

Crinan Canal Charrette Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update on the Crinan Canal Charrette – Rethink the Link – which was held on 27-30 April 2016 at various locations across Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig, Cairnbaan and Crinan. Information, including films documenting the event can be found at

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/regeneration/charrettes/re-think-the-link-crinan-corridor-charrette/>.

1.2 The main issues coming out of the charrette related to:

- Better walking and cycling connections between Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig and the Canal;
- More signage to and from the Canal;
- More local events;
- Opportunities relating to enhanced marine tourism and arts and cultural facilities;
- Public realm improvements;
- Key opportunity sites where there development or redevelopment could secure improved facilities and environment.

1.3 An action plan summarising the ideas generated is being developed.

1.4 It is recommended that the Mid Argyll Partnership notes the content of this report.

Crinan Canal Charrette Update

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report provides an update on the Crinan Canal Charrette which has been previously reported to the Mid Argyll Partnership. The charrette event – Rethink the Link – was held on 27-30 April 2016 at various locations across Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig, Cairnbaan and Crinan.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Mid Argyll Partnership notes the content of this report.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 As previously reported to the Mid Argyll Partnership, Rethink the Link was a partnership event hosted by Scottish Canals and Argyll and Bute Council with a focus on maximizing the benefit of the Crinan Canal to the local area.

4.2 During the course of the four day event more than 200 participants took part in addition to the 25 children from five local primary schools and local residents who engaged with the pre-charrette activities and awareness raising. Further information, including films documenting the event can be found at <https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/regeneration/charrettes/re-think-the-link-crinan-corridor-charrette/>.

4.3 The main issues coming out of the charrette related to:

- Better walking and cycling connections between Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig and the Canal;
- More signage to and from the Canal;
- More local events;
- Opportunities relating to enhanced marine tourism and arts and cultural facilities;
- Public realm improvements;
- Key opportunity sites where there development or redevelopment could secure improved facilities and environment.

4.4 Following the event, the charrette team consolidated the ideas generated over

the four days to produce a report outlining the event and a draft action plan. This information is to be shared with the local communities at feedback events being planned for 24/25 June 2016.

- 4.5 Moving forward we hope to maintain the momentum of the charrette by developing a delivery group to involve local community groups as well as Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Canals. Ideas generated by the charrette will feed into the potential projects to be considered for support through the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Crinan Canal Charrette has been successfully completed but the implementation of the action plan summarising the aspirations from the charrette will require continued support of the communities along the canal corridor as well as Scottish Canals and other partners.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – supports Single Outcome Agreement, Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP), MAKI area EDAP and Local Development Plan objectives.
- 6.2 Financial – the Council contributed financially to the running of the charrette. Decisions on any financial support to the action plan have yet to be made.
- 6.3 Legal – none.
- 6.4 HR – staff resource supported the charrette and will be required to support the implementation of the action plan.
- 6.5 Equalities – none.
- 6.6 Risk – none.
- 6.7 Customer Service – none.

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