

Management Committee

Date: 16 March 2022

Agenda Item:



Area Community Planning Groups – February 2022 Meetings

1. Purpose

This paper presents key matters arising during the Area Community Planning Group meetings that were held virtually in February 2022.

2. Recommendations

The Management Committee is asked to:

- a) note the Highlights detailed at section 4 of the report;
- b) note the position with relation to the various Chair and Vice-Chair roles as outlined at section 4.1; and
- c) that the next round of meetings will be held in late April in advance of the Local Government Elections on 5th May 2022.

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 Area Chairs and 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
- Climate Change

Minutes from the latest meeting of the Climate Change Working Group were provided as a basis for discussion.

- Governance Reports

The annual review of the Terms of Reference and the Membership of each Group was considered at all 4 meetings. Dates of future meetings were also provided and it was agreed to have meetings in late April prior to the Local Government Elections which are taking place on 5th May 2022. Work has already commenced on the preparation for these meetings.

Highlights from specific meetings were as follows:

Bute & Cowal

Following the resignation of the Chair, Willie Lynch, the Group appointed Charles Dixon-Spain as the new Chair with the appointment of a Vice-Chair to be considered at the next meeting.

Lucy Sumsion from the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) was in attendance and provided an update on farming in Argyll. Discussion took place on the two abattoirs in Argyll and also the challenges faced as a result of the UK withdrawal from the EU.

The Community Focus item came from Robin Miller of Cowal Elderly Befrienders with it being noted that the organisation were volunteer led and provided a traditional model of one to one and peer befriending tailored to individual requirements. During 2021 there had been 272 people supported with the majority of referrals coming from the Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Group also discussed Covid-19 and long-term community resilience, hearing from Fiona Gillespie of Bute Resilience who spoke about their involvement in a variety of projects specifically during lockdown. It was noted that Bute Resilience which comprises 25 members had assisted those receiving palliative care on Bute and had provided help with shopping, setting up computers etc.

Helensburgh & Lomond

The Group considered the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair and nominated David Moore (Scottish Fire and Rescue) and Sephton MacQuire (Dunbritton Housing Association) as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

The Group heard a number of interesting updates from partners. As part of the Police Scotland update the issue of youth anti-social behaviour was highlighted as a key concern for the Group and it was agreed that following the meeting representatives of Police Scotland, Community Learning, Royal Navy Family and People Support and MOD Police would meet to discuss ways to improve the situation. It was agreed that there would be a further update on this issue at the next meeting.

Updates were provided by Destination Helensburgh, Helensburgh Community Hub, Helensburgh Community Council and Fun First all highlighting the great community work being undertaken in the Helensburgh and Lomond area.

Duncan Maclachlan provided information on the work of the Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust and the Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. It was noted that they hoped to continue with the projects that had worked so successfully during summer 2021 including the layby litter scheme and the Windows on the Loch project.

The Chair noted from the partner updates that there was a lot of great work being carried out across the Helensburgh and Lomond area and that he was keen to have this information shared widely. It was noted that a Health and Wellbeing directory was being collated by the group Males Tales in conjunction with other partners and that Destination Helensburgh were also compiling a list of local organisations. It was agreed to compile a directory which provided details of the local groups and events which had been highlighted.

Verbal updates were also provided and the Group noted work being undertaken by Helensburgh Gaelic Group, Visiting Friends, Plastic Free Helensburgh and the Royal Navy Family and People Support.

The Community Focus item was provided by PC Laura Evans and focussed on fraud. There was a good discussion following this item, particularly around increasing the awareness of fraud with a number of attendees advising that they would get in touch with PC Evans to provide assistance in that regard.

During the discussion on the Management Committee Update the Chair highlighted that he would like to see more young people involved with the Group. It was noted

that the new MSYPs would be attending the Management Committee meeting on 16 March and that an update would be provided following that meeting.

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

The meeting was well attended with a number of updates from partners. Neil MacFarlane from Transport Scotland provided an update on the current works being undertaken. Discussion also highlighted a number of issues across the area which Neil agreed to take forward, including the possibility of the introduction of lighting at the junction to Cairndow.

Sergeant Shaw, Police Scotland provided the update for this meeting with vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Blarbuie Woodlands, Lochgilphead being highlighted. PC Evans also gave information on the new legislation in relation to livestock worrying, highlighting the increased penalties.

The Community Focus item at this meeting was a presentation by Caitlin McNeill from Colonsay Community Development Trust who provided detail on the Colonsay and Oransay Community Plan for 2022-2023.

Cathy Cameron, Time for Change Argyll and Bute provided a presentation on the work of the organisation under the standing item on climate change. Information was provided on the achievements of the group since 2018 and their plans for 2022.

The Group considered the appointment of a Vice-Chair following the resignation of the previous appointee. Unfortunately there were no nominations received for the position and it was agreed to carry the item forward to the next meeting.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles

The Group considered a number of updates from partners in attendance with written updates provided by SFRS, the Community Learning Service and the DWP. Verbal updates were provided by Crossroads North Argyll, Hope Kitchen, North Argyll Carers Centre, the Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project and Police Scotland where Inspector Ian Hutchison introduced himself as the newly appointed local Inspector.

The Community Focus item came from Argyll and Bute Time for Change Climate Action Group. Cathy Cameron provided an overview of the organisations origin, their purpose and the ongoing work to combat the climate crisis. Information was also provided on training opportunities available from a number of providers.

The Group also considered a report which provided an update to members on the Oban Bid for City Status as part of the Civic honours for the Platinum Jubilee.

During discussion on community based initiatives it was noted that SFRS were undertaking investigations around the fire station to see if land could be used as a bee habitat with the Chair expressing interest in the High School collaborating on this project. It was also noted that Hope Kitchen managed the Green Shoots garden which offered local people the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables and they also kept bees in the garden.

4.1 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

We are pleased to note that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Helensburgh ACPG have been filled by David Moore (SFRS) and Sephton MacQuire (Dunbritton Housing Association). There still remain vacancies for Vice-Chair positions in MAKI and Bute and Cowal and these will be subject of reports to the next round of meetings.

4.2 Further Actions

It is requested that the Management Committee note the report and the successful meetings held in February 2022.

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:

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