

**MINUTES of MEETING of KINTYRE INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP held in the COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, CAMPBELTOWN
on FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2012**

Present:

	(Chair)	
	Councillor Rory Colville	
Councillor Anne Horn		Councillor Donald Kelly
Councillor John McAlpine		Councillor John Semple
Stephen Doogan		Argyll and Bute Council
Aileen McLennan		Argyll and Bute Council
Moya Ingram		Argyll and Bute Council
Margaret Fyfe		Argyll and Bute Council
Jolyon Gritten		Argyll and Bute Council
Alistair McKinlay		Community Care
Mary Kennedy		Business Gateway
John Bakes		Southend CC and KW
Ann Gallacher		Argyll and Bute Council
		Employability Team
Phil Hinchliff		Transport Scotland
David Hamilton		Transport Scotland
John Lamont		HIA Ltd
Elizabeth Ball		West Kintyre CC
Michael Russell MSP		
Jim Martin		Campbeltown CC
Susan Paterson		KFCC and KPPF
Jane Mayo		Picture House/CCB
Ian Macintyre		Tarbert & Skipness CC
Ian Wardrop		MACC
Alan Reid MP		
Jim Galbraith		Network Carradale
Sheila Harris		Network Carradale
Alan Walker		Network Carradale
Maryanne Stewart		AVA
Darlene Russell		Argyll College
Dhonna McCallum		Argyll College
David Barbour		Kintyre NFU

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated by:-

Iain McGlashan
Cllr Robin Currie
Harvard Davis
Stuart Irvine
Ishabel Bremner
John Forster

Alan Minshaw
Jamie McGrigor MSP
Audrey Baird
Pat Dean
Peter Stogdale
David Rogers
Bob Chicken

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

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 16 DECEMBER 2011

The Minute of the last meeting was approved as a true record. This was proposed by Susan Paterson and seconded by Alistair McKinlay.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) WIND TOWER LIMITED

The Chair informed the group that David Rogers had been unable to attend the meeting. However, the Chair reported that he had undertaken a visit to the new factory and was extremely impressed with the building, production line and the whole investment set-up. Councillors Kelly and Semple, who had also been on the visit, agreed with the Chair's comments and urged that the local community dispel any negativity and move forward with the new venture.

(b) MACHRIHANISH MOD SITE - ABC, IAN WARDROP

Ian Wardrop reported that substantial progress had been made in recent weeks. This included significant agreement on a programme of investment to address the infrastructure requirements, including the water supply. The MACC Directors are now fully engaged in the process and actively moving forward together.

It was envisaged that they would be able to share more detail with the wider community within the next month.

Ian expressed gratitude for the patience the community has shown to date and asked for continuing understanding over the next few weeks which technical works proceed.

The Chair thanked Ian for this update and his attendance at the meeting during this extremely busy period.

(c) CAMPBELTOWN AIRPORT - HIA LTD

John Lamont reported on recent flight movements and informed the group of proposed refurbishments planned at the airport, which would be implemented when planning approval was received. The Chair enquired regarding news of any special flights specifically targeting golfers to the area. John replied that, as yet, there was no indication of the implementation of these flights.

The Chair reported on an update which he had received from the Director of Service Delivery at Loganair. It was decided to invite him

to the next KIWG meeting.

Susan Paterson (who had also been a recipient of the letter) felt the response from Loganair was somewhat disjointed and did not fully address the problems which passengers faced when services were cancelled, etc. Councillor Semple reiterated the need for Loganair to have a back-up plan which could be implemented when services were cancelled or disrupted.

Michael Russell voiced his concerns in regards passenger services across the whole area, stating that he would be working to address this issue and improve the needs of passengers.

Action: Theresa McLetchie would invite Roger Hage, Director of Service Delivery to the next KIWG meeting.

(d) **SCOTTISH WATER**

The Chair reported on the improvement works undertaken by Scottish Water in Campbeltown which had recently been completed. He advised that Scottish Water were proposing to hold an event on 22 March in the Aqualibrium. This would be a thank you event for the local community for any upheaval or inconvenience caused by the recent water project works.

Councillor Kelly reported on a putrid smell in Meadowburn Road, Campbeltown and requested that Scottish Water investigate this issue. Councillor Horn reported on a similar problem outside Tarbert which she had raised at the recent Mid Argyll Partnership (MAP) meeting. Jane McKenzie (Scottish Water) had advised at the MAP meeting that in the first instance problems should be logged at the Scottish Water Call Centre. The number of which is:-

0845 601 8855

Councillor Semple highlighted problems with the water supply in Southend and John Bakes reported that the said water main bursts occurred at the same spot in Southend. Repairs had been instigated by Scottish Water, but this was an ongoing issues.

Action: Stephen Doogan to contact Scottish Water to congratulate them on the completion, but to highlight these two issues.

4. TRANSPORT

(a) **TRANSPORT SCOTLAND - UPDATE**

David Hamilton and Phil Hinchcliff, Transport Scotland, reported on the latest developments at the Rest and Be Thankful and apologised for any inconvenience and delays caused by the road closure. They advised that the road would re-open at 11.00a.m. and detailed that their investigations to determine the landslip cause had been hampered by weather conditions. The Geo-technical team had

made the decision to open the road earlier on the morning of Friday, 24 February.

David Hamilton continued that exploratory work to ascertain the feasibility of the forestry track at the Rest and Be Thankful were continuing. The work involved Geo-Technical and Topographical teams determining the level of work needed to ensure the road adhered to the requirements for public safety. A report would be compiled and Transport Scotland were liaising with the Forestry Commission and Argyll and Bute Council to complete this. In addition, the Forestry Commission had agreed to input money towards costs. Further investment of £1million had been agreed by Keith Brown, the Transport Minister for the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful to develop additional contingencies and mitigation work to help deal with future landslips. Various alternatives were being considered. These included:

- Further netting
- Viaduct
- Avalanche shelters
- Re-alignment of the road away from the hill-side
- Alternative route(s)

David Hamilton stated that Transport Scotland needed to ensure that safety was not compromised. However, they were working as quickly as possible and endeavouring to overcome technical issues. He advised that it was envisaged that the work would be completed before the end of the financial year, weather permitting.

In regards the A83 study, Transport Scotland were aware of community concerns and general interest in the whole of the A83. The study was being commissioned to address these issues.

Michael Russell stated that, in his opinion, the forestry road was the best fall-back option. He reported on 2 meetings (23 December/23 January) and reported on funding of £800K to allow preparatory work to commence.

David Hamilton detailed some of the further work proposed at the Rest and Be Thankful:

- Further safety netting planned
- More short-term protective measures

Councillor Kelly welcomed the further investment and highlighted that there was still time to sign the Argyll First petition. He stressed the importance of reviewing the forestry road. However, he highlighted the other areas of concern detailed within the petition and the need for a definitive plan of action:-

- Pinch points on the A83
- Pedestrian safety on the A83
- Trunking of the A83 between Kennacraig and Campbeltown.

David Hamilton replied that the forthcoming study would not look at

policy on the A83. The Policy section at Transport Scotland would give due consideration and determine the necessary strategic action to be taken.

Councillor Semple enquired if Argyll and Bute council together with HIE could undertake work to assist in raising awareness on the detrimental economic impact of these frequent road closures on local businesses.

Action: Letter would be written on behalf of the KIWG Moya Ingram requesting overview in regards to this issue by the Roads and Transportation group

David Hamilton continued that vehicles using the forestry road would travel in a convoy system on the forestry road (which was 2 miles long). Michael Russell advised that speed limits would be imposed. This was not a perfect solution, but the road would be accessible to all traffic.

The Chair enquired on a timescale when the technical studies had been concluded. David Hamilton envisaged that this would be completed by the back end of the summer. However, it may not be the final design solution. Michael Russell agreed that a report would be compiled and the timescale would be for the summer.

The Chair invited further questions from the group. No further questions were submitted to the Transport Scotland representatives.

The Chair thanked David Hamilton and Phil Hinchliff for their attendance at the KIWG meeting and for information provided.

(b) ROAD ISSUES

Stewart Clark was unable to attend the meeting and Moya Ingram spoke to his report.

Discussion continued in regards the ingress of water on local roads. The Chair suggested closer liaison between Scottish Water and local landowners. David Barbour replied that annual inspections may alleviate these problems. Councillor Semple agreed on this and stressed the need for funding to be prioritised to address this issue. He enquired on the status of the new Asset Management Plan. Moya Ingram replied that she had seen a draft of the plan, however she would need to speak to the Roads Department for clarification. Councillor Kelly reiterated the need to inject funding into Kintyre roads which, in his opinion, were the worst in Argyll and Bute.

Action: Moya Ingram to ascertain status of Asset Management Plan.

Susan Paterson voiced concerns on various issues, detailing the build up of debris at the roadside and in drainage ditches, which with no regular maintenance was impacting on drainage and presenting problems. She continued that due to the lack of weed spraying in places, large areas were overgrown with weeds. Susan Paterson

questioned why some roads had recurring or seemingly permanent potholes and enquired on the reason for this.

Liz Ball also commented on the build-up of debris resulting from the recent storms and informed the group that some local communities had undertaken remedial action to remove this. However, many ditches are full of rubbish and, in her view, Argyll and Bute council should be responsible for scheduling removal from public areas. Councillor Kelly reported the need for Argyll and Bute council to protect and increase their workforce to ensure that remedial work on roads and roadsides is effectively completed.

(c) **FERRIES REVIEW - UPDATE**

Moya Ingram spoke to the draft report and advised the group that the deadline for responses was 30 March, 2012.

Discussion ensued and the group discussed and debated various issues. These included the potential threat to the Claonaig - Lochranza ferry, the need for local communities to voice their opinions on the consultation, re-visit a previous report which detailed the economic viability of a ferry service from Campbeltown to Ayrshire and the need to build-in RET to any new ferry route. Jim Martin enquired if commercial vehicles would be included in RET. Michael Russell reported on a change in regulations for commercial vehicles and that measures were being undertaken to address this. Councillor Semple advocated that value for money be the ethos for any new proposals and a review of previous work be done.

Michael Russell advised that to ensure the retention of the Claonaig - Lochranza route, local communities should lobby for this and respond to the consultation in order to make a positive contribution.

5. SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Mary Kennedy reported that figures had been low in January. However, February had seen a significant increase.

(a) **BUSINESS GATEWAY**

A report was provided updating the group on the delivery of the service.

(b) **HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE**

A report was received updating on the details of financial assistance given to businesses, community groups and other organisations for January 2012.

(c) **TAILORED TRAINING - ARGYLL COLLEGE**

A report was provided by Argyll College updating the group on new courses planned for 2012.

It was agreed that Argyll College would liaise with Business Gateway to synchronise courses where possible to avoid replication.

(d) **AGRICULTURE - LUCY SUMSION / JOHN FORSTER**

David Barbour was the representative from SFU in attendance at the meeting.

6. **PLANNING, PLACE AND PARTNERS (INCLUDES THIRD SECTOR PARTNERS)**

(a) **AVA**

Pat Dean was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. However, she would attend the April meeting to update the group.

(b) **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Margaret Fyfe thanked the chair for creating a specific slot on the KIWG agenda for Third Sector and Community Development issues. She hoped that issues concerning the Third Sector will continue to have a growing profile at meetings.

She reported that the Council had opened its Third Sector Grants programme for community initiatives last month and there was still time to submit applications for funding.

Members had agreed to fund the grants for a further year and there was £35k available in the MAKI area to support local groups, in addition to £79k for central grants. A further opportunity would be available to apply for funding in late Spring. However, Margaret Fyfe envisaged that the amount would be substantially reduced, the majority if allocated in the first round.

Margaret reported on an event focussing on income generation in the Third Sector, which was being organised with the Third Sector Partnership and with support from Inspiralba. The event is open to all charities, social enterprises and community groups in Argyll & Bute and is focussing on lots of ways to fundraise (so through Gift Aid, tax breaks, wills, donations, sponsorship, merchandising, social media, volunteers and so) other than through grants. She stated that last year the Council's TSG programme was three times oversubscribed in MAKI and there is not enough grant funding to go round so it was felt that it was advisable to look at some other ways the sector could think about raising money.

The event is going to be at the Council Chambers in Kilmory on Saturday 17 March and there will be a range of speakers, workshop facilitators and marketplace stall holders. VC and minibuses may be available, depending on demand.

Invitations to the event were issued this week.

She brought a copy of the Better Community Engagement Resource pack to the meeting. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy should contact Audrey Baird, Community Development officer.

Margaret reported that Community Centres have determined their own proposals in regards to staffing and agreed to address the reduction in janitorial hours. This would result in administrative staff covering reception duties and the change would be implemented from 1 April 2012.

(c) **CHORD PROJECT**

The CHORD project in Campbeltown is ongoing with works on the THI and Kinloch Road Regeneration progressing. In regard to the Town Hall project - discussions are on-going with South Kintyre Development Trust and the Community Council to determine the next steps to allow the conclusion of the needs analysis, options appraisal and submission of the Growing Community Assets bid.

The Kinloch Road Regeneration project continues to work closely with the Kintyre Renewable hub project in terms of the works adjacent to the new road through the former Park Square and the current works to the footway outside the Royal Hotel. The remainder of the public realm work should begin in the summer this year and be complete by late autumn 2012.

(d) **TOWN HALL UPDATE**

Jim Martin advised that a new consultant had been appointed to manage the consultation process in regards the transfer of the Town Hall. He reported on building and maintenance issues at the Town Hall and stated that Argyll and Bute Council, as custodians, should remediate some of the existing problems in the building.

(e) **TOWN CENTRE MANAGER - AILEEN MACLENNAN**

Aileen MacLennan spoke to her report.

8. INWARD INVESTMENTS - KEY FACTORS

(a) **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS SCOTLAND**

Pamela Galbraith reported that local business had requested time to consider the issue and a further meeting was scheduled for - 29 February. She thanked the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ABSEN) for their funding to hold the event on 20 February.

The Chair stated that this would remain on the KIWG Agenda.

Action: Pamela Galbraith would forward a report to Theresa McLethchie for the next KIWG meeting scheduled for 27 April.

(b) **ARGYLL AND THE ISLES STRATEGIC TOURISM PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair stated that this item would continue to the April meeting. He advised the group of a Tourism event scheduled for March 1 at

Portavadie Marina.

(c) **KINTYRE WAY**

John Bakes reported that a new leaflet had been produced on the Kintyre Way and was available at tourist offices.

Liz Ball stated the importance of the Kintyre Way and advised that as an initiative it generates much needed business for the local area.

The Chair reiterated the need to support the Kintyre Way.

(d) **ENERGY (RENEWABLES) - ISHABEL BREMNER**

The Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) is currently undergoing a review, by lead partners Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Argyll and Bute Council, in close consultation with the CPP and Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance (ABRA) members, in order to identify key priorities and produce a plan which is focused on collective outcomes. It is anticipated that this will be considered by ABRA members at the next meeting of the alliance on 2nd March 2012 and similarly endorsed by the CPP.

The creation of the Argyll and Bute Renewable Alliance (ABRA) was one of the key actions of the REAP. Three meetings been held to date. Partners include SG, HIE, Crown Estate, Marine Scotland, Scottish and Southern Energy, Scottish Power Renewables, Skills Development Scotland.

The next meeting of ABRA will be held on the 2 March - topics for discussion will include the REAP review (as noted above) and progress updates on Community Policy, (we are reviewing the existing on shore community wind farm policy and the development of an off shore policy) Skills Development (we are working with Skills Development Scotland, HIE and the industry to look at the needs of the industry moving forward and to identify where there are opportunities for jobs as we move forward) , Communications Strategy and the Tiree Onshore Scenario Mapping Study (draft report going out to consultation on 2 March, will be on our web site).

An 'Interactive Community Benefit Map' has been developed and live on the Council's Renewable Energy webpage at:-

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-windfarm-benefits

since November 2011. This quantifies the community benefit funds received from operational onshore windfarm developments in Argyll and Bute by relevant community benefit area – currently totalling just under £101,000 as of December 2011. There will be an ongoing development and this information will be updated as funds are received, utilised

and come on stream.

Initial options appraisal work has been undertaken with regard to developing a strategic approach to renewable procurement with regard to Council properties/land, which identifies the most appropriate technologies to consider in the short term and recommends options for an approach to further develop the strategy.

9. LOCAL AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING (LACPG)

The next meeting of the MAKI LACPG was scheduled for:-

7 March 2012 – 10.30a.m.
Council Chambers, Lochgilphead

With a VC facility to:-

Burnet Building, Campbeltown
Servicepoint, Bowmore, Islay
Servicepoint, Jura
Servicepoint, Colonsay

(a) LACPG MEETING DATE

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10. A.O.B.

Susan Paterson advised on a new directory of services for the Kintyre Forum of Community Care. Copies were available in the library, hospital and GP waiting rooms.

Information was available on the website:-

www.kfocc.org.uk

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was:-

27 April 2012

10.00a.m. – Town Hall, Campbeltown.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 12.30p.m.

