

## **BUTE AND COWAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PILOT**

### **REPORT TO CPP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Progress**

Since the CPP meeting on 4 March 2005, there has been one meeting of each level of the Bute and Cowal Pilot.

A Level 1 meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March when the officers discussed the proposed agenda for the next Level 2 meeting, additional community representation from South Cowal, replacement community reps from Bute, youth representation at Level 2 and the identification of 2/3 common areas of priority throughout the Bute and Cowal area. The most recent Citizens' Panel response and a Community Questionnaire for Ardenslate and Milton ADG were to be circulated to Level 2 Members to facilitate this task.

Prior to the Level 2 meeting I met or spoke to the 3 remaining community representatives to run through and discuss the agenda business for the meeting.

The Level 2 meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April was attended by all community representatives (3) and all bar one of the strategic representatives, an apology being tendered from Caledonian MacBrayne. The issues on the Level 2 Agenda (Copy attached) were comprehensively discussed with agreement on the following:

#### **Agenda Item 4:**

- Community Reps from South Cowal to follow the appointment of a CVS support officer
- 2 Youth workers to be invited to represent youth at Level 2 on an interim basis
- Replacement Community Reps to be identified for Bute as soon as possible

The Chairman suggested that representatives should come from each of the Community Councils in the area but in discussion it was agreed that this would be addressed by the setting up of each area Forum with one representative from each on Level 2 giving 50% community representation at that level.

#### **Agenda Item 6:**

The CP Pilot to be the first point of contact for any Bute and Cowal consultation by partners.

#### **Agenda Item 7:**

There was a general awareness of the need to adhere to the standards for community engagement.

#### **Agenda Item 8:**

Each partner agreed to identify 3 individual priorities for refining in a brainstorming session at the June meeting in an attempt to produce 2/3 immediate priority issues which the Pilot could try to address in 2005/06.

The issues common to more than one partner were immediately identified:

- (i) The problems associated with under age drinking in the area
- (ii) The opportunities presented by the replacement of Spence Court, Dunoon through regeneration funding when ACHA is formally constituted with the inclusion of a community meeting/leisure/recreation facility in this project.

A further Level 1 Group meeting will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> April to pursue the community/youth representation issues and to look at the need for training, capacity building, support of these representatives.

The next Level 2 meeting will take place in Rothesay on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2005.

#### **Networking**

On 28<sup>th</sup> February Lolita and I visited Stirling Council to examine how their scheme of Community Compacts had been formulated and how the system is operating. From discussions it would appear as if we are making good progress in engaging with communities at local level and are even more advanced in some aspects of our structure, namely the fact that we have key agencies represented on our Area Partnership.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March we both attended a full day conference in Motherwell and an Audit Scotland Briefing at COSLA on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. On both occasions I was included in the workshops discussing the problems and different approaches to community engagement. It appears that the methods used are as different as each authority, some centralistic and others totally devolved but I did not come across any on an area basis similar to Bute and

Cowal. It also appears that some Councils, through their elected members, are taking over the process on the basis that community planning is now their role and they will run it as part of the democratic process (as councillors they are elected by the community, represent communities and therefore no other community representation is necessary). This is causing concern amongst communities who have established good working relationships through SIP's and ADG's.

George B. McKenzie  
Pilot Co-ordinator, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005

## AREA PARTNERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minute of meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February
4. Additional Community Representatives
  - South Cowal – update
  - Youth – consider options

5. Area Partnership Issues

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Argyll and the Islands Enterprise
- Bute Community Links/CVS
- Caledonian MacBrayne
- Communities Scotland
- Community Representatives
- Fyne Homes
- NHS
- Strathclyde Police
- West Coast Motors

*This agenda item is intended as an opportunity for partners to report, question or raise particular area partnership issues to be addressed by immediate response or included by way of a report in the next meeting.*

6. Bute and Cowal Pilot – Consider feasibility of reaching a protocol as first point of contact with the community
7. Standards for Community Engagement – for information
8. Bute and Cowal Priorities – identify 2/3 common issues to take forward in year 1

Current priority areas:

Scottish Executive

1. Building Strong and Safe Communities
2. Promoting Employability and Training
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Promoting Community Development and Capacity Building

Community Planning Partnership

1. Promoting Health and Wellbeing
2. Improving Opportunities for Learning Employment and Skills Development
3. Sustaining and Developing our Communities, Culture and Environment.

9. Dates of future meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in June, Aug, Oct, Dec.