The Group considered a report on the on the development of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 and noted that if partners wished to link into the CLD they are invited to email [CLD@liveargyll.co.uk](mailto:CLD@liveargyll.co.uk)

### **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group:

1. noted the content of the new plan and acknowledged clear synergy between the identified Community Learning and Development priorities and those of the Community Planning Partnership; and
2. recognised the importance of community capacity building support and the need for partners to focus Community Learning and Development activity on the most disadvantaged communities.

(Reference: Report by Business Development Manager, dated 2 November 2021, submitted)

## **PARTNERS UPADTE**

### **(a) Skills Development Scotland - Data Set for Young People in Argyll and Bute**

The Group considered a presentation by Susan MacRae, Area Manager for Skills Development Scotland on school leaver destinations for 16 to 19-year-olds in Scotland who were participating in education, training or employment between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Discussion focussed on ensuring that support and opportunities for all young people was maintained when they leave education.

### **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group noted the presentation.

(Reference: Presentation by Susan MacRae, Area Manager, dated 2 November 2021, submitted)

## **9. FARMING UPDATE**

Lucy Sumsion - National Farmers Union Scotland, had submitted her apologies and the Group agreed to continue the item.

## **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group noted the position and agreed to continue the item.

### **10. CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Committee Manager highlighted items that were discussed at the Climate Change Working Group held on Friday 10 September 2021 and the minutes of that meeting were circulated to the Group.

The Group noted that Bute would be featured as island of the month by the Scottish Island Federation due to its response to climate change and discussion focused on how festivals and events, such as bonfire night, can be supported whilst ensuring any carbon issues are augmented.

## **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group noted the position.

### **11. COVID-19 AND LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

The Committee Manager opened a discussion on covid-19 resilience and stated that suggestions had been submitted from:

1. Anne Campbell (Dunoon Area Alliance) who suggested that the Group consider the model set up by Bute Resilience Group and ask them for their views on how their volunteer training and links with emergency services had prepared them for the covid challenge; and how Scotland's Regeneration Network (SURF) gathered over 150 examples of community responses to lockdown from across Scotland; and
2. Sue Wallis who highlighted the Volunteer Cowal South West organisation - <https://www.facebook.com/Volunteer-Cowal-South-West-104145671239460/> which was a group of about 65 volunteers who were mainly involved in delivering prescriptions from the GP surgery to patients. This service had saved the surgery having to deal with this difficult aspect when they had enough adapting to do. The Group had ran for over a year with funding being received for travel costs and for PPE. It also meant there was a known Group of people for any other tasks that needed doing quickly. Even though this Group is not as active now they remain in place if required.

## **Decision**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group agreed to invite the Bute Resilience Group, Scotland's Regeneration Network and Volunteer Cowal South West to present updates on their organisations' long-term community resilience to a future meeting.

### **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group would take place at 10.00am on Tuesday 1 February 2022 with venue details to be confirmed in due course.