

**MINUTES of MEETING of MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE & THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE held in
the IONAD CHALUIM CHILLE ILE, BOWMORE, ISLAY
on WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2011**

Present: Councillor Donald MacMillan (Chair)

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Councillor Rory Colville | Councillor Donald Kelly |
| Councillor Robin Currie | Councillor Anne Horn |
| Councillor John MacAlpine | Councillor Douglas Philand |
| Councillor John Semple | |

Attending: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
Mike Johnston, Performance Management Officer
Julian Green, Technical Officer
David Ferrier, Technical Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

Councillor Alison Hay
Ishabel Bremner
Caroline Sheen

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES - 6 APRIL 2011

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 April 2011 were approved as a true and correct record.

Matters arising:- Page 5 – Tayinloan Ferry Berth Realignment

Councillor John McAlpine raised the issue of the timescale of the proposed realignment. He queried the initial completion date which had been notated as – June/July 2011. Whereas, it was now envisaged that the project would not be completed until September/October 2011.

Action: Julian Green would clarify this issue with the Marine and Harbours officer and report back to Councillor McAlpine.

4. PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

A member of the public was in attendance and questioned the process entailed in advertising the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area meeting on Islay.

He enquired on the feasibility of VC provision to enable Community Councils to

participate in the meeting.

Another issue which he raised was the removal of the brown bins collection on Islay and the removal of skips. In addition, he related the incorrect mapping of the local refuse site at Gartanbreck.

The Chair responded that the skips had been removed due to continued usage abuse.

Shirley MacLeod would investigate the advertising procedure.

Councillor Semple reinforced the issue of utilising VC at meetings and requested that this be followed up. Councillor Kelly fully supported the idea of VC participation and highlighted the time and expense of Members and officers travelling to Islay. Furthermore, he questioned the items within the Agenda which, in his opinion, should be more relevant to issues on Islay and Jura. In addition, he suggested that representation should be made to the Council to enable Area Committees to have more power, and disagreed with the centralisation of power in the area.

Councillor McAlpine highlighted the issue of the reduction in local bus services as an example. Whereby, the Executive committee had made the decision and the local Area Committee had no input into this.

Councillor Horn reported that she had attended the Executive meeting to oppose the reduction, but had not received any support from Executive members.

Shirley MacLeod replied that in regards to the Agenda, the MAKI Area Committee can request papers for consideration at the meeting. In regards the decision making process this was on-going.

Councillor Semple stated that in regards the issue of VC, this was the 2nd time he had made the request to utilise this technology at meetings. Shirley replied that Members should all be in the same meeting venue and technology was in the development process for fuller, community participation at meetings. Councillor Semple enquired if the Area Committee could make the decision to VC at meetings.

Action: Shirley would endeavour to enable VC facility at meetings to allow fuller community engagement.

Councillor Kelly enquired if the Chair and the Vice-Chair could ensure that future Agenda items be more relevant and pertinent to the scheduled meeting.

5. CUSTOMER SERVICES

(a) AREA PLAN - TO FOLLOW

Shirley MacLeod reported that due to time constraints, she had not been able to refine the Area Plan as she would have wished.

She intended that the Area Plan and the Scorecard would effectively correlate and reflect progress and changes agreed by Members.

Members proceeded to discuss and deliberate on the Area Plan and the following comments were notated:

Page 1:

Councillor Kelly raised the issue of the Kintyre Nursing Home – currently under the ownership of Southern Cross - and requested an update from Argyll and Bute council in regards its future. Shirley MacLeod replied that she would obtain an update and feedback with information received.

Councillor Philand reported on complaints he had received in regards the charging policy and questioned on the procedure for clients who could not afford to pay the increased charges. He stated the need to monitor this and keep Members informed of the impact on increased hospital admissions, etc.

Shirley MacLeod stated that she had received statistics on this issue at the Bute and Cowal Area Committee and would request the same for MAKI.

Councillor McAlpine enquired on the Free Personal Care packages and asked if this was proving sufficient for clients needs. He asked if there was a backlog of assessments awaiting processing.

Shirley would ascertain the level of assessments and report back.

Page 2:-

Councillor Horn stated that the amount of 207k funding towards the Business Plan was now utilised. Members agreed that the Kintyre Way would still be promoted and the success measure would be the number of walkers utilising the walk.

Shirley MacLeod agreed that numbers should be recorded to indicate the trend.

Councillor Colville suggested that Owen Paisley, Ranger on the Kintyre Way, be invited along to the next MAKI Area Committee meeting to give an update on the work currently being undertaken on the Kintyre Way.

Action: Theresa McLetchie would invite Owen Paisley to the meeting scheduled for 3 August in Campbeltown.

Councillor Semple stated the need for better co-ordination at events and suggested that Argyll and Bute council could do more to enable this. He suggested a main point of contact in the MAKI area to synchronise and maximise the potential economic benefit from – e.g. events.

The Chair agreed on the benefits of identifying a person to encompass this remit.

Shirley MacLeod replied that Public Processions were approved and monitored by the council and the correlation between council departments.

Page 3:-

Councillor Kelly suggested that the current Town Hall Manager in Campbeltown could perhaps encompass some of the responsibility for supporting events orchestration. Councillor Semple stated that the remit of this post could not support this issue.

Councillor Colville updated Members on developments for the all weather pitch in Campbeltown. A meeting was scheduled for 23 June and would involve SportsScotland and officebearers.

Page 4:-

Councillor Horn reported that the flood prevention scheme in Tarbert was not working and the incidence of floods was, in fact, rising. Councillor Kelly informed Members of recent flooding in Campbeltown which had seriously affected some business premises. He highlighted his concerns in regards the current remedial work being undertaken by Scottish Water in the Longrow area of the town.

Action: Theresa McLetchie would invite Jane McKenzie, Scottish Water to the MAKI Area committee meeting scheduled for 3 August in Campbeltown.

Councillor Horn raised the issue of dog fouling, particularly within Tarbert cemetery. Discussion followed and Members agreed that the recently agreed Management Rules be amended to include – Prohibition of dogs, with the exception of working dogs, within cemeteries in the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area.

Action: Shirley MacLeod would liaise with Alison McIlroy, Grounds and Horticultural officer, to instigate this amendment to the Management Rules.

Councillor McAlpine raised the issue of the provision affordable social housing in the MAKI area. The Chair replied that problems in the acquisition of land in the area was resulting in this not being addressed. Members agreed that both Moira McVicar and local RSLs be invited to the next MAKI Area Committee meeting in August.

Action: Shirley MacLeod to liaise with Moira McVicar and RSLs to attend the next MAKI Area Committee meeting – August 3 2011 in Campbeltown. Moira to speak on the Strategic Housing Development Plan and RSLs to update Members on local housing issues.

Page 5:-

Members discussed issues regarding local transportation problems, both old and new in the MAKI area. Councillor Currie stated that if Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) was implemented on the Islay ferry route, then this could impact onto ferry capacity and accommodation issues on Islay.

Action: Shirley MacLeod would liaise with both Moya Ingram and Robert Pollock on these issues.

Councillor Horn voiced her concerns in regards transportation issues in isolated communities. Whereby, the inability to attend doctors surgeries

(due to a reduction in transport) would impact onto more hospital readmissions and referrals to Social Work teams.

Page 6:-

Councillor Semple stated the need for more engagement with the Business Community. Shirley MacLeod agreed that there was a distinct gap and that the Community Engagement Strategy was not being effectively implemented.

Councillor Philand queried the effectiveness of the Area Plan, and questioned the evidence of it being given credence and being utilised in determining local Community Planning. Councillor Semple agreed and requested that an invitation be disseminated to the Directors requesting their attendance at the next MAKI Area Committee meeting, to inform Members on how the Area Plan would integrate with Services Plans.

Action: Shirley MacLeod to update the Area Plan with agreed amendments and invite Directors to the next MAKI Area Committee meeting.

Decision: Members agreed that the formulation of the Area Plan would continue.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(a) AREA SCORECARD

Mike Johnston informed Members that the Area Scorecard was still being developed.

Councillor Semple enquired on the economic viability of local communities, which were predominantly rural.

Mike Johnston reported on discussions held with Ishabel Bremner in regards to Business Gateway grants. It was agreed that Ishabel would produce statistics to advise on business survival rates. The timescale would be 2 years into the existing project.

Councillor Semple asked Mike if there was a format for recording complaints. Mike replied that, at present, complaints at Stages 2/3 were recorded. However, at Stage 1 they are retained at a local level. Councillor Semple stressed the importance of recording these issues to ensure they were suitably addressed.

Mike Johnston advised that the Call Centre was still in the process of change and, he envisaged, through time this information would be

accessible.

Decision:

1. The Area Committee agreed the overall format of the scorecard.
2. The Area Committee gave guidance on the detailed selection of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the scorecard. This would be an ongoing activity as use of the scorecard develops.
3. The Area Committee agreed that officers named in the Area Plan provide regular updates via the Pyramid system including the creation of new Performance Indicators (PIs) if necessary. This work to be driven by Services and facilitated by Improvement and HR staff as appropriate.
4. The Area Committee would use the scorecard to review progress and performance within the area at each meeting.

(Ref: A report by Mike Johnston, Performance Manager, submitted, dated 8 June 2011).

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

(a) GRANTS TO THIRD SECTOR 2010/2011 (UPDATE)

Members considered a report providing an update on the 2010/11 Grants to the Third Sector which had been submitted to the Area Committee on 6 April, 2011.

Councillor Horn enquired if new applications could be submitted to request funding in the second round. Shirley MacLeod affirmed this and advised that the deadline for receipt of new applications was June 24, 2011.

Decision

Members agreed to the recommendations in the report – 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 with the addition of the following:-

3.4 Heads of Service who have in place Service Level Agreement (SLA) with community groups to provide update on these agreements to a future Area Committee, outlining the detail of the SLA and the monitoring arrangements for same which are in place.

(A report by Audrey Baird, Community Development Officer, dated 8 June 2011, submitted).

8. DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

(a) ROAD ISSUES

Members considered a report detailing outstanding roads-related issues in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

Councillor Currie voiced concerns in regards the timescale for completion of the works on Islay. Julian Green reported that the contractor had given assurances that the timescale would be adhered to. Councillor Philand enquired on the principle behind the existing contract and if there were suitable penalty clauses in situ. Julian agreed there were penalty clauses in place, but could not advise on the specifics.

He advised of a future consultation on Islay with a presentation for the local community for the proposed works at Laphroag..

Discussion continued in regards the implementing of the Asset Management Plan to ensure parity in regards remedial road works across the Argyll and Bute area. Julian replied that, at present, funding was apportioned on a 'needs basis', in each geographical section after inspections had been undertaken. However, he stated that roads which were forestry routes were more problematic than others.

Action: Shirley MacLeod to write on behalf of the MAKI Area Committee to Sandy MacTaggart to ascertain the timescale of implementing the Asset Management Plan and invite Sandy to attend the next MAKI Area Committee meeting in August.

Councillor McAlpine enquired on the timescale for grass cutting verges and when Julian could attend a Community Council meeting in Carradale. Juilan reported that the grass cutting programme had commenced and he would liaise with the Community Council to arrange attendance a future meeting.

Action: Julian Green to attend a future Carradale Community Council meeting.

Councillor Kelly highlighted various roads in Kintyre which necessitated urgent, remedial works. These included:

Kildonan
B842 before Stewarton
B842 Kilenen
Davaar Avenue in Campbeltown
White lining still to be completed at Kilkerran Cemetery.

Councillor Horn questioned the sparse white lining at the Kennacraig Terminal access road. Julian reported that this was a private road; however, Argyll and Bute council had offered to undertake this work. Calmac had declined the offer. However, Julian would re-visit this issue with Calmac.

Councillor McAlpine reported on the recent press report in regards Argyll and Bute tarring the wrong road. Julian responded that the paper had misrepresented the facts and the article was totally out of context.

Decision

Members agreed to note the report.

(Ref: A report by Julian Green, Technical Officer, dated 8 June, 2011, submitted).

(b) DISCUSSION - FRAGILE COMMUNITIES AND DIFFICULTIES THEY ARE EXPERIENCING DUE TO CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

The Chair ruled, and the Committee agreed, to adjourn the meeting for lunch at 1.00p.m. and reconvene at 1.30p.m.

Councillor Semple stated that, in his opinion, the focus for Economic Development was primarily in town centres and this should encompass and address the fragility of smaller, rural communities. The impact of Argyll and Bute council policies, including proposed school closures, would have a serious economic impact on these communities. The importance of local community planning being fed into the Area Plan was paramount. A distinct advantage would be effective broadband which would enable people to work from home.

Shirley MacLeod agreed that a formulated process would need to be devised to address this issue. She reported that the Economic Development Action Plan principally addressed issues in large towns. It would be necessary to feed into the Community Planning framework. The CP conference scheduled for June had been postponed, but would be rescheduled for a later date.

Councillor Kelly reported on new initiatives which were creating jobs; however, there was a distinct lack of social housing to accommodate workers.

Councillor Currie stated that island communities had more constraints in regards travel costs incurred by the necessity of utilising ferries.

Decision:

Members agreed on the following:

1. More engagement with local Business communities.
2. Continuous support for small business; not just new burgeoning businesses.
3. The involvement of the Community Development team to enable communities to develop effective plans.
4. To investigate and promote effective high speed broadband to remote and rural communities.
5. Request a paper on these issues to the August Area Committee by relevant officers.

(c) MACHRIHANISH DEFENCE ESTATES UPDATE

Members considered a report providing an update on recent developments

at Machrihanish between the Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC) and Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) at the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Decision

Members agreed to note the contents of the report.

(A report by Ishabel Bremner, Economic Development Manager, dated 26 May 2011, submitted).

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

9. EXEMPT ITEM

(a) GARDENS, DELL ROAD, CAMPBELTOWN - REPORT TO FOLLOW

Members considered a report detailing the offers received in respect of Kirkland, Dell Road, Campbeltown.

Decision

Members agreed to the recommendations in the report – 2.1 and 2.2.

(A report by Caroline Sheen, Estates Surveyor dated 8 June, 2011, tabled)