

ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Pilot

New approach following pilot meeting on 4 August 2006

Introduction

This paper details the current situation in relation to the Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Pilot and outlines its future development.

Current Position

The evaluation report of the Bute and Cowal Area Partnership (the local community planning pilot) revealed that the Pilot had failed to achieve some of its original objectives. The evaluation highlighted that there had been:

- little influence on the partners
- a lack of clarity of the purpose of the pilot
- often nothing concrete to decide upon
- sporadic attendance from some of the partners
- insufficient community representation, though the Community Reps who participated found the experience positive

The CPP Management Committee considered the report and highlighted the need for change. The Committee tasked the Community Planning Manager, Pilot Co-co-ordinator and Council's Policy and Strategy Manager with producing recommendations for the way forward. These were discussed at the meeting of the Partnership on 4 August 2006 in Rothesay and the revised approach is detailed below.

New Objectives

The partners agreed to a new set of objectives for the Area Partnership. They are:

- To broaden community involvement
- To have a local influence on service provision
- To identify areas of concern and address these via CPP partners

The rationale for this change is that there will be:

- Focus on partners as the main delivery mechanism
- Focus on areas where partnership working can add value
- Less bureaucracy
- Enhanced community involvement

New process

The Area Partnership also agreed changes to the process to reflect the change in objectives and criticisms of the process from the evaluation. The new process will comprise:

- Two events as workshops/seminars each year timed to influence the planning and budget setting cycles of the main partners
- A small core group to plan and manage the seminars – led by the coordinator for the Area Partnership
- Meetings between the seminars focused on particular topics or issues. These could be:
 - Ad hoc time limited groups of particular groups/organisations focused on issues identified by those bodies as a common concern to be addressed
 - More formal meetings of partners to consider broader or more complex issues that need more concerted effort

The workshops/seminars would be 'mini-conferences' that enable a large number of organisations/community groups to take part – perhaps 5 to 10 times as many as at present. Participants would benefit from the numerous networking opportunities and be able to take part in specific sessions of interest to them. They would also be able to avoid sitting through discussions that are not relevant.

This process would allow partner organisations to gather information, test out ideas and discuss draft plans prior to agreement. Community organisations would also have opportunities to raise issues and concerns affecting them as well as present ideas where they are seeking support.

The process would also tap into existing organisations, networks and research without creating new structures that duplicate existing arrangements. As a result, the Area Partnership would capture many voices through greater attendance by more diverse range of organisations.

8 August 2006

Shirley Macleod – Area Partnership Coordinator

Eileen Wilson – Community Planning Manager

Brian Barker – Policy and Strategy Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

Proposed Seminar

Date: 1st December 2006

Venue: Royal Marine Hotel or Strachur Village Hall

Cost::

Outline Programme

10.00am – 10.15am	Arrive and coffee
10.15am – 10.30am	Welcome and intro
10.30am – 11.00am	Keynote Speaker
11.00am – 11.15am	*A+B Themes
11.30am – 1.00pm	**Workshops 1,2 & 3
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch and Networking
2.00pm – 3.30pm	**Workshops 1,2 & 3
3.30pm – 3.50pm	Discussion
3.50pm – 4.00pm	What's next?

*Linking the CPP themes with the Argyll and Bute Shared Vision of a Leading Rural Area;

- Outstanding Environment
- Vibrant Communities
- Forward Looking

**The nature of the workshops will be discussed at the next Bute and Cowal Local CPP Pilot Project meeting. Delegates will get the opportunity to attend 2 of the 3 workshops.

Local groups and organisations will be invited to bring along any display and/or promotional materials to this event. This will enable networking and the sharing of good practice - Drive Safe / Young Scot / Interloch / Volunteer Centre / Communities Scotland / Healthy Communities Collaborative / Cowal Youth Forum / Community care Forum / etc....