

## Management Committee

Date: 10 March 2021

Agenda Item:



---

### Area Community Planning Groups – February 2021 Meetings

#### 1. Purpose

This paper presents key matters arising during the Area Community Planning Group meetings that were held virtually in February 2021.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Management Committee is asked to:

- a) note the Highlights detailed at 4.0; and
- b) consider what measures can be taken to ensure youth engagement with the Groups in future.

#### 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.

These meetings were the second round to be held on a virtual basis. Prior to the meetings discussion took place with the 4 Area Chairs/Vice Chairs and a standard agenda template was agreed. There was good attendance at all 4 meetings by a variety of partners.

## 4.0 Highlights

All groups considered:

- CPP Management Committee Update.
- Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements
- Covid-19 stay at home guidance
- UK Withdrawal from the EU
- Update on A83

All groups were also given a demonstration on Basecamp which was well received. Invites to use the system have now been issued to those partners who have expressed interest.

Cristie Moore, the Council's Gaelic Development Worker attended the MAKI and Helensburgh and Lomond meetings and provided an update on the work that she will be carrying out to support the promotion and usage of the Gaelic language. She will be attending the Oban Lorn and the Isles and Bute and Cowal meetings in May.

Highlights from specific meetings were as follows:

### **Bute & Cowal**

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group agreed to elect Willie Lynch (Dunoon Community Council) and Charles Dixon-Spain (ColGlen Community Council) as Chair and Vice Chair of the Group respectively for the next two year period.

Colglen Community Council advised that they had successfully received £31,000 via two rounds of funding. The money will be used to cover the cost of mileage for volunteers involved with prescription and food delivery associated with their resilience work and for an open air space for the community to access during restrictions.

Rural and Operations Director and Building and Facilities Manager from Mount Stuart Trust updated the Group on the issues faced by their business, particularly in regard to exporting their produce, since the UK's withdrawal from the EU. They advised that the dairy, beef and sheep business was very strong but they were cautious about the future which will be monitored closely.

The Group considered a report which outlined the housing supply and demand activity within the Bute and Cowal area. Discussion focussed on the need to be

cautious about putting excessive demand on existing infrastructure, such as schools, required to support new houses.

### **Helensburgh & Lomond**

Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, gave an overview of upcoming works to be completed on the Trunk Road network and an update on the A83. Questions had been submitted to Neil in advance of the meeting and these were dealt with, to the satisfaction of those attending. In particular it was mentioned that Transport Scotland were working with the council and the National Park to look at potential solutions to parking within Arrochar and along the A83 and were keen to work with the community and local businesses with this.

John Lewis, Males Tales, provided the Group with information around the background of Males Tales and their work supporting males with their mental health since the creation of the group in November 2019. Support is available through various different avenues, including group peer support, one-to-one peer support and a buddy system. Information was provided around a number of activities undertaken by the group, including the sponsorship of a local football team; the hosting of a Christmas day event to combat loneliness; the launch of a Males Tales website (<https://www.malestales.co.uk/>); early discussions with a submarine service charity around supporting veterans and submariners in the area; and seeking funding to ensure that the group remained sustainable. John confirmed that a Females Tales group would be launched in the summer, having recruited a number of female volunteers who were undergoing training. John advised that he ensured that he and all peer support workers went above and beyond the basic requirements for training.

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

A number of partners were in attendance and provided updates to the Group – these included Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Scottish Ambulance Service and Transport Scotland. A number of written updates were also provided.

The Group considered a report on informal camping which had been requested and was seen as a key area of concern in the MAKI Area. The Group noted the work that is ongoing and that a report would be submitted to the MAKI Area Committee in March.

The Group considered the information which had been provided in terms of the Management Committee update and specifically the concerns over attendance at the Group meetings. A number of issues were discussed and it was agreed that a survey of members would be carried out to identify any barriers to attendance and

how what could be done to improve participation. This survey was issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and the results will be reported to the next meeting in May.

It was also noted that members could nominate a substitute to attend and this has been confirmed to all Group members by e-mail.

The Group also highlighted the importance of having youth engagement at the meetings and agreed that this should be forwarded to the Management Committee for further discussion.

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

The Oban Lorn & the Isles Community Planning Group agreed to appoint Kevin Champion from Oban High School and Rachel Lawlor from North Argyll Youth Forum, as Chair and Vice Chair of the Group respectively for the next two year period.

Crossroads North Argyll reported that they had been successful in securing funding from Independent Age and The Community Recovery Fund to provide free respite for unpaid carers in Oban and Lorn and to develop a free respite pilot on the islands of Coll, Tiree and Mull.

North Argyll Carers Centre advised that since lockdown doorstep visits had ceased and that these had been replaced with telephone and Zoom calls. Carers have been offering extended networks of support including the creation of intergenerational groups with activities such as a Knitting Bee which had been nominated for an award. The roll out of vaccinations for paid for carers was underway and they were looking to secure more funding for alternative respite options for carers.

Hope Kitchen advised that the food bank is now serving 120 people, up from 20 pre-pandemic. They commended the great partnership working in developing the Caring for People care line and the Flexible Food Fund in combatting food insecurity coupled with welfare visits. Hope Kitchen have also developed an online mental health directory in conjunction with Mental Health Forum.

Living Well advised that the network of monthly Zoom meetings with the islands continues to be productive and helpful and they hope to continue with this format when lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Police Scotland advised that they were planning for a busy summer with an influx of visitors expected and they were recruiting officers to manage prisoners in Oban Custody Centre along with two summer secondments.

Lorn Healthy Options advised that their charity helps people with long term physical and mental health issues by offering a 12 week programme which combines one-to-one fitness sessions with self-management by helping people to manage their conditions and live life to the fullest and build links back into the community. They

advised that during the first six months of the pandemic they took over 2,000 calls and offered videoed personalised support. They are part funded by the HSCP as well as other third sector organisations and employ 5.5 full time equivalent staff and are currently promoting a fund raising campaign.

#### 4.1 Further Actions

It is requested that the Management Committee note the report and the successful meetings held in February 2021.

The Management Committee are asked to consider what measures can be taken to ensure youth engagement with the Groups in future as highlighted by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group.

#### 5.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	Meetings of the Area Community Planning Group held in February 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:

Shona Barton, Committee Manager, [shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**References:** n/a

**Appendices:** n/a