

**MINUTES of MEETING of FORWARD DUNOON AND COWAL GROUP held in the
CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON
on WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillor B Marshall (Chair)

Councillor A MacAlister
Councillor A McNaughton
Shirley MacLeod, Area Manager, Customer Services
Brian Chennell, Dunoon & Cowal Business Association
David McKenzie, McKenzie Professional Services
Allan Macdonald, Area Streetscene Manager
Iain Welsh, Project Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

Councillor J McQueen
Councillor R Simon
Councillor J R Walsh
Janet MacKellar, HELP / Dunoon Community Development Group
Simon Richardson, CLANN
Brian Close, Planning Officer
Iain McNaughton, Sandbank Community Council
John MacLeod
John Glass

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29TH SEPTEMBER 2010

The Minutes of the meeting of 29th September 2010 were approved as a correct record with the deletion of Brian Chennell discussing the pedestrianisation of part of Argyll Street with the Business Association in part e on page 3 of the minute.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE

Iain Welsh updated the Group on the progress of the Town Centre Regeneration Funding advising that the project has been delayed due to the Council having to apply for permission from Historic Scotland for the footpaths on Castle Hill. Iain also advised that they were having a problem with the handrail fixtures and if they can not be fixed onto the steps they will have to get further permission from Historic Scotland.

Iain said that bus shelter in Argyll Street should be installed week of 15th November. Iain advised that all major works have been completed. McKenzie will be installing a decorative railing at the new seating area instead of an arch.

Iain explained that Historic Scotland were not happy about some of the intended planting on Castle Hill and Councillor Marshall asked Iain to give him a list of the plants to be used.

Iain said he had a meeting with McKenzie on the 24th November to go over all outstanding works.

Brian Chennell wanted to reiterate that the feelings from the businesses and the public was that the money was spent on maintenance and not regeneration and asked if the Government had accepted the work for the Castle Hill because it was out with the designated Town Centre area. Iain advised that he had specifically asked the Government if the money could be spent in the Castle Gardens and they had agreed. Brian asked for all the costing against each item be provided and further asked if the sign at the Kent Trust car park was going to be replaced.

Iain advised that the sign in the Kent Trust car park will be replaced if they have enough money at the end of the project.

The Group discussed the aspects of the project and Iain agreed that the problem with the Dunoon project was that there was not a central focal point like the project in Bowmore.

(b) UPDATE ON GRASS ON SHORE OF WEST BAY

Councillor Marshall advised the meeting that the Members had agreed that a Coastal Vegetated Shingle Management Plan be put in place, including provision of visual interpretation boards. Brian Chennell said that others felt strongly that it was an eyesore and not an image to walk past at the beach, he realised that it was not the Council's responsibility and thought that Crown Estates should be written to.

(c) WOODLAND IN AND AROUND TOWN PROJECT

Shirley MacLeod spoke on Janet MacKellars report on the WIAT Project advising that she had a positive response from David Urquart travel and was positive that the bid would be submitted in January.

Allan Macdonald advised that he had received an email advising that the Friends of the Bishops Glen group were thinking of reforming and he was hoping that they would join the Development Group.

(d) GREEN GYM - SIMON RICHARDSON

The Group noted the update on the Green Gym from Janet MacKellar.

(e) UPDATE ON PEDESTRIANISATION OF PART OF ARGYLL STREET

Councillor Marshall advised he was still enthusiastic about the pedestrianisation of part of Argyll Street even if it is on a trial basis. David McKenzie said he still felt the shared space was the best way to progress. Brian Chennell advised that he has not discussed this with the Members of the Business Association yet and advised that once the BIDS Steering Group is set up they will be taking forward a consultation which will involve the possible pedestrianisation of Argyll Street.

The Group agreed not to progress with this item until the BIDS group have finished their consultation.

David McKenzie asked about Planning Gain for the shops in Argyll Street if the planning application for the proposed new supermarket is agreed.

(f) ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP (BULB PLANTING)

The Meeting noted that Dunoon Community Development group held a well attended meeting to look at ways of working with the community and community groups to make environmental improvements that could contribute to a future Scotland in Bloom application. Links were made with the local secondary school and other groups and this initiative will be developed with support from Ailsa Cunningham.

4. CHORD UPDATE

Councillor Marshall advised that 7 tenders had been returned on 29th October and these are being assessed. The CHORD Management Board will then interview the Consultants on 16th November.

Brian Chennell asked what they would be consulting on and Shirley advised they will be taking forward phase 1 to the Final Business Case. Shirley explained that point of the process was to make sure that the Project stacks up so that the money is spent wisely.

David McKenzie asked if the project brief was on the website and Shirley advised that it was.

5. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Brian Chennell advised that Enviro Kirn are having a small Christmas Light switch on on Friday 3rd December and wanted to make sure the Dunoon switch on would not coincide.

Councillor Marshall explained that there had been a problem with the cost of the Christmas Lights and Brian FitzPatrick is hoping to have them switched on by 4th December. Councillor Marshall advised that the Burgh Hall committee will be providing the Christmas Light switch on ceremony.

6. BIDS STEERING GROUP

Brian Chennell advised the meeting that as soon as the Business Association has received the money from the Council they will start the BIDS process. Brian explained that the Association will set up a BIDS Steering Group consisting of Business Association Members, Non Business Association Members, Police, Council HIE etc. and invites to join the Steering Group will be posted out 2 weeks after they have received the funding.

7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

David McKenzie spoke on the potential for a Town Centre Development Company saying he felt this was the way forward and it was agreed that this would be an item on the agenda at the Business Association Partnership meeting on 3rd December.

Councillor Marshall advised that the Forward Dunoon & Cowal group was no longer part of the Destination Dunoon & Cowal Steering Group and he felt that the Marine Access should be part of the Forward Group. This was agreed and Shirley was to invite the member of the National Park who sits on the Water Bus group along to the next meeting.

Councillor Marshall also asked for Group members to suggest appropriate people to be invited along to the Forward Group meetings to him and Shirley.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group agreed the meeting scheduled for the 22nd December should be cancelled and the next meeting would be Wednesday 12th January at 10am in Customer Services, 22 Hill Street, Dunoon.

