

**MINUTES of MEETING of MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY
PLANNING GROUP held by MICROSOFT TEAMS
on WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2021**

Present: Ian Brodie, East Kintyre Community Council (Chair)
Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll & Bute Council
Antonia Baird, Community Development Officer, Argyll & Bute Council
Councillor Anne Horn
Caitlin Quinn, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
Jamie Joyce, Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust
Valerie Nimmo, Campbeltown Community Council
~~Neil MacEwan, Argyll and Bute Council~~
Neil MacEwan, Argyll and Bute Council
Jeni West, Forestry and Land Scotland
Donald McNeill, Forestry and Land Scotland
Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland
~~James St. Wallace, Argyll and Bute Council~~
James St. Wallace, Argyll and Bute Council
Ness Wright, Architecture and Design Scotland

Inspector Paul Collins, Police Scotland
Cathy Cameron, Time for Change Argyll and Bute

The Chair ruled, and the Group agreed, to a variation in the order of business to allow partner attendance. The minute reflects the order in which items were discussed.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The Committee Manager outlined the procedure for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Councillor Donald MacMillan BEM;
Charles Reppke, Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust;
Sandra MacIntyre, We Are With You;
Phil Dickinson, Craignish Community Council;
Don McKillop, Caledonian MacBrayne;
Catherine Anne MacAulay, Campbeltown Community Council;
PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland;
Hazel Fuller, Dunadd Community Council;
Alyson MacGillivray, South Islay Development; and
Chiara Fingland, Architecture and Design Scotland.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

(a) **Meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group held on Tuesday, 24th August 2021**

The Minute of the meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group held on Tuesday, 24th August 2021 was approved as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON INVERARAY TO CROSSAIG PROJECT

The Group considered a recent project newsletter and verbal update from Caitlin Quinn, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), in relation to the progress of the ongoing Inveraray to Crossaig Reinforcement Project.

Caitlin advised that she would be happy to answer any questions from partners by e-mail infor (t)-3 (i)1 (ons)-1ynv infbe-3 (nf)-3 (or (n1m)-3 (eeta-4 (nn,)2 ()nd (v)-1 ((em)-333 (ay)-1

bonfire and firework safety.

James noted that guidance was being prepared in relation to the new fire alarm legislation coming into force in 2022, and this guidance would be available from all fire stations across the area in due course.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by James Sullivan, Watch Commander/Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, submitted)

(c) Police Scotland Update

The Group considered an update from Inspector Collins, Police Scotland, which provided information around different methods of fraud and fraud prevention. Inspector Collins encouraged members of the Group to get in touch if they were aware of anyone who may benefit from education or training around fraud prevention, noting that work was ongoing with financial institutions, Alzheimer's Scotland, and charity groups to ensure that people were well equipped to deal with attempted fraud. James Sullivan offered the support of SFRS in disseminating any fraud prevention literature to vulnerable people during home fire safety visits.

The update also included information around recent vehicle thefts in the local area and Inspector Collins confirmed that apprehensions were made in connection with the enquiry. He noted that he would be in touch with Lucy Sumsion around security advice which could be provided to farmers and urged people to keep their doors and vehicles locked in the interim. Councillor Armour also offered his support in relation to these concerns as a local Member. Inspector Collins noted that there were hopes that Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras could be placed on the route in future, however this was in the early stages of consideration and would be part of a larger piece of partnership working.

Inspector Collins also spoke to the implementation of a Mobile Police Office schedule and requested that members of the Group get in touch if they had any specific dates, times or events that they would like the Mobile Police Office to be in attendance for on li

and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Inspector Paul Collins, Police Scotland, submitted)

(d) **Campbeltown Community Council Update**

The Group considered an update from Campbeltown Community Council. The update provided information in relation to additional funding for Town Centre Maintenance Officers to assist with their work upgrading and restoring local benches, and included a status update on the runway refurbishment works at Campbeltown airport. The update also highlighted concerns around the road surface on the Esplanade and concerns that windfarm companies were not following the Scottish Government Guidelines on Good Practice in relation to community benefit works.

Valerie Nimmo also provided an update on work which was being carried out with Inspiralba, South Kintyre Development Trust and Architecture and Design Scotland following Campbeltown's designation as a Climate Action Town.

Valerie raised concerns around the Education Change Programme and ongoing consultations, noting that the consultations did not seem to make reference to community input and she had been unable to locate the relevant timescales for the consultation. Shona Barton confirmed that it was hoped that an Education representative would be able to attend the next Group meeting in February to discuss the plans as part of the consultation, and in the interim she would raise Valerie's concerns with the lead officer for the project and ask for information to be made available for circulation to the Group.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Valerie Nimmo, Campbeltown Community Council, submitted)

(e) **Argyll College UHI Update**

The Group considered an update from Argyll College UHI which included confirmation that online course applications were open for the 2022/23 session. The update also provided information around home working; ongoing monitoring of government guidelines in relation to students returning to campuses; closed book assessments being arranged in centres; the resumption of CITB/CSCS testing in Campbeltown and Dunoon; the refurbishment of Lochgilphead centres; the creation of a new Construction/Engineering workshop in Campbeltown; arrangements made for

(Reference: Update by Mairi MacCuaig, Learning Centre Manager, Argyll College UHI, submitted)

(f) **Forestry and Land Scotland Update**

The Group considered an update from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). The update included information around the timber market; local outbreaks of phytophthora ramorum disease in larch trees and measures being taken to reduce the spread of same; work with developers on windfarm proposals in the local area; early stage work around peatland restoration; the success of the Stay the Night scheme; the revision of local Land Management Plans (LMPs); and work being undertaken on the Inveraray to Crossaig Reinforcement Project which included areas of FLS land.

Jeni West also provided a presentation to the Group which included information around the vision, mission, background and purpose of FLS. The presentation also provided information on the work of FLS at a national and local level, and how this links with corporate and national outcomes. Jeni particularly highlighted the successes, challenges and opportunities experienced in the West Region.

Lucy Sumsion requested further information in relation to the work around peatland restoration and Donald McNeill confirmed that this was in the very early stages but he would be happy to provide further information at future meetings of the Group.

Valerie Nimmo raised concerns around windfarm developers using FLS land and not providing community benefit or adhering to Scottish Government Guidelines on Good Practice. Donald advised that a national dedicated Renewables team was responsible for setting out relevant criteria with windfarm developers such as community benefit, however there were difficulties in that there were no legislative requirements for this. Donald provided assurance that FLS would continue to encourage and endorse the principles set out in the relevant Scottish Government guidelines. Lucy suggested that community benefit responsibilities could sometimes be a condition of planning consent, and noted that this may be worth exploring if Valerie remained concerned.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Donald McNeill, Planning Manager, Forestry and Land Scotland, submitted and presentation by Jeni West, Planning Forester, Forestry and Land Scotland, tabled)

the identified priorities therein.

Brian Smith also provided an update on the relaunch of Youth Action Groups (formerly Youth Forums) and the potential for increased youth engagement with the Group in future.

and Countryside Trust, in relation to the ACT Now Project in Mid Argyll. The presentation provided an overview of the aims of the project and work being undertaken, including the promotion of sustainable transport through the delivery of Velotech qualifications as part of the Bikes Back to the Community Project; a Tayvallich bike station which had been set up in conjunction with Sustainable Tayvallich and Keep Scotland Beautiful; future plans for another bike station at the MACPOOL site; and the provision of two eCargo bikes available for hire in the Mid Argyll area.

The presentation also included information around the provision of accredited education on Climate Change; the implementation of the ACT Now Food Share network to reduce food waste; the compilation of a map to highlight like-minded organisations; the delivery of workshops to upskill the community; and future plans

The Group considered a presentation by Ness Wright, Architecture and Design Scotland, in relation to the Climate Actions Towns Project. The presentation provided an overview of the Climate Action Towns Project and particularly highlighted work which was planned for Campbeltown as one of the selected locations. Information was provided around the project aims; criteria for selection as a climate action town; and the timeline of the project so far. The presentation also provided an introduction to the team members who were involved in the project.

Ness invited questions and suggestions from partners by e-mail following the meeting. Councillor Armour requested that local Elected Members were kept updated on the progress of the project.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation by Ness Wright, Senior Design Officer, Architecture and Design Scotland, submitted)

8. DATA SETS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN ARGYLL AND BUTE

The Group considered a presentation by Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland (SDS), which provided information on school leaver data reporting. The presentation included information around the different forms of data reporting, with particular emphasis on the Annual Participation Measure. Susan provided an overview of the methods of data collection; different destination groupings; figures relating to recorded destinations for school leavers in the MAKI area and across the Argyll and Bute area until now; and information around continuing trends and factors influencing these figures. As part of the presentation, Susan also provided attendees with a demonstration of how to use the SDS Annual Participation Measure website.

Susan noted that the next data set relating to school leavers as at Summer 2021 would be available in February 2022 and confirmed that she would return to provide an update to the Group at this point.

Discussion took place around the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and it was noted that the full impact of this was unlikely to be known for some time, however these concerns were being observed and picked up on at a national level. Susan

The Group gave consideration to a report and presentation from Nicola Hackett, Live Argyll, which provided an update on the development of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategic Plan for 2021-2024.

Nicola provided an overview of the focus of the Community Learning and Development plan in tackling inequalities and delivering social justice; the partnership working involved; the methods of information gathering and engagement which had been used in informing the new plan; and target groups identified for further consultation. The main themes which had been identified were confirmed as digital skills; core skills for learning, life and work; health and wellbeing; your voice; the learner offer; and improve how we work as a partnership.

Nicola confirmed that progress performance would be monitored and reported annually to the Community Services Committee, Community Planning Partnership, and Area Community Planning Groups. It was noted that HMIE were also undertaking a visit to monitor progress in the following week.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group;

- noted the content of the new plan and acknowledged the clear synergy between the identified Community Learning and Development priorities and those of the Community Planning Partnership;
- noted their recognition of the importance of community capacity building support and the need for partners to focus Community Learning and Development activity on the most disadvantaged communities; and
- agreed to identify areas from the action plan where partners could work effectively together at a local level to support learners and communities as part of COVID-19 recovery.

(Reference: Report and presentation by Nicola Hackett, Business Development Manager, Live Argyll, dated 3rd November, submitted)

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Group considered a briefing note which provided information around matters discussed during a virtual meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee, held on 29th September 2021.

Shona Barton provided a further update to the report, advising that the Council had agreed a response to the National Care Service for Scotland Consultation at a special Council meeting held on 28th October 2021. Water safety awareness and partnership working in relation to same was highlighted within the report, as well as the formation of a Short Life Working Group in response to issues raised around staff recruitment and retention. Shona also drew attention to the Connecting Scotland project which aimed to assist digitally excluded households to gain online access and encouraged partners to direct any interested parties to the website link included within the report.

Ian Brodie noted that the area South of Tarbert had been designated as a repopulation zone, and requested that the officer appointed to this project be invited to a future meeting of the Group.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the briefing note.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 3rd November 2021, submitted)

11. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

The Group considered a report providing information relating to the appointment of a Vice-Chair of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group and outlining the expected time commitment and information about the role.

As there were no nominations for the role, Shona Barton and Ian Brodie encouraged anyone with an interest in the position to get in touch with them following the meeting to discuss this in further detail.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group agreed to continue consideration of the appointment of a Vice-Chair to the next meeting of the Group.

(Reference: Report by Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 3rd November 2021, submitted)

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group would take place on Wednesday, 2nd February 2022 at 10am.