

Management Committee

Date: 18 September 2019

Agenda Item:



Area Community Planning Groups

1. Purpose

This paper presents key matters arising during the Area Community Planning Group meetings held in August 2019. These meetings looked at a range of local and strategic matters in respect of the outcomes within the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan.

2. Recommendations

The Management Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the Highlights detailed at 4.0, and,
- b) Action an appropriate response to the concerns raised by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands CPG in relation to action MAK112, specifically the difficulty in obtaining information around the outstanding speed surveys – particularly from the Council department with responsibility for carrying these out.

3.0 Background

There are four Area Community Planning Groups, one in each of the Council's administrative areas (Bute and Cowal; Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands; Helensburgh and Lomond; and Oban Lorn and the Isles). In accordance with decisions made by the Management Committee in June 2017 the groups are supported by staff from the community planning and community development team in all areas, with administrative and governance support for meetings provided by the Committee Services team in Bute and Cowal, Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands and Oban Lorn & The Isles, and by Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland in Helensburgh and Lomond.

Area Community Planning Groups meet quarterly to discuss issues of importance relevant to the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) at a local level.

4.0 Highlights

All groups considered:

- The Management Committee update,
- Update on Place Standard Consultation, and
- the Area Community Planning Action Plan – Tracker

Highlights from specific meetings were as follows:

Bute & Cowal

Alison McKerracher, Locality Manager Cowal & Bute, Argyll & Bute HSCP, updated the Group on the developments at Cowal Community Hospital. The Group heard that interviews for doctors were scheduled for the end of August 2019 and that a bed modelling exercise is being explored. The Group further noted that the first meetings of the new Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) had been held in June.

Ann Campbell, Dunoon Area Alliance, highlighted that in June various agencies were involved in an informal networking event in Dunoon and that a cycling initiative was being developed. The Group noted that on 21 August 2019 at the Queens Hall an event looking at the results of research into outdoor activity spaces in Dunoon would be held.

Ms Campbell also outlined the work of two recently established groups, Dunoon in Bloom and Dunoon and Cowal Coworks. Dunoon in Bloom had been established to develop a rose garden, while Dunoon and Cowal Coworks, had been set-up to research the needs of freelance workers, home based enterprises and micro enterprises. It is hoped that this project may assist in reversing the de-population of the local area.

Under the item on Community Focus, the Group heard from Peter Baxter, Benmore Botanic Garden. Mr Baxter highlighted the importance of the extensive native and international plant collections and how these were a major tourist attraction within Cowal.

There were also a number of interesting presentations including from Colin McMillian concerning a social enterprise accelerator programme called LaunchMe and from Dunoon Grammar School.

The Pupils delivered a presentation showcasing the school's visit to Costa Rica for a month where they were heavily involved in many tasks such as assisting locals with conservation work with leatherback turtles. The pupils also assisted a local primary school by redecorating some classrooms. The pupils explained how this work was

both physically demanding and rewarding as it left behind a lasting, positive impact on the area and how the experience and skills learnt helped boost their confidence and resilience.

Helensburgh & Lomond

Department for Work & pensions advised that they would soon be starting an Employability Hub in Helensburgh and that they would be looking for local employers to become part of mentoring circles for young people aged 16 to 24.

Helensburgh Youth Forum spoke to the fact that their national campaign for the coming year was on environmental protection. The Big Day Out is scheduled for Tuesday 13th August with 100 young people across Argyll and Bute planned to attend.

Garelohead Station Trust advised that they had now gained charitable status as a registered SCIO and that funding had been secured towards redevelopment of the building which will hopefully start next year. They also gave an update on various activities that had been provided by the Trust including Walk Leader Training, ASIST training and bike maintenance.

Plastic Free Helensburgh gave a presentation outlining the work and ambition of the newly formed Plastic Free Helensburgh group. Kirsty Moyes, Community Development Officer, is working with the group.

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

The meeting was held in the Inveraray Inn with video conference links in place with the Burnet Building, Campbeltown and the Service Point, Islay.

The current Chair, Andy Buntin, had reached the end of his current term as Chair and the Group was asked to consider a new appointment. It was agreed that Ian Brodie, East Kintyre Community Council would take on the position for a period of 2 years and Andy Buntin was appointed as Vice-Chair for a period of 1 year to allow a smooth transition. A training session will be organised for Ian prior to him taking the Chair at the next meeting of the Group.

The highlight report from the Management Committee was noted and in particular the feedback in relation to the operation of the Locality Planning Groups. It was agreed that a report would be requested after a year of the operation of these groups to see how the processes are working and to have feedback on the communication in general.

The Group considered the update on the progress of the Area Action Plan and noted that they would like to see a bit more detail in future reports around what has been done in terms of each action. It was noted that in relation to action MAKI12 there had been difficulty in obtaining information around the outstanding speed surveys –

particularly from the Council department with responsibility for carrying these out. It was agreed that this would be highlighted to the Management Committee with a view to understanding what these difficulties were.

The Group also heard a number of interesting presentations from Lucy Sumsion (National Farmers Union Scotland), Jonathan Hart (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) and Mid Argyll Youth Forum.

Concerns were raised by the Group over the lack of attendance at the meeting by partners and also the reliability of the video conferencing equipment with those in the remote locations commenting that it was difficult to play a full part in the meeting. The Area Committee Manager agreed to look at future arrangements and venues for the meetings and to see what could be done to improve the connections available.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles

Although it was a quieter meeting in terms of attendance than normal (possibly due to the schools still being on holiday) there was still good discussion at the meeting and information sharing from the partners present.

Matters discussed of note for the Management Committee are in regard to road closures with an outcome being taken for the Road Policing Unit to look at ways to increase the public awareness about the timescales that can often be involved following an RTC.

A request was made to Scottish Water to extend their camper van waste water disposal pilot into the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area and; the Group had a first look at project work being undertaken and in the planning for active travel projects in the OLI area, it being agreed to continue this to the next meeting when increased attendance was anticipated.

In terms of local participation the Group received a very informative presentation from Eleanor MacKinnon of the Rockfield Community Centre advising that the centre is on track to reach their targeted £3m in funding and highlighting the positive social and economic impact that the centre has had since the trust took ownership in May 2015.

4.1 Further Actions

It is requested that the Management Committee action an appropriate response to the concerns raised by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands CPG in relation to action MAKI12, specifically the difficulty in obtaining information around the outstanding speed surveys – particularly from the Council department with responsibility for carrying these out.

5.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	Meetings of the Area Community Planning Group held in August covered various Outcomes.
Consultations	No prior circulation of this report.
Resources	No direct resource implications however consideration of the issues raised and following courses of action may have a knock on effect on finance and/or staff resource
Prevention	Contributes to the prevention agenda
Equalities	Contributes toward reducing inequalities

For More Information:

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References: n/a

Appendices: n/a