MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE GAELIC CENTRE, CORRAN HALLS, OBAN AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS on WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2026

Present: Colin Buchanan, Luing Community Council (Chair)
Councillor Kieron Green, Argyll and Bute Council
Petra Pearce, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface
Sarah Peacock, NHS Highland
Ian Woodcock, Transport Scotland
Jane Metcalff, Coll Community Council
Jen Broadhurst, Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor Luna Martin, Argyll and Bute Council
Detective Inspector Alasdair MacLaren, Police Scotland
Catriona Petit, Hope Kitchen
Agnes Ingram, North Argyll Carers

Attending: Lisa Robinson, North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme
Kirsty McLuckie, Community Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
John McLuckie, Partnership Lead, Argyll and Bute Council
Stuart McLean, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and general introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Maureen Evans, Live Argyll Community Development
Joan Best, Crossroads
Andy MacPherson, Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network
Carol Flett, Argyll and the Islands Health and Wellbeing Network

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTE OF THE OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

The minutes of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group meeting held on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 were approved as a correct record.

The Chair advised that Lismore Community Trust, which had presented to the Group on 13 May 2026, had secured around £300,000 from the Scottish Government's 2026-27 Islands Programme Fund towards the Achnacroish Affordable Homes

project. The Community Planning Group agreed that this was an impressive achievement by the Trust and that it should be highlighted at the next meeting of the Community Planning Group Management Committee.

4. COMMUNITY FOCUS

Lisa Robinson of North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme advised that the Scheme provides journeys for people who are unable to access public transport, within the Community Council Areas of Glenorchy & Innishail, Avich & Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Kilninver & Kilmelford, Seil & Easdale and Luing.

The Scheme currently has 52 PVG-checked volunteer drivers who use their own cars to transport 139 registered passengers to medical appointments, shops and social engagements in the area. Passengers contribute towards the cost of each trip, and volunteers are reimbursed for their mileage.

Mrs Robinson reported that the Scheme receives funding from various sources including Argyll and Bute Council, Green Power, Taynuilt Medical Practice, Community Funding and a few smaller groups. She highlighted challenges around funding, volunteer recruitment, unmet transport needs and attracting Board members. She also noted that feedback from service users is positive, as the Scheme provides a social network and helps them attend groups that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme)

5. ARGYLL AND BUTE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PRIORITIES UPDATE

The Group gave consideration to a presentation from the Partnerships Lead - Community Planning at Argyll and Bute Council. The presentation highlighted the summary of progress made to date in relation to the transport infrastructure, housing and community wellbeing priorities. An update was also provided in relation to the related action tracker, with it being noted that the second phase was underway and would be taken forward by working groups.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Communities and Partnership Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated August 2026)

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Group gave consideration to a report which outlined matters discussed during the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee meeting held on 12 June 2026. The report provided information on the HMNB Clyde Transformation project; the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan; CPP Governance and Membership; Climate Change; Community Wealth Building; National Policy and Community Planning; and the Children's Rights report 2026.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Partnerships Lead, Argyll and Bute Council, dated July 2026, submitted)

7. PARTNERS UPDATE

(a) Police Scotland Update

The Group gave consideration to a report highlighting Police Scotland's priorities for the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area including information on the ongoing work and priorities of the Service and information on Serious and organised crime, crimes of theft and dishonesty (acquisitive crime), road safety and road crime, ASB & violent crime and public protection.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Police Scotland dated August 2026, submitted)

(b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Update

The Group gave consideration to a report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's FQ1 review of local performance across Oban, Lorn and the Isles for the period 2026 – 2027. The report gave a breakdown of fires and special services incidents which occurred within the locality and provided information on Community Safety & Engagement Campaigns; a new vehicle support unit has arrived on the Isle of Coll which will strengthen local operation capabilities, with a provision of 15 more vehicles across Argyll and Bute's Community Fire Stations in the coming months; Oban's Wildfire Support Unit is now operational and ready to support Scottish Fire and Rescue Service crews across Argyll & Bute.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, dated August

2026, submitted)

(c) **Public Health Update**

Consideration was given to a public health update from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's Public Health Team on the ongoing wellbeing and prevention activities overseen and delivered by them in Argyll and Bute. The update provided information on the newly launched Alcohol and Drugs App; the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership delivered a series of "Have your say" talks along with the Scottish Recovery Consortium across the Local Authority Area; information on free training opportunities for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention; World Suicide Prevention Day Campaign will take place on 10 September 2026 and information on Sexual Health Awareness.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Health Improvement Senior, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, dated July 2026, submitted)

(d) **Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Update**

Consideration was given to an update from Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau which confirmed that between 1 January 2026 and 31 July 2026 they had supported 1327 clients, with 698 of the clients being new to the service. The update also included information on client finical gain following benefits advise, volunteer recruitment; existing and new services including Later Life Financial Health and homelessness prevention was also provided.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Citizens Advice Bureau dated July 2026, submitted)

(e) **Transport Scotland Update**

Consideration was given to an update from Transport Scotland which provided information on a variety of different works recently completed and planned along the A85, A828 and the Rest and Be Thankful.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Transport Scotland, dated 12 August 2026,

submitted)

(f) **Oban, Lorn and the Islands Health & Wellbeing Network Update**

Consideration was given to a written update from the Oban, Lorn and the Islands Health and Wellbeing Network. The update highlighted information on membership; the work of the members and the co-ordinator; areas covered by the Network; meetings and public events.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information.

(Reference: A report by Oban, Lorn and the Isles Health and Wellbeing Network, submitted)

(g) **Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI) Update**

Consideration was given to an update from Argyll and Bute TSI. The update provide information on the TSI's new 5 year strategy and associated consultation; extended voting rights on the Integrated Joint Boards; Scottish Parliamentary – Election and Third Party Hustings; Partnership with the Scottish Government; recruitment and information on the building of a Disabled People's Organisation in Argyll and Bute.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Argyll and Bute TSI, dated 30 July 2026, submitted)

(h) **Opportunity for Verbal Updates by Community Planning Partners**

Hope Kitchen

Catriona Petit advised that Hope Kitchen are currently engaging with ScotWest Credit Union regarding the possibility of establishing the service in Oban. Miss Petit further advised a men's group has been established in the Greenshoots Garden on Monday nights and that work continues in exploring opportunities to expand lunch provision within the area.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

(a) **Argyll and Bute Climate Action: Community Planning Partnership Climate Change Strategy and developing a Climate Ready Region for Argyll and Bute**

The Group gave consideration to an update from the Climate Change Project Manager on the progress with the Climate Change Strategy and

Action Plan. Information was provided on the completion of the CPP Climate Change Strategy and Action plan; progress with developing a climate ready region; CLLD funding for Echoes to Action project to capture lived experience of climate change in Argyll and Bute and Area Community Planning Group input.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group:

1. noted that although funding for the CPP Climate Change Strategy had now ended, the Strategy and its Action Plan are embedded in the Business Plan for a Climate Ready Region for Argyll and Bute, which the CPP Management Committee supports;

2. encouraged Partners to input as part of wider stakeholder input to the Regional Risk and Opportunity Assessment currently out to tender; and

3. agreed the desirability of items such as carbon literacy and resilience training, Peoples' Emergency Briefing or workshops on members' own severe weather experience for future Area Community Planning Groups (ACPGs) or other groups within the ACPG Area.

(Reference: Report by Climate Change Project Manager, Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust, dated August 2026, submitted)

(b) **Climate Change Resilience Group Update (Short Life Working Group)**

The Chair advised that it continues to be a challenge to engage with Community Councils but that he had had some success with Community Development Trusts. Mr Buchanan reported that 15 of the 22 Trusts within the locality confirmed that resilience is a priority for the organisation and that the focus for these organisations included community hubs/facilities, emergency planning and energy resilience.

Decision

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group:

1. noted the information referenced within the presentation; and

2. noted that the Chair would liaise with the Climate Change Project Manager and the Community Development Officer to discuss next steps and the value of the Short Life Working Group to establishing a climate ready region.

(Reference: Presentation by Chair of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group, dated August 2026)

(c) **Opportunity for verbal updates on Community Based Initiatives**

There were no verbal updates provided under this item.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group would take place on Wednesday, 11 November 2026.