

## **Management Committee**

## **4.0 Highlights**

All groups considered:

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The Group heard a presentation from Eddie Cusick of Helensburgh Community Hub who provided information on the background to the organisation and the work that was ongoing to prepare the building for re-opening in early July. It was hoped that partnership working would ensure that the space would be at the heart of the community and would provide volunteering opportunities as well as services which were needed in the area.

### **Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands**

A number of partners were in attendance and provided updates to the Group – this included representatives of 6 Community Councils.

The Group heard an excellent presentation from Elaine Whyte from the Clyde Fisherman's Association which provided detail on the fishing industry in Argyll and Bute and covered what impact Brexit and Covid-19 was having.

A presentation was also provided by Eric Spence, South Kintyre Development Trust who provided detail on the Covid-19 response provided by the Kintyre Community Resilience and Recovery Group. The co-ordination of the response in the area was commended by the Group with a number of partners commenting on the positive experience and assistance that they had received.

Linda Syed from Furnace Community Council advised of ongoing concerns in

The Group considered a verbal update from Eleanor MacKinnon, Oban Communities Trust, in relation to The Rockfield Centre. The Group noted that the opening of the building was delayed due to Covid-19 but that the Centre continued to operate as a community anchor organisation by moving most of their activities online. However, with more staff coming on board they aim to develop more face-to-face activities such as working with Atlantis Leisure Centre to facilitate a summer camp programme.

Joan Best advised the Group that Crossroads - North Argyll Carers had been very busy with referrals for respite for unpaid carers and are currently providing 150 hours a week. North Argyll Carers had placed an advert for staff on the islands but had not received any applications, Ms Best asked that anyone with an interest in securing a position to get in touch.

Catriona Petit, on behalf of Hope Kitchen, advised the Group that the Greenshoots Garden had remained open throughout the pandemic by working with partners and had started a new initiative working with primary care mental health teams and social prescribers to deliver woodland based activities and run the Looking on the Bright Side Allotments initiative. Hope Kitchen also worked in partnership with the Rockfield Centre, through the Community Fund, to deliver their response to people's emotional and mental health issues due to the impact of Covid-19.

Police Inspector Mark Stephen advised the Group that a successful bid to Argyll and Bute Council for funding enabled them to employ an officer to work with new wardens around Staycation activities and police bicycles will soon to be available to officers to enable them to access places where cars cannot.

The Group considered an update by Marie Harrower, Oban Access Panel, on the work of the Panel in promoting social inclusion and securing a more accessible environment in Oban and the surrounding area. The Group noted that the Panel aim to make improvements for locals and visitors by linking into national campaigns and working with the local authority to identify potential problems accessing buildings. The Group heard how the Panel were keen to engage with young people to help them continue in the development of an access plan for the area. They are also working on an initiative to try to ensure products in shops can be identifiable for all by labelling products in braille.

#### **4.1 Administrative Arrangements for Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group**

Following the decision taken by the Management Committee in June 2017 the Helensburgh and Lomond ACPG has been supported in terms of administrative arrangements by Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and by members of the Community Planning/Development Team. These arrangements allowed all of the

Groups to continue with a quarterly meeting schedule and that support was very much appreciated at a time when Council resources were stretched. A review of this support has recently been undertaken and as from June 2021 the administrative and governance arrangements will be provided by staff from the Council's Legal and Regulatory Support Service. This change will provide a consistent approach to these arrangements across all 4 Area Community Planning Groups.

#### **4.2 Climate Change Working Group and Area Community Planning Groups**

At a recent meeting of the Climate Change Working Group a suggestion was made that information could be shared with Community Councils by one of the members who is also Chair of the Bute and Cowal ACPG. This was then discussed at the recent meeting of the ACPG Chairs and Vice Chairs to agree the draft agendas for the August round of meetings. At this meeting the Chairs and Vice Chairs felt that a discussion at the ACPGs could provide examples of initiatives taking place in local communities as well as highlight areas which could contribute to the climate change agenda. They asked if there could be a short paper provided to the meetings on the work of the Climate Change Working Group which could be used to facilitate discussion – and if possible an officer to attend to speak to this item.

#### **4.3 Further Actions**

It is requested that the Management Committee note the report and the successful meetings held in April/May 2021.

The Management Committee is also asked to note the change to the administration arrangements for the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group.

The Management Committee is asked to consider the request in relation to the

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For More Information:

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**References:** n/a

**Appendices:** n/a