

## BUTE AND COWAL PILOT

### PROGRESS TO DATE AND WAY FORWARD

The following report briefly outlines progress to date with implementing the Bute and Cowal pilot and also highlights some issues arising from experience so far and proposed solutions.

The Community Planning Partnership is invited to discuss the report and endorse the proposed way forward.

#### Meetings to date:

Bute and Cowal Area Partnership: 2 meetings held to date (NOTE: Name has changed from Area Partnership Forum to Area Partnership due to name clash with NHS groups)

Level 1 Support Staff: 1 meeting held to date

#### Issues with regard to Level 1:

- Confusion over the structure (especially areas within and outwith the National Park)
- Structure is perceived as unwieldly and under-resourced
- Task of creating and supporting Level 1 groups is greater than the resources available - more resources will be necessary or the programme changed if this task is to be carried out effectively
- Community Futures funding is limited and, after April 2005, funding will only be available for areas within the National Park
- No feedback from Area Partnership meeting
- Dunoon ADG not keen to expand boundaries to include other areas of Dunoon
- Community activists are keen to become involved and commit time but structure not ready to accommodate them at this stage
- In areas outwith the Pilot, communities are keen to become involved but have no structure to feed into (relates to areas where Argyll CVS have funding to develop community links with community planning)
- Concerns over the lack of publicity of the Pilot and Community Planning in general
- Resignation of the CVS Level 1 Support Staff representative for Cowal as she felt her personal credibility and the credibility of the CVS was being undermined by the issues outlined above

#### The following way forward agreed by the Area Partnership and endorsed by the Management Committee:

- That in view of limited resources no new Level 1 structures be formed but that existing structures such as Community Councils, Community Care Forums, etc. be used in areas where gaps are identified (Dunoon outwith ADG, West Cowal, etc.)

- That Level 1 Support Staff identify appropriate Community Representatives to sit on the Area Partnership (and that whilst they do this they participate in the Area Partnership meetings to facilitate communication)
- That publicity be put on hold until the Area Partnership has something concrete to promote. In the meantime, Level 1 Support Staff will be given a briefing sheet from which to work (to give them information to address common questions and to ensure that there is a consistent approach across all areas)
- That Community Representatives be paid childcare, travel expenses, etc. from the CPP budget allocated for this purpose as no funds were volunteered by partners. If this budget is spent, partners will have to top-up the budget as part of their annual contributions
- That George MacKenzie and Lolita Lavery to meet with Level 1 Support Staff to discuss an appropriate way forward