

## Management Committee

Date: 04 December 2019

Agenda Item:



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### Area Community Planning Groups

#### 1. Purpose

This paper presents key matters arising during the Area Community Planning Group meetings held in November 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) Note the concerns raised by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands CPG concerning the recurring non-attendance of Skills Development Scotland.

#### 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,
- the Area Community Planning Action Plan – Tracker

Highlights from specific meetings were as follows:

### **Bute & Cowal**

The Group gave consideration to a presentation from Colin Boag, Managing Director, Mount Stuart Trust.

Mr Boag introduced a number of commercial projects and initiatives that the Trust were undertaking, all of which were focused on adding social and economic value to Bute. It was anticipated that the Trust will have established a brewery, distillery, restaurant and a dairy on the Island by the Easter weekend 2020.

Mr Boag spoke of the many raw materials that were available on Bute and that the Trust had a renewed focus on adding value to these before they were exported as well as diversifying the local economy. This, he felt, would help secure long term employment on the Island. Discussions also took place on the opportunities offered by the Trust to young people to gain skills in horticulture and timber management.

The Chair introduced the Islands Revival Declaration that had resulted from discussions at the 2 day Islands revival workshop. Mrs Russell outlined how other island groups in Scotland had sought to address population decline and what lessons could be learnt by Argyll and Bute.

Under the item on Community Focus, the Group heard from Isobel Strong, Baird of Bute Society. Ms Strong highlighted the activities of the Society and how they aim to inspire young people's interest in science, technology, electronics and mathematics through information events and the uptake of scholarships which are open to applicants from schools across Scotland.

There were also a number of interesting presentations including students from Rothesay Joint Campus. The Pupil Council explained that their role was to maintain order and fun within the school. This role requires a great deal of leadership, hard work, dedication and patience both inside and outside of the school timetable. The Pupil Council work alongside the senior leadership team at the Academy as well as other captains from schools across Argyll and Bute and have supported various projects, including organising a dedication to two, world war memorial benches and hosting multiple events within the school such as discos and charity events.

The Group agreed that the students would make great candidates for Community Councils and encouraged them to consider participating.

### **Helensburgh & Lomond**

The Group noted thanks to Stuart McLean of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who had resigned after the 3 years as Chair. Following Stuarts resignation the Group appointed Laura Cameron (Gibson Hall) as Chair and Albert Bruce (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) as Vice Chair.

Vivien Dance from Helensburgh Chamber of Commerce provided an overview of the Town Audit, which was undertaken in conjunction with the recent Making Places Consultation. The Group welcomed the presentation and invited the Chamber of Commerce to attend the Group more regularly.

Helensburgh Community Council reported that a Living Well event would be held on 11th January 2020. The aim of the day would be to look at and focus on long term wellbeing and related activities. Garelochhead Community Council reported that they were investigating the possibility of introducing the 3 Lochs Way into the village, which, it is anticipated would bring huge benefits.

The Group also received a presentation from Katrina Sayer from Jeans Bothy. Katrina introduced the new Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub in Helensburgh which Enable Scotland were the lead partner for. The Hub provides services to anyone over 16 years of age who wants to improve their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

### **Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands**

The meeting was held in the Community Centre in Campbeltown with a video conference link in place with the Council Offices, Kilmory.

There was some feedback from those in attendance that the quality of the sound from the portable speaker was not acceptable. It was agreed that the Committee Manager would investigate options for a more powerful speaker system for use at future meetings.

There were a few new members of Community Councils in attendance at the meeting and it was agreed that the Community Planning Partnership Welcome Pack would be circulated round Community Councils to give them an overview of what Community Planning entails.

In relation to the Action Plan update, it was noted that MAKI12 continues to be classed as not on track. The Committee Manager agreed to progress with officers to see if an update can be provided.

The Group heard interesting presentations from Yvonne Angus, ACHA who provided an update on their work in MAKI and also from the Kintyre Youth Forum who spoke about their recent international youth exchange trip.

Skills Development Scotland were due to be in attendance at the meeting, having agreed to provide an update due to non-attendance at the August meeting. Unfortunately administrative staff were unable to make contact with the local representative to confirm if they would be attending. The Group were unhappy that this was the second meeting where there had been no one in attendance and asked that this be highlighted to the Management Committee.

The Group heard from partners with updates from their respective organisations. John Barbour, Chair of the Farmer Buyout Steering Group for the Campbeltown Creamery was also in attendance and provided an update on the current position. The Group noted the concerns of the community around the closure of the Creamery, particularly given the recent news about job losses at CS Wind.

Neil McFarlane from Transport Scotland spoke to the Group about the works which are ongoing in relation to the A83. He highlighted a number of projects which are currently being undertaken and also advised that there was no objection in principle to speed surveys being agreed on parts of the A83. He also advised that any suggestions for improvement works were welcomed by Transport Scotland.

### **Oban, Lorn and the Isles**

The Group gave consideration to a presentation from Maggie Melville which introduced the background and aims of the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) programme. Introduced 6 years ago the DYW aims to help young people attain the right skills and experiences to move from education into employment.

Keith Miller, Oban Community Council, reported that as part of the Community Empowerment Act (2015) a participation request had been submitted by Oban Community Council to Argyll and Bute Council concerning the existing traffic management and parking fee structures within Oban. Mr Miller reported that positive discussions had been held and that further discussions were planned to explore a fair and reasonable solution.

Aideen Shields, Kerrera Community Trust, introduced the aims of objectives of the Trust, of which the principal aims were road development and improvement,

specifically a road to link the north and the south of the Island, ensuring the ferry service meets the needs of islanders and the establishment of a community facility.

Kerrera Community Trust have recently purchased the old primary school building and are currently funding raising for its renovation. Ms Shields reported that the successful renovation would provide a fit-for-purpose community facility, which would offer a venue for all islanders, as well as providing facilities for visitors.

Rachel Lawlor a student at Oban High School and member of North Argyll Youth Forum introduced some of the activities that she had helped to organise since becoming a member of the Forum such as a beech clean. It was reported that the Youth Forum are currently future proofing its aims and objectives and will also be undertaking a consultation exercise with pupils in S1 to S3 to identify what support they require, both in and out with school.

#### 4.1 Further Actions

It is requested that the Management Committee note the report and the concerns raised by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Group concerning the recurring non-attendance of Skills Development Scotland

#### 5.0 Implications

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| Strategic Implications | Meetings of the Area Community Planning Group held in November 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