

**MINUTES of MEETING of FORWARD DUNOON AND COWAL GROUP held in the
CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICE, 22 HILL STREET, DUNOON
on FRIDAY, 11 JANUARY 2013**

Present: Councillor B Marshall (Chair)

Councillor G Blair
Stephen Doogan, Area Governance Officer
Brian Close, Planning Officer
Allan Macdonald, Area Streetscene Manager
Derek Matthews, Streetscene Technical Officer

1. APOLOGIES

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

Councillor M Breslin
Councillor A McNaughton
Iain McNaughton, Sandbank Community Council

2. HOUSEKEEPING

The Group agreed Councillor B Marshall would Chair this meeting with Councillor Blair will be the Chair for future meetings.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5TH OCTOBER 2011

The Minutes of the Meeting of 5th October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Town Centre Regeneration update

Councillor Marshall gave a background to the projects completed with the funding for the Town Centre Regeneration and asked about the lighting in the Castle Gardens. It was agreed Iain Welsh would be asked to provide a report on where the lighting was to be in the Castle Gardens.

The Group discussed the grassed area at the back of the new seating area in Argyll Street and the Streetscene Manager spoke on the floral display the Fairtrade group wanted. The group discussed this area and agreed it would be better if it was maintenance free and the Streetscene Manager said he would get a scheme drawn up.

Brian Close advised that Fyne Homes were intending on submitting a planning application for the vacant site at this area and it was agreed he would keep the group informed.

Woodland in and Around Town Project

Councillor Marshall gave a background to the Woodland in and Around Town Project advising that the funding had now finished. It was agreed that an update would be sought by the Area Governance Officer to be brought to the next meeting.

Environmental Improvements

Councillor Marshall explained that there were several areas in Dunoon identified for improvements including the planters on the promenade and an area of land in Moir Street.

CHORD Update

Councillor Marshall advised that the Queen's Hall will be closed for the refurbishment and the Council will be working with the community group in finding them temporary places to be during this time. Councillor Marshall explained it was the intention that the Library and the Tourist Information Centre would relocate to the Queen's Hall.

The Group discussed the signage in the empty shops in the Queen's Hall and Councillor Blair suggested advertising Argyll and Bute within these including contributions from schools. It was agreed the Area Governance Officer would discuss this with the Estates section and would keep members advised as discussions progressed.

Burgh Hall Update

Councillor Marshall spoke on the funding the Burgh Hall Group has managed to secure and spoke on the upcoming film festival.

Business Improvement District Update (PA23 BID)

Councillor Marshall advised the PA23 Bid was due to be going to a vote in February/March.

Pedestrianisation of Argyll Street

Councillor Marshall spoke on the possibility of making part of Argyll Street pedestrianised and Councillor Blair said it could be a good opportunity, it was agreed a public consultation would be needed.

Off Road Biking

Councillor Marshall spoke on the hope for a map of off road cycle routes in the area and the Group spoke about having a competition "Argyll Championships" and it was agreed Brian Close would be invited to the next meeting of the group that were taking this initiative forward.

5. REMIT OF GROUP AND WAY FORWARD

The Group agreed to continue with the Forward Dunoon & Cowal Group and that it would feed into the Bute & Cowal Community Planning Group via exception report. It was further agreed that the group would discuss the creation of an action plan at the next meeting.

Councillor Blair spoke on the hope of a business taking forward the Velo Taxis and the Group felt this would be a good idea.

6. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Councillor Blair spoke on the hope of getting the Funfair moved from the Coal Pier to the Old Gas Works site during Cowal Games weekend to free up the area for fringe activities including a Ceilidh.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group agreed the dates would be circulated to facilitate feedback to the Community Planning Group meetings.

