

## Progress report on Bute and Cowal Partnership.

The Bute and Cowal Partnership met on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 06 and both partners and community representatives were well represented. The Partnership has no representatives from the Health Board and Caledonian MacBrayne through internal secondment/retrial in the former and re-structuring of the latter. The Partnership will obviously benefit from their contribution and suitable representation needs to be identified once structural changes have settled. One additional community representative from both Bute and Dunoon will bring the Partnership to its full community representative complement.

The Partnership reviewed the Dunoon Family Centre Project and although the Business Case is currently in preparation there is now a question over the structural costs for Dunoon Burgh Hall which may take the project to two or three times the original estimate and render it not a viable proposition. More detailed information will be available for the next Partnership meeting and a decision on the future of the project will be made at that time. The Partnership was also updated on the Living Landmarks Lottery Bid for Dunoon Marine Gateway on the waterfront and the progress of discussions with the Dunoon Allotments Association.

Partners and community representatives will participate in an awareness/training day on 2<sup>nd</sup> March in Dunoon on the National Standards of Community Engagement which has been funded by the Scottish Executive.

The Partnership considered the recent SEERAD Report on the Loch Eck/Loch Goil datazone for access to services and considered numerous bids for the £100,000 funding package which the Scottish Executive had allocated as a result of its findings. Through a comprehensive debate with participation from both Partners and Community Representatives the Partnership agreed that the funding should be allocated on the basis of £10K to an Advice Network; £65K to community transport initiatives and £35K to allow an extension of the Healthy Communities Collaborative scheme to the area.

The Partnership is proving to be an extremely beneficial information exchange between Partners and Community Representatives and has 'gelled' into a good working group with mutual respect between all members. It has taken longer than envisaged to get the core membership in place and some aspects of the Development Phase still need to be tackled, but to realise the full potential of the Bute and Cowal Partnership it will now have to move on to its detailed Planning and Implementation stages. This will also involve much closer links with and perhaps an 'overarching' co-ordination of the two current Area Development Groups in Bute and Cowal which are now taking forward the Area Regeneration Outcome Agreement Strategies.

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