## INTRODUCTION

In Argyll and Bute the

## Environment

The ambition of the Environment TG is to protect and enhance our built, natural, and managed environment whilst promoting our cultural, social and natural heritage. Also to use our environment to create employment and prosperity and to protect our unique area.

Highlights
- Over 89% of the natural features (plants, birds, habitats etc) on Argyll and Bute's protected areas are in favourable condition compared to a Scottish average of 78% (March 2010).

- Four Forward Together community consultation events have been held, one in each administrative area,

## Better Community Engagement

Argyll and Bute CPP is working with the Scottish Government Community Engagement Teams' Better Community Engagement Programme as one of ten Local Demonstration Projects. The Better Community Engagement framework is based on the National Standards for Community Engagement and is designed to enable the planning of learning in community engagement.

The first stage of the project has been to develop a community engagement route map based on the structures and expectations identified by those involved at all levels of the community planning framework. The focus is now to develop a training and learning resource targeted at Local Area Community Planning Groups. This resource will take the form of a community engagement toolkit designed to inform and support all LACPG stakeholders.

## Consultation Diary

The gathering and recording of consultation and engagement activities was an action in the Community Engagement Strategy. A pro forma has been developed to begin the process of gathering information about any planned, current or recent consultations. The information will be gathered at a local level and collated to give an overall picture of consultation activity. Information will also be collated at an Argyll and Bute level and made available to all partners.

## Principles of Representation at CPP

The CPP Partnership Agreement was adopted in May 2009. Under the new structure partner organisations are regularly required to represent each other at Management Committee, Thematic Partnerships, Local Community Planning level and at other strategic partnerships. In order for this to work partners must be confident that they are fully informed of any discussions taking place and are able to feed into any debate. It is essential that information flows in both directions. Clear lines of accountability allow representatives to speak with real authority. This does not mean that all decisions are subject to a consensus, at times a representative will have to present diverse, sometimes conflicting, views. Representatives should be prepared and able to explain decisions and actions. Partners in a representation role should put into place reporting mechanisms that support the flow of information without creating unnecessary burdens and make arrangements that enable all partners to participate as fully as possible. There should also be clarity about who is being represented and whether one partner has a clear mandate to represent another.

### Examples of good practice

- Strathclyde Police - have Information Sharing Protocols in place, for the sharing of information between Strathclyde Police and partner organisations

with regards to the following: Anti Social Behaviour with Argyll and Bute Council, ACHA, Fyne Homes and Homeless Sevices: Noise Nuisance with Argyll and Bute Council Environmental Services: Serious and Organised Crime Groups with Argyll and Bute Council ( Due to be signed on 19/10/2010).  Regular updates are also given on attendance at CPP Executive meetings, CPP Management Committee Meetings, Community Safety Partnership meetings as well as at Local Area Community Planning Group meetings for MAKI, Bute and Cowal, Oban Lorn and The Isles, Helensburgh and Lomond.  Regular Community Engagement meetings are also held, which gives the public the opportunity to attend and speak directly to members of their Community Policing team regarding local issues. Community newsletters are regularly distributed.

- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue – have processes in place including an internal meeting reporting system, a clear schematic of representation by SFR personnel through the CPP structure.  There is also a Community Event Initiative form. This Community Event Initiative process is used to provide relevant information to evaluate whether or not they can support individual initiatives.

- The Third Sector Partnership – engage with the wider sector to gather information, seeking clarification from partners on local issues.  The third Sector Partnership (TSP) acts as the representative for