

**ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
THIRD THEME GROUP**

**SUSTAINING AND DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT**

**NOTE OF MEETING HELD AT 10:30AM ON THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2006
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT OPERATIONAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT, MANSE BRAE, LOCHGILPHEAD**

Present:

Donald MacVicar	Argyll and Bute Council (Chair)
Isobel Strong	Argyll and Bute Council
Margaret Johnston	Community Representative
Patricia McCrossan	Argyll and Bute Council
Jim Jones	Strathclyde Fire Service
Morven Short	Dunbritton Housing Association
Keith Miller	Forestry Commission Scotland
Marina Curran-Colthart	Argyll and Bute Council
Jennifer Swanson	Argyll and Bute Council
Allan Milstead	Argyll and Islands Enterprise
John McKechnie	SEPA
Mike Montague	SEPA
Lorna Scott	Argyll and Bute Council (Minutes)

Apologies:

Alan Millar	Argyll and Bute Council
Anne Clark	Islay and Jura CVS
Jacqui MacLeod	Crofters Commission
Malcolm MacFadyen	Argyll and Bute Council
Jim Frame	SEPA
Allan Brandie	Argyll and Bute Council
David Dowie	Communities Scotland

1. Welcome/Apologies

Donald MacVicar welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

2. Minute of Meeting of 30 March 2006

Donald read through the Minute of 30 March 2006 and the group agreed that they were an accurate record.

- (a) Jennifer Swanson asked about the opportunity of linking up with ACHA in regard to Home Safety Checks as it is currently carried out by the Council to anyone that requests one.

It was agreed that Jennifer should contact ACHA direct to discuss this.

It was noted that a representative from ACHA would attend the group regularly after August 2006.

- (b) Donald advised that the Council had advertised for a new Community Planning Manager and that an appointment would now be imminent.

3. Protecting and Enhancing Argyll and Bute's Rich Environmental Assets and Diverse Habitats and Species

- (a) Water Framework Directive – Controlled Activities Regulations
Presentation by SEPA

John McKechnie and Mike Montague, Environment Protection Officers, introduced themselves. John continued by giving a brief outline of the functions currently undertaken by SEPA and the area in which they were responsible for.

John advised that in all circumstances it was always advisable to log on to www.sepa.org.uk to read through current guidelines and procedures prior to making contact with an officer of SEPA. John further advised that since the new legislation came into force SEPA have been encouraging clients to have consultation with one of their officers prior to submitting an application/seeking authorisation.

In relation to the new legislation coming into force on 1 April 2006 it was noted that no application would be required for works which were due to be completed by 1 October 2006. However, an application would be necessary if works either continued or were due to start after 1 October 2006.

After the presentation John and Mike advised the group that they could be contacted, at the West Highland and Argyll Team office in Lochgilphead, if they had any further queries.

- (b) Species Framework Consultation – Feedback on the SNH consultation 'Making a Difference for Scotland's Species: A Framework for Action'.

Marina Curran-Colthart distributed copies of the consultation document and a draft note of the meeting held with representatives of SEPA, SNH and A&BLBP which was set up to consider the six questions posed within the consultation. It was noted that representatives from AIE and AVS were also invited but did not attend.

Marina reported that in addition to the points noted in relation to the six main questions, the representatives attending the meeting were of the view that whilst the document is an SNH Framework for Action it also provided a good opportunity for partnership working with other public agencies. Marina also pointed out that by

promoting this framework this would support the ethos of best value and efficient use of resources.

Marina advised that the consultation was open until 30 June 2006 and asked the group to contact her with any further comments/additions they might have by 14 June 2006.

4. Update on Advice Network

Presentation by Jennifer Swanson

Jennifer provided the group with an update on the progress of the Advice Network and explained that the overall purpose of the Advice Network was to improve the quality of advice available throughout Argyll and Bute by bringing together the many advice groups currently running within the Council area. It is hoped that by bringing the various advice groups together this will maximise the sharing of good practice in a consistent, integrated and accessible way.

Jennifer outlined the Network's plan for 2006 and this included working on the Common Referral System, publicising the advice services available, training and consultation for all advice agencies and encouraging new partners to join the Network.

Jim Jones expressed an interest, on behalf of Strathclyde Fire Service, in participating in the network as an advice giver.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Argyll and Bute Advice Network would be held on Wednesday, 19 July 2006 at 11:00am in Inveraray.

5. Sustainable Development Guiding Principles

Presentation by Jennifer Swanson

Jennifer outlined the principles of sustainable development and explained that it was important to strike the right balance between economy, environment and the community.

It was noted that since the introduction of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the duty to pursue Best Value includes a need to demonstrate a contribution to sustainable development. It is hoped that this can be achieved by building on past success and effectively co-ordinating future activity.

The following five Guiding Principles were tested with the Citizens Panel and Dialogue Youth, revisions were then made and these were then agreed by the Strategic Policy Committee: -

- Developing, empowering and including our communities
- Protecting, enhancing and managing natural resources and our environment
- Developing the economy using innovative and creative solutions
- Taking an open, honest and accountable approach

- Taking decisions that will maximise benefit and minimise impact across all areas

Jennifer gave a few examples of how the Guiding Principles would be applied.

Jennifer advised the group that she was happy to answer any further questions/listen to any suggestions and that she could be contacted at the Chief Executive's Unit at Kilmory on 01546 604298 or by e-mail at jennifer.swanson@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

6. Highland Year of Culture 2007

DVD Presentation by Alan Milstead

As the group were running short on time it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

7. Focus on Theme Group 3

There was some exchange about the existing name and role of the group.

After discussion it was agreed that the meetings should continue to be held bimonthly. However, Donald suggested that, because the theme and targets of the group wasn't always entirely clear, perhaps the name of the group be amended to 'Housing and Communities' so that it more reflects the topics and objectives of the group. The group agreed the change in name should go ahead.

Further, given the proposed change in name, it was agreed that it might be beneficial to merge with the Local Housing Strategy. It was also noted that an input from Scottish Water would be valuable.

Donald agreed that he would prepare a report to this effect and present it to the next meeting of the Management Group.

8. AOCB

The group had no other business to discuss.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 27 July 2006.