

Capacity Building Funding – Project Evaluations

The allocation of Community Capacity Building funding supported 6 projects developing skills and experience of individuals, promoting joint working and networking.

Completed Projects

Meet the Funders

I am pleased to submit this report on progress of the **Meet the Funders** event which was part funded by the Community Planning Partnership Capacity Building Fund. The report highlights the achievements of Meet the Funders and further developments. A two part evaluation of **Meet the Funders** is attached.

BACKGROUND

Meet the Funders aimed to

raise awareness of potential sources of funding, including income-generation and grant funding, and

provide targeted support to increase the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to become sustainable

It was led by a partnership of agencies, (*Argyll & Bute Council, Federation of Council for Voluntary Service, Argyll & the Islands Enterprise, Argyll Volunteer Centre, Argyll Citizens Advice Bureau, and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations Highlands & Islands Capacity Building Project*) and toured six destinations within Argyll & Bute from Monday 27 Feb to Saturday 4 March 2006.

COMMENTARY

The main outcomes of **Meet the Funders** were;

- over 760 people attended
- over 70% of respondents identified new funding opportunities
- levels of satisfaction with the event were very high
- expected benefits were all realised esp. in three main areas, *networking, capacity building and awareness raising*.
- closer working relationships between agencies
- Shared resource development - funding toolkit for use with third sector and other project development clients

THE FUTURE

The **Meet the Funders** partnership agreed that the event should take place next year and that it should progress to include a wide range of capacity building workshops on topics such as monitoring and evaluation, filling out application forms and details of any new funding streams. Finance for this follow up event will need to be secured in order for this to progress.

A further evaluation of **Meet the Funders** will take place later in the year to monitor the longer term impact of the project and these results will be factored into next years event.

As a result of **Meet the Funders**, Argyll & Bute Council has set up a development group that aims to maximise project development skills and tools across Argyll & Bute Council and to use this to help build the capacity of groups to strengthen and develop projects. This group is running a capacity building event in Campbeltown in

early October 2006 to launch the Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and associated opportunities arising from this input of funding to the town.

CONCLUSION

Meet the Funders was a success and if funding can be secured, will take place again next year offering new opportunities for capacity building. The unexpected benefits of the event have been closer working relationships and shared resources between the agencies involved and it is hoped that this too can be fostered.

Many thanks to the Community Planning Partnership for their kind contribution to **Meet the Funders**.

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Argyll & Bute Youth Participation Conference - Tarbert June 1st & 2nd 2006

Lead Organisation - Argyll & Bute Youth Forum

An opportunity for Young People to Come Together, Have Fun and Work for Change

The proposal was to host, in Mid Argyll, a 2 day Youth Participation Conference, incorporating the 2006 A&BYF AGM. As well as bringing young people together from across the Authority this conference would facilitate meaningful consultation with Young People and promote youth participation in Local and A&B Youth Forums, Community Planning Processes and in the Scottish Youth Parliament.

This conference was an exciting opportunity for young people from across the local authority to come together and work towards healthier, happier, economically and environmentally sound communities for both young and old.

The Youth Participation Conference took place in June 2006 in Tarbert, at the Stonefield Castle Hotel, M.A.C.K. & M.A.G.S. and Templar's Arts and Leisure Centre. Its aim was to give young people a voice in their communities through engaging in the Community Planning Process and participating in Youth Forum and SYP activities.

Key themes covered at the conference:

- How Community Planning Partnerships can build closer links with young people and engage them more in the political process.
- Exploring alternative opportunities to interest and engage young people in local democracy and politics
- Working with the media to ensure that young people are represented in a positive light.
- Ideas and best practice of activity already taking place - e.g. Youth Forum, Young Scot, SYP.

There was also the opportunity to participate in fun outdoor activities and teambuilding games designed to enable better communication and tolerance.

Evaluation

Of the 45 evaluations returned 42 found the activities to be good or very good, the other three rated the activities as average. Everyone responding agreed that Stonefield Castle was a great venue though there were many complaints about the food. Especially the chips and the strange flavoured ice cream. MACK and MAGS and Templar's Arts and Leisure Centre, as workshop venues, were both found to be good or very good.

39 respondents rated the Community Planning workshop as very good, 3 as good and 4 as average. The majority of those who attended the DTP Workshop found it to be informative and rated it at very good or good. The Press & Media workshop was also rated highly getting mostly very goods and goods with only 3 rating it as average.

Although the food at Stonefield was not well received the food at MACK & MAGS went down well, especially the BBQ and the cakes.

SOME OF THE BEST BITS.....“Watching people fall in the water during the kayaking”...“The hotel rooms”...“The activities and meeting new people”...“Disco”...“Meeting everybody”

SOME OF THE WORST BITS.....“The strange flavoured ice cream”...“Having to go home”...“Locking Carol’s keys in her car”...Being eaten alive by the midges”

IDEAS FOR HELENSBURGH 2007.....“Longer”...“Horse riding”...“Invite even more people”...“Tell the midges to go away”

Fundraising Skills in the Community — End of Project Report

Step Up Project – Isle of Bute

Funding was given to increase the capacity of individual members of community groups in being able to identify sources of funding, prepare and develop funding proposals and submit applications for funding. The programme would also support our existing Capacity Building programme of assistance to develop publicity / promotional materials.

Community Groups that took part in the project include:

Achievement Bute – project worker attended committee meeting to promote the capacity building programme. 2 participants attended workshops, drafted applications and attended Dunoon Roadshow.

Bute Allotments Association – 2 people attended drop-ins – 2 applications drafted and 1 submitted.

Bute Credit Union – attended drop-in workshops, discussed proposed applications – joint application submitted with other organisations.

Bute Creche – meeting with 7 committee members – 1 person involved in funding applications. Attended drop-in workshop.

Bosom Buddies – meeting with 2 organisers – unable to move forward due to other commitments.

MUGS (Maternity Users Groups) – meeting with 6 committee members, follow up meeting with 3 people involved in fundraising

Link Club – 3 individuals involved in fundraising proposals. Attended drop-in and Roadshow.

Beachwatch Bute – attended fundraising roadshow and developed new promotional materials.

Bute Outdoors Centre – researched potential funding sources, attended Roadshow and met with Lottery

Fund rep.

Bute Players – drafted fundraising application, but did not proceed with submission

The Saturday Art Club – proceeded with an application and won an award.

Fundraising Workshops

Workshops were held in several community settings, to widen awareness within the community. A series of fundraising drop-in sessions were held at Bute Community Links, at the Community Education Centre and at the Green Tree Café (which is run by Bute Healthy Living Initiative). The workshops were promoted through leaflets and posters distributed around the community and to organisations, as well as in the local newspaper.

As part of the project, we promoted the Argyll & Bute Council Funding Roadshow event that took place in Dunoon, co-ordinating attendance, organising transport and helping set up appointments with funding bodies. This enabled a number of community groups and individuals from Bute to attend the roadshow.

Pre-roadshow workshops enabled groups to develop draft funding proposals that they took to the funding roadshow to discuss with potential funders.

A regular weekly 2-hour drop-in session was also held at the Step Up office throughout the project, when a worker was available to support groups who wanted to research funding sources on computer and draft applications.

Outcome

Bute Allotments Association prepared an application within the Capacity Building programme and have achieved a grant of £3000 towards re-instating the community allotments and have also achieved in-kind support from local businesses.

Bute Link Club is pushing ahead with proposals for new premises, and developing an application for activities funding.

MUGS have been successful in raising funds and in-kind support to create their sensory garden at the Victoria Hospital

The project supported Bute Outdoors Centre to explore potential funding sources and meet with Lottery Fund representative at the Roadshow.

The Saturday Art Club achieved funding to support art tutor input to their annual programme.

Conclusion

The project was very well received by participants who were able to access fundraising support in a helpful, relaxed environment. Workshops were designed around the needs of participating organisations / individuals and positive feedback was provided by participants who were able to discuss, develop and refine their fundraising proposals. Participants were able to access funding research tools and increase awareness of potential funding sources. Individual participants reported increased confidence in their own abilities and the contribution they could make, and also felt they gained better understanding of the value of the work their organisation delivers. Overall, the project raised awareness of the support available to community groups, and broadened awareness of the wider funding opportunities that can be accessed.

Due to the popularity of this programme we have chosen to carry on offering the service despite the fact the funding has finished. We are actively seeking new funding sources to continue what we have found to be a very valuable service. We would welcome the opportunity to submit proposals for any further Capacity Building programme.

August 2006

Working Together – Toolkit for Kintyre

South Kintyre Community learning Partnership – No Report

Support for Carers

Dochas Fund – project not started

Young Active Citizens Essential Skills

Argyll & Bute Volunteer Centre – project incorporated into larger project (See item 8b)