

**MINUTES of MEETING of KINTYRE INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP held in the ROOM 2, THE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE, CAMPBELTOWN  
on FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2015**

**Present:** Councillor Rory Colville (Chair)

Councillor John Armour

Councillor Robin Currie

**Attending:** Melissa Stewart, Area Governance Officer, Argyll & Bute Council  
Antonia Baird, Community Dev. Officer, Argyll & Bute Council  
Donald Melville, Business Advisor, Argyll and Bute Council  
James Lafferty, Project Officer, Argyll & Bute Council  
Jane Mayo, The Picture House  
Susan Paterson, KFCC, KPPF and Shopper-Aide  
Ewen MacDonald, Muadale Holiday Park  
Robin Nolan, Power to the People  
John Bakes, Southend Community Council  
Jim Martin, Campbeltown Community Council  
Margaret Wallace, AVA  
Ishbel MacKinnon, SKDT

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:-

Councillor Anne Horn  
Councillor Donald Kelly  
Jamie McGrigor MSP  
Alan Reid MP  
Campbell Fox, Campbeltown Sailing Club  
Darlene Russell, Argyll College  
Dhonna McCallum, Argyll College  
Simon Richmond, CalMac  
Neil Clapperton, Springbank Distillery  
Harvard Davies, The Picture House  
Margaret Pratt, West Kintyre Community Council

**2. MINUTE OF THE KINTYRE INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP - 12  
DECEMBER 2014**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were approved as a correct record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

The Area Governance Officer made reference to Argyll College item at page 4 item 6(f) and advised that no one has been in touch with the Amenity Services Manager regarding contact details for the part-time garden design course. The Area Governance Officer agreed to contact

the Amenity Services Manager to try and facilitate discussion with Darlene when he was next in Campbeltown.

#### **4. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO FERRY SUB GROUP**

A report updating the partnership that the resignation of Councillor John Semple created a vacancy on the Ferry Sub Group which must be filled by an Argyll and Bute Council Ward 1 Member and inviting them to make an appointment to that position, was considered.

##### **Decision**

The Partnership agreed to nominate Councillor John Armour to be Ward 1 elected Member on the Ferry Sub Group.

(Ref: Report by Area Governance Manager dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015, submitted).

Ewen MacDonald from Muadale Holiday Park raised a concern in regard to CalMac's ferry timetable. He advised that there has been no mention of the timetable being reviewed and therefore hopes that there will be a Ferry Sub Group meeting re-scheduled before 30<sup>th</sup> April to discuss this matter. The Area Governance Officer advised that CalMac had submitted their apologies for the Ferry Sub Group which was scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> March and that they suggested that matters pertaining to the service considered at the Argyll Ferries Users Group instead. Jim Martin advised that he had been the KIP representative on the User Group and in four years had never once been invited to attend a meeting and that this was not therefore appropriate.

##### **Decision**

1. The group noted the information provided;
2. The Area Governance Officer agreed to look at possible dates for the rescheduled Ferry Sub Group meeting to take place before 30<sup>th</sup> April; and
3. The Area Governance Officer agreed to email Councillor Armour a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Ferry Sub Group.

#### **5. NOMINATION FOR MAKI COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP**

An invitation from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islands Area CPG to the Kintyre Initiative Partnership to nominate a representative on their Group was considered.

##### **Decision**

The Partnership agreed to nominate the Chair of the Kintyre Initiative Partnership to be the nominated representative on the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islands Area CPG.

**6. MAKI COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP - 4 MARCH AGENDA ITEM 4(C) SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT LOCAL**

**(a) PRESENTATION FROM CAMPBELTOWN SAILING CLUB**

Unfortunately there was no one present from Campbeltown Sailing Club for this item so therefore this item was deferred until the June meeting.

**(b) PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY WOODLANDS**

Robin Nolan from Community Woodlands gave an update to the group, advising that the next Community Woodlands meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm in the Argyll Hotel. He advised that they have had a lot of support so far and ideas fed into them of what the woodland can be used for. He advised the Forestry Commission have suggested options for leasing and selling and going into partnership. While it was premature to seek inclusion in the SOA Local at this stage, it was agreed that either himself or Ed Tyler who was chair of the Core Group would come to the next meeting in June and feed into the process.

The group noted the information provided.

**(c) PRESENTATION ON LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME KINTYRE**

The group received an update in regard to the Landscape Partnership Scheme which is a 5 year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Ishabel MacKinnon advised that they are currently in the process of a stage 1 application process.

The Group noted the information provided.

**Decision**

KIP agreed to recommend to the MAKI CPG that the Landscape Partnership Scheme Kintyre be included on the SOA Local and requested that Antonia Baird take this forward with SKDT in terms of reviewing and if appropriate, assisting them to meet required criteria previously endorsed by the MAKI CPG in advance of their next meeting on 13 May 2015.

**7. BROADBAND IN THE KINTYRE AREA**

James Lafferty spoke to a report on behalf of Anna Watkiss which updated the group on the current situation with broadband in the Kintyre area.

He advised the Council have an interest in the programme to deliver new broadband infrastructure as they link to the Single Outcome Agreement, Outcome 2 – We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth and

the Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) aim to prioritise and promote infrastructure investment essential for the area's growth (transport, grid, utilities, broadband, mobile phone coverage).. He advised the EDAP contains a specific target to deliver superfast broadband to 80-85% of the population by 2020.

James advised that within the Kintyre area the rollout of fibre optic, next generation broadband to communities is being delivered by the Highlands and Islands Project by BT and the estimated coverage across the Highlands and Islands area of Argyll when combined with commercial rollout is 83%. He confirmed the roll out of the next generation broadband service is currently expected between January-June 2016 for the Kintyre area.

The Chair gave an update on behalf of Margaret Pratt of West Kintyre Community Council, on the broadband position in Clachan and Whitehouse.

He advised that Whitehouse and Clachan were the 2 villages in West Kintyre that were originally excluded from the Superfast Broadband Rollout Project across Scotland. He advised both villages have old Exchange Activate exchanges only capable of giving 0.5mbs broadband connections (at best) both of which were already at capacity and unable to add either voice or broadband lines effectively stultifying growth within the villages. He advised that the 2 village Hall Committees have for many months worked together to try to change this situation. During this period we have held helpful meetings with HIE, Local Councillors, MP's, Robert Thorburn of BT and Colin Cook -Deputy Director, Digital Strategies & Programme Division, Scotland.

The Chair confirmed the situation as West Kintyre Community Council now understands is that Clachan will now get a "green box" which will serve parts of the village which in turn will free up lines etc in the old exchange for growth, however, as yet it was not know how many in the village of Clachan will be able to access the new superfast service and who may be excluded. It is understood that once installed all residents in Clachan will see some uplift in speeds dependant on how far from the green box or the exchange they are.

He advised that the situation in Whitehouse is different and advice had been that due to small size of village it would not be cost effective to include the exchange in the superfast rollout programme.

The Chair further advised on behalf of West Kintyre Community Council that during late November 2014 the exchange at Whitehouse effectively "fell over" for a period of three plus weeks, with businesses and residents being unable to access broadband services for the majority of this time. Following many complaints to BT we were eventually heard and the Executive Complaints Department looked into the troubles. Since then BT has installed some new equipment in the exchange (completed 2 weeks ago) which has removed the old exchange activate equipment and given the capability of adding many more lines. All current customers have been migrated onto the new equipment which, when fully tested and

completed, will be capable of giving the villagers up to 8mbps of broadband speed dependant on how near to the exchange they live. Currently it is still only capable of giving at best 0.5mbps. He confirmed that the village of Whitehouse is still excluded from the superfast programme but it was hoped that they should at some stage get at least up to this 8mbps promised. Plus now that the village has the capacity for new lines it is hoped this will help to sell house plots etc. and allow growth in the village.

He advised the Broadband Group did at one point explore the possibility of applying to "Community Broadband" to put in their own Community system, however, this was quickly ruled out when it was found that by going down this route you are effectively taken out of any future BT programmes. This coupled with the understanding that to get any Internet Service Provider to run it would need approximately 1000 customers to make it worth their while was it was felt a big ask for small communities.

The Chair also commented that Peninver and Saddell had been left out of the loop but would be working with Communities Broadband Scotland to find a solution which would be much welcomed.

The group noted the information provided.

## **8. AIRPORT BOOKLET ON PATIENT TRANSPORT**

The group considered a leaflet providing information for patients from Highlands and Islands area travelling to and from hospitals within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde via Glasgow Airport.

### **Decision**

The group noted the information provided and agreed that partners who wished to circulate this handy document should use the contact details on the leaflet to obtain further copies.

## **9. PARTNER UPDATES**

### **(a) HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE (HIE)**

There was no update in respect of Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

### **(b) BUSINESS GATEWAY**

The partnership considered a status report from Donald Melville of Business Gateway, updating them on the action/project summary from December 2014 to February 2015. He advised that he ran a 'Meet the Adviser' (MTA) sessions in Campbeltown on 11<sup>th</sup> December (Open Day at Machrihanish Airbase), 7<sup>th</sup> January plus presentation to job centre plus staff on 27<sup>th</sup> February which were all very successful. He confirmed he also ran MTA sessions in Islay over two days on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January and delivered a Start Up workshop and a bookkeeping workshop on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March. He

advised that more workshops can be scheduled if there is a demand within Kintyre: Marketing Your Business, Build Your Own Business website, Improve your business website performance, Online Trading essentials, Customer Care, Get the most out of your people, becoming an Employer and Public Sector Procurement.

Donald advised he has currently scheduled fortnightly visits to Campbeltown to deliver MTA sessions, through to the end of July and clients have requested they would like to meet with him via the local office or the national enquiry centre. He still plans to visit Islay for two days every quarter, subject to demand.

He advised that the Business Gateway Plus growth grant has just closed and a new application for funding to continue has just been submitted where they expect to know the outcome of this bid in two or three months' time.

Donald gave an update to the partnership on the financial quarter 3 impact results for businesses in the Kintyre area.

The partnership noted the information provided although did have some concerns that the advice giving role only extended to those businesses with a turnover in excess of £70k per annum.

Councillor Currie left the meeting at this point.

#### **(c) THE PICTURE HOUSE**

The partnership were given a verbal update by Jane Mayo, advising of the Cultural Assembly group which is an Argyll and Bute wide initiative and vision to work together to celebrate and promote culture within our geographical boundaries. She advised the meetings are held across Argyll and Bute over the next few months and the next one is scheduled for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm in the Community Centre, Campbeltown.

Jane gave an update on Campbeltown Picture House. She advised the works will be underway soon and they have been successful with 12 major funders which include the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Chair advised that there is a paper going to the Area Committee in April regarding the Picture House. Jane reported that they have a co-option of 5 new Directors, of upcoming job opportunities and they will be moving into a new office very shortly.

She advised that they are planning to have an annual film festival in the Victoria Hall.

The group noted the information provided.

#### **(d) SOUTH KINTYRE DEVELOPMENT TRUST (SKDT)**

James Lafferty gave an update on behalf of South Kintyre Development Trust. He advised he works closely with the Board in

working with the Town Hall Project, Community Renewables, Landscape Partnership, Townscape etc. He advised that THI is due to finish this year and the outcome of the new car bid will be issued tomorrow which will be a 5 year run project if successful and advised this will be important for the town centre tenements.

### **Decision**

The group noted the information provided and agreed to include Town Centre Regeneration on the agenda for future meetings

#### **(e) ARGYLL COLLEGE**

The group considered a report from Argyll College updating them on the two short full-time courses recently started in Campbeltown in NPA Constructions and Access to Health and Social Care. They were advised that the students have settled into the college life and are progressing well with their studies.

Argyll College are currently taking applications for full-time courses starting in September 2015. The list can be found on their website at [www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk).

It was noted that the college continues to work closely with local organisations including Campbeltown Grammar School, Argyll and Bute Council, Woodland Resource Centre and local employers.

The group noted the information provided.

#### **(f) KINTYRE WAY**

The Chair updated the group on the celebration of the new closing route. He advised it leads into Campbeltown, down to the coast at Southend and finishes off at Machrihanish, totalling 100 miles. He confirmed this route will now take away the dangerous section which included walking on the main road.

The group noted the information provided.

#### **(g) ARGYLL VOLUNTARY ACTION (AVA)**

Margaret Wallace from Argyll Voluntary Action gave an update to the group. She advised that they are continuing to support Kintyre Food Bank which has provided parcels to over 100 people, including children since opening in October last year. She confirmed donations from the public have kept pace and the number of volunteers has increased.

She advised that Argyll Voluntary Action is delivering presentations on the Integration of Health and Social Care to Community Councils.

Margaret confirmed that Volunteer of the Year 2015 will take place at the Council Chamber, Kilmory, Lochgilphead on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and nominations are welcome and can be made via application

form from the office, or online, with the closing date of Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

The Group noted the information provided.

#### **10. AOCB**

Susan Paterson provided a short update in respect of Shopper-Aide, she advised that they were awarded with the Social Enterprise of the Year Award. She also advised that they are currently fighting for funding keep things going.

She confirmed that the Dunaverty Hall has reopened and already has 3 booking, 2 weddings and a school reunion.

Jim Martin intimated that he will be standing down from attending the KIP meetings as he feels the group has lost attendance from MP/MSPs and farmers etc from the private sector. He advised that formerly everyone would bring a new initiative to the meeting and feels this should be brought back. It was accepted that the direction of the group had been shaped partially by the need to feed into the MAKI CPG which was the direction of travel.

The Chair asked for an agenda item 'Future of KIP' to be added to the June agenda to discuss the future content of the meeting. The Chair agreed to discuss this with Council Officers before the next KIP meeting. The Chair advised that a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Kintyre Initiative Partnership will be elected at the next meeting in June.

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Kintyre Initiative Partnership will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 10am in the Community Centre, Campbeltown.