

Management Committee

Date: 30 September 2021

Agenda Item:



Area Community Planning Groups – August 2021 Meetings

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

The Management Committee is asked to:

- a) note the Highlights detailed at section 4 of the report;
- b) note the outcome of the discussions on climate change; and
- c) note the position with relation to the various Chair and Vice-Chair roles which remain vacant as outlined at section 4.2.

3. 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).

All meetings were held on a virtual basis using Microsoft Teams. 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. Highlights

All groups considered:

- CPP Management Committee Update
- Area Community Planning Action Plan Update

- Climate Change Working Group

Highlights from specific meetings were as follows:

Bute & Cowal

Police Inspector (PI) John Forrest introduced himself as the new Community Inspector. PI Forrest advised on key activities of Police Scotland which included personnel change, response to easing of lockdown restrictions, the upcoming COP26 Climate Change Conference, fraud prevention, online child exploitation, road policing and bike marking.

There was some discussion on policing levels and local issues on Bute. PI Forrest advised partners that there had been resource issues due to absences, however it was reported that a number of officers would shortly be returning, coupled with 3 new officers scheduled to join in September would improve the situation.

Ann Campbell, Dunoon Area Alliance advised that the Dunoon Community Development Trust had been established to build on the endeavours of Dunoon Area Alliance, while focusing on community led environmental and sustainability projects. An AGM would be organised once membership was at the appropriate level.

Jim Osbourne, on behalf of the Bute Island Alliance (BIA), confirmed that those interested in securing the long term future of Ardenraig Gardens had been in dialogue with Council Officers and that these discussions had led to the formation of Ardenraig Gardens Interest Group (AGIG). The AGIG had consequently undertaken a survey regarding the long term aspirations for visitors to the gardens which had generated over 1000 responses. Partners noted that preliminary findings suggest that revenue could be created by the introduction of an admission and membership/friends of society fee and the reopening of the café.

Fyne Futures also provided an update on how their activities are focused on reducing the Isle of Bute carbon footprint through provision of low carbon goods and services.

Helensburgh & Lomond

The Group heard a number of interesting updates from those in attendance, noting that many of the local organisations were resuming activities.

For the Community Focus item, Heather Munro from Cardross Climate Action Network (CardrossCAN) provided an interesting presentation on the work of the group. She noted that they hold monthly Zoom meetings with relevant speakers and

have built up a network linking people with similar interests and creating various project groups.

The Chair facilitated a discussion around future Community Focus items and suggestions were made by the Group. It was agreed that contact would be made with local community groups and Community Councils to try to engage them in attending the ACPG.

As part of the item on Climate Change, the Group heard updates from Plastic Free Helensburgh and Time for Change Argyll and Bute on the work that is ongoing in the area. It was agreed that Climate Change would be a standing item on the agenda going forward.

Following the recent tragic incidents on Loch Lomond, the Chair led a discussion around water safety. The details of partnership working in the area were discussed as was the benefits of increased water safety signage. It was noted that due to the pandemic there was a larger than usual waiting list for swimming lessons and it was agreed that contact would be made with Live Argyll for further information.

The Chair took the opportunity to give thanks to all those in attendance for their hard work which had taken place throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, advising that all efforts were very much appreciated. He also paid tribute to the previous Chair, Laura Cameron and to Samantha Somers who had recently moved to another post.

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

A number of partners were in attendance and provided updates to the Group.

Joan Stewart from Shopper Aide provided the Group with a very interesting presentation which outlined the work that Shopper Aide had undertaken in the last period and particularly focused on the work undertaken as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. A number of new initiatives had been started and services were delivered across Kintyre to a large number of clients. Joan advised that the service had been nominated for the Queen's volunteering award with the presentation of the award taking place in September.

Don McKillop from Caledonian MacBrayne was in attendance and provided a verbal update to the Group on the current position with Calmac services. It was noted that the full summer timetable was now operational for the first time since 2019, but that Covid was still proving to be challenging for operations due to high numbers of positive cases amongst staff. Discussion took place on vessel reliability with particular reference to the Campbeltown route which had suffered with cancellations and unreliable service – Don noted the concerns of the Group.

Lucy Sumsion from the National Farmers Union provided the Group with a presentation which gave information around the impacts of Brexit and current affairs on farming activities. It was noted that many of the impacts of Brexit had been clouded or compounded by the impact of Covid-19 and the effects of both were difficult to disentangle across a number of sectors. Lucy advised that some noticeable effects of Brexit locally included labour shortages and an increase in costs of materials, machinery and parts.

The Group considered the appointment of a Chair as the current Chair had served a term of 2 years as outlined in the Terms of Reference. There being only one nomination, Ian Brodie was confirmed as Chair for a further 2 year period. The Group also noted that Rachel Whyte had stood down from her position as Vice-Chair and considered the appointment of a replacement. There were no nominations so this will be considered at the next meeting in November 2021.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles

Rachel Lawlor the Vice-Chair of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group intimated that she wished to resign from this position. Consequently, the group will be asked to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chair at their next meeting on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service submitted their quarterly update and highlighted their recent fundraising events for charities such as the Anthony Nolan Trust which included engaging with high schools to encourage pupils to become involved with the project. Partners were encouraged to respond to the public consultation on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) which is open until 11 October 2021 and could be accessed via the SFRS website -

<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/consultations/ufas-consultation.aspx>

Carol Flett reported that The Islands Living Well Network had chosen emotional and mental wellbeing, education, prevention and early intervention on alcohol and drugs and child poverty to be their priorities for the year. Carol Flett advised that membership levels continue to fluctuate and that they are keen to make contact with anyone on Mull who would like to join. It was noted that the Flexible Food Fund Roadshow would soon be going to Mull, Iona, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay.

The Group gave consideration to an update from the North Argyll Carers Centre which provided detail on how they had been able to carry out a phased return to face to face support with carers at their centre on Albany Street; how they were able to offer activities for groups of young and adult carers outdoors; and how they ran a number of activities as part of Carers Week which raised awareness of carers' roles, issues and the support they can offer.

4.1 Climate Change Working Group and Area Community Planning Groups

Following on from the last Management Committee where there had been a request for input into the Climate Change Working Group from the Area Community Planning Groups, a briefing was circulated for discussion by all Groups with a number of actions requested. Following the meeting a short paper was prepared and circulated to Stan Philips, Chair of the Climate Change Working Group for inclusion on the next agenda of the Group. The paper outlines the discussions at each Area Community Planning Group and advises on appointments of local representatives for each area, with the exception of Oban, Lorn and the Isles who continued discussion of the item to their next meeting. A copy of the paper is attached to this report for information.

4.2 Further Actions

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

The Management Committee is also asked to note the feedback from the Area Groups in relation to the request from the Climate Change Working Group.

The Management Committee is asked to note that:-

- (a) Ian Brodie has been appointed as Chair of the MAKI ACPG for a further 2 year term;
- (b) The appointment of a Vice-Chair for the MAKI ACPG has been continued to the November meeting;
- (c) The appointment of a Chair for the Helensburgh and Lomond ACPG has been continued to the November meeting; and
- (d) The appointment of a Vice-Chair for the OLI ACPG has been continued to the November meeting.

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

Appendix: Area Community Planning Groups – Input to Climate Change Working Group

**Area Community Planning Groups – input to Climate Change Working
Group**

Summary

At the meetings of the Area Community Planning Groups held in August, consideration was given to what input could be provided to the Climate Change Working Group. Each Area Group was asked to nominate a representative and a substitute to join the Working Group and to provide feedback on areas of action and suggestions for the ACT Now interactive map. This report details those discussions across all of the 4 Area Groups.

1. Detail

Following discussion at the Climate Change Working Group and at the CPP Management Committee, the Area Community Planning Groups met in August 2021 and discussed a briefing which asked them to consider the following:-

Areas of discussion for the Climate Change Working Group
Suggestions for inclusion on the ACT Now Interactive Map
The appointment of representatives from each Group to the Working Group.

The Groups all had good engagement in regard to the topic. The discussion from the Groups is detailed below:-

Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group

Suggested topics for the Working Group:-

- the need to develop a horticulturally trained workforce;
- the need to minimise the transportation of goods and services;
- the part that Argyll and Bute can play in the hydrogen economy;
- the need for suitable electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and
- greater digital connectivity for all.

Suggestions for the ACT Now Interactive Map

Glendaruel and Colintrave polytunnels

Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group

Suggested topics for the Working Group:-

Cyclepath from Dumbarton to Helensburgh and around the peninsula
Inclusion of climate change as an implication on Council reports

Suggestions for the ACT Now Interactive Map

Time for Change Argyll and Bute, Cardross CAN and Plastic Free Helensburgh already included. The Group to forward on any other suggestions.

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group

Suggested topics for the Working Group

Improved cycle routes across the area to encourage active travel
Public transport and making it more viable to cut down emissions

Suggestions for the ACT Now Interactive Map

The Group to forward on any suggestions.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group

Suggested topics for the Working Group

No suggestions provided.

Suggestions for the ACT Now Interactive Map

No Plastic Straws in Oban was a school initiative which saw pupils lobby local businesses

Refill a water bottle refill scheme app used by Argyll College - <https://www.refill.org.uk/about/#:~:text=Refill%20is%20mainly%20an%20%E2%80%98on%20the%20go%E2%80%99%20app,search%20for%20online%20retailers%20that%20offer%20home%20delivery>

Re-tech an organisation that supplies a large metal cabinet to place in offices to re-cycle electronic goods used by Argyll College

an Ardfern community initiative aimed at helping re-populate the sea bed (link to Channel 4 News item <https://www.channel4.com/news/the-argyll-community-fighting-to-save-a-small-part-of-the-ocean-one-oyster-at-a-time>)

the Moleigh Recycling Centre

2. Appointments of Area Representatives to the Climate Change Working Group

The Groups were asked to consider appointing a representative (and a substitute) from each area to become involved with the Working Group.

The following appointments were made;-

Bute and Cowal	
Representative	Substitute
Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council	Charles Dixon-Spain,
Helensburgh and Lomond	
Representative	Substitute
Angela Anderson, Plastic Free Helensburgh/Time for Change Argyll	Sarah Davies, Helensburgh Community Council
Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands	
Representative	Substitute
Ian Brodie, East Kintyre Community Council	Councillor Anne Horn
Oban, Lorn and the Isles	
Representative	Substitute
No appointment made – continued to next meeting	No appointment made – continued to next meeting

For further information please contact:

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