

ARGYLL AND BUTE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of MEETING held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on FRIDAY, 8 JULY 2005

Present:

Councillor Allan Macaskill (Chair)	Andrew Campbell, Scottish Natural Heritage
James McLellan, Argyll and Bute Council	Ken Mactaggart, Argyll and the Isles Enterprise
Alan Milstead, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise	Brian Barker, Argyll and Bute Council
Caroline Champion, NHS Argyll & Clyde	Keith Miller, Forestry Commission Scotland
Andrew McAllister, Local Economic Forum Dunbartonshire	David Dowie, Communities Scotland
Anne Clark, Islay & Jura CVS	Raymond Park, Strathclyde Police
Tom Murphy, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue	Marlene Baillie, Strathclyde Police
Pauline Borland, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue	Peter Minshall, CVS Argyll and Bute Council
James McMillan, VisitScotland	Erik Jespersen, NHS Argyll and Clyde
Bill Dalrymple, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority	Muriel Kupris, Argyll and Bute Council
David McGregor, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire\Local Economic Forum	Pat Logan, Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre
	Carl Olivarius, Argyll and Bute Council
	Mary Louise MacQuarrie, Argyll and Bute Council

Apologies:

Councillor Robin Banks	Alistair Oatts, Argyll & Bute Care and Repair
Lolita Lavery, Community Planning Manager	Frances Webster, Careers Scotland
Shane Rankin, Crofters Commission	Donald MacVicar, Argyll and Bute Council
Jacqui MacLeod, Crofters Commission	Mitch Roger, Strathclyde Police
Jim McCrossan, Argyll and Bute Council	Ken Abernethy, Argyll and the Isles Enterprise
George McKenzie, Bute & Cowal Project Co-ordinator	Gavin Brown, NHS Argyll & Clyde
Nick Purdy, Forestry Commission	Jim Frame, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Lesley Campbell, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority	Joyce Borthwick, Careers Scotland
Josephine Stojak, Argyll & Bute Local Health Care Co-op	Andy Law, Argyll and Bute Council
	Jim Clinton, Bute Community Links

1. WELCOME

Councillor Allan Macaskill welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly those attending for the first time.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2005

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2005 were accepted as an accurate record, subject to a correction to the Theme 2 Update (Anne Campbell should read Anne Clark).

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters brought forward from the previous minutes.

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

(a) UPDATE ON CPP PRIORITIES (THEME GROUP LEADERS)

Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire Local Economic Forum

Andrew McAllister gave a presentation on behalf of the Dunbartonshire Local Economic Forum in his capacity as Chair of the Forum (slides available on request), followed by a brief discussion about Helensburgh Waterfront and changes to European funding.

Health and Wellbeing Group

The Partnership noted a report on the activities by the Health and Wellbeing Group, presented by Caroline Champion on behalf of Gavin Brown, copies having previously been circulated.

Argyll and the Isles Enterprise Local Economic Forum

Ken Mactaggart gave a presentation on behalf of Argyll and the Isles Enterprise Local Economic Forum (slides available on request), followed by questions related to issues of boundaries and coterminosity. Andrew McAllister pointed out that SED focus on key business, as this lessens the impact of issues related to boundaries.

Sustaining & Developing our Communities, Culture & Environment Group

The Partnership noted a report on the activities of the Sustaining & Developing our Communities, Culture & Environment Group, presented by Muriel Kupris on behalf of Donald MacVicar, copies having previously been circulated.

(b) UPDATE ON BUTE AND COWAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Barker gave an update on the Bute and Cowal Area Partnership on behalf of George McKenzie, Bute and Cowal Project Co-ordinator, copies of the report having been circulated to the meeting. The Area Partnership is focusing on two main priority projects for the area –

1. A Family Centre located in the Burgh Hall, Dunoon in conjunction with Fyne Homes; and
2. The redevelopment of Spence Court, Dunoon following the Council's decision on the future of this site.

5. CPP BIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD ON 10 JUNE 2005

Copies of the CPP Biennial Conference delegate pack, reporting on the Conference, lists of those invited and those who attended the Conference, the Presentations, outcomes from the Working Groups and details arising from these sessions, had been circulated with the agenda.

The Partnership endorsed the main outcomes of the Conference:-

1. Increasing Older Population
 - Valuing experience and age
 - Create meaningful opportunities
 - Different accountabilities and limits of partnership working

2. Declining Younger Population

- Sustainable employment and relevant skills to support that
- Positive identity for young people
- Facilities and subsequent opportunities

3. Fragile Communities

- Transport
- Community confidence/capacity
- Housing – land availability supporting infrastructure

These will be progressed via the various CPP groups as they review and revise their policies and strategies. The Third Theme group (Sustaining and Developing our Communities, Culture and Environment) has already started this process. The Management Committee will overview this process.

Partners were also encouraged to consider the conference outcomes as they review and revise their own strategies and plans.

Particular comments were made about the content and organisation of the conference. Particular praise was made for Colin Mair's keynote presentation where he encouraged partners to make Argyll and Bute's voice heard.

Pat Logan also asked about how the Partnership might make international links, given the recent prominence of the Make Poverty History campaign. James McLellan highlighted his interest in the topic and confirmed that he was happy to make further enquiries.

6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (ANDREW CAMPBELL)

Andrew Campbell gave an update from the Management Committee, which had met on two occasions since the last Partnership meeting.

The main items of interest were –

- the evaluation report on Better Neighbourhood Services
- discussion about capital developments and the possibility of sharing facilities
- development of criteria for the capacity building budget

Discussion also touched on Initiative at the Edge. Partners agreed that Hughie Donaldson should be contacted to explore ways of linking Initiative at the Edge to the Management Committee.

7. ARGYLL AND CLYDE HEALTH BOARD CONSULTATION

Allan Macaskill confirmed to the Partnership that the consultation process had been delayed until early/mid-August. The process could take around three months to complete.

James McLellan spoke to the Partnership in regard to the Council's involvement in the consultation.

The Council has re-convened the Policy Development Group that responded to the Clinical Strategy consultation and will continue to be involved in the group developing the Health Board's Community Development Programme.

Erik Jespersen of NHS Argyll and Clyde answered questions, giving his perspective on the likely proposals on the splitting up of the former Argyll and Clyde area and the areas of accountability.

8. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DESKTOP STUDY ON PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITIES (JAMES McLELLAN)

James McLellan spoke in regard to the Scottish Executive proposal for a desktop exercise in relation to public sector reform.

Two main options had been outlined by the Executive – either adjacent local authorities taking the lead on different topics or a single public service authority for an area. The second option was promoted by Colin Mair at the Biennial Conference and is the preferred option for the Council.

Partners debated and commented on different aspects of the public service authority option and agreed to endorse this as the preferred option for Argyll and Bute and to actively pursue Partner involvement in the Executive's Desktop Strategy.

The Council has responded to other consultation to promote changes that would facilitate this process – for example, the recent decision to request a single Argyll and Bute Transportation Partnership (rather than membership of both HITRANS and WESTRANS).

9. AOCB

- The Scottish Parliament is conducting an Inquiry into Economic Development in Accessible Rural Areas. The Council is formulating a submission to the Inquiry and will include comments from Partners. Partners were also encouraged to consider making a response.
- Brian Barker responded regarding Audit Scotland's Best Value Audit exercise and baseline review. The audit had just commenced and no feedback had been received on the baseline review.
- Bill Dalrymple of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority spoke of their Plan, published in May, with consultation until early September.
- Keith Miller, Forestry Commission, informed the Partnership that the Scottish Forestry Strategy was launched two weeks ago with a two-month consultation period.
- It was agreed, following the matter being raised by Andrew Campbell, that Bill Dundas, Principal Agricultural Officer at the Scottish Executive Environmental Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD), be invited to attend future Partnership meetings and that Brian Barker would issue an invitation to Bill Dundas. This would facilitate discussion within the Partnership as changes were made within the SEERAD family (SNH, SEPA, Forestry Commission, Veterinary Service, etc.)

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2005