

COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGEMENT GROUP

UPDATE FROM THIRD THEME GROUP

1. The Third Theme Group meeting was held on Wednesday 26th January 2005 and fourteen people were in attendance.
2. Malcolm MacFadyen, Head of Planning and Performance, Community Services, gave a presentation on the Local Housing Strategy. The presentation was extremely informative and useful to the members of the group and a question and answer session followed which emphasised the links the Housing Strategy has with the work of a wide range of CPP Partners.
3. An update on the ROA was provided which confirmed that Communities Scotland will meet with a number of staff involved in the completion of the ROA to discuss details before it is signed off by the Executive. However, it was confirmed that the document has met with a very positive response and Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership did not require the extensions of time which have been given across Scotland in order to finalise the document.
4. Lolita also gave an update on the present position of the Bute and Cowal Pilot and on the end of the work of the Second Theme Group.
5. Membership – It was agreed that Lolita and Donald would review the membership of the group within the next two weeks and then pass out to all attendees a proposed new list for consideration. It was agreed that where there are gaps in attendances from key partner organisations the chair would write out to these organisations inviting them to participate in the Third Theme Group.

Pat Logan and David Dowie expressed concern that the Management Group had taken the decision not to aspire for a long term target of 50% representation from community representatives on the Planning Partnership. However, Brian Barker confirmed that this was the decision of the last Management Group and it was noted that their concerns would be passed on to the Management Group.

It was agreed that Peter Minshall and Jennifer Swanson would be invited along from the Argyll and Bute Advice Network to the Theme Group and it was also agreed that the Citizens Advice Bureau would be welcome to attend a future meeting to give a presentation on their work.

It was agreed that the Action Plan would be reviewed every six months as discussed at the previous meeting.

A local issue regarding a housing project in Helensburgh was raised by Morven Short, Dunbritton Housing Association and she was advised that this matter should be taken up through the appropriate channels of local Council Area Committee and through the Housing Strategy if there was a difficulty. It was the general agreement of the group that project matters like this were not under the locus of the Strategic Theme Group and should be dealt with through available local channels. Not all members of the group were in agreement with this.

6. Brian confirmed that the Community Planning Partnership website would be in operation from February this year.

Donald MacVicar
Chair, Third Theme Group

27th January 2005