

***COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS***

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**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on community action planning in communities in MAKI.

**2 DETAILS**

- 2.1 In February/March 2011, Community Action Plan training was offered by the Community Development team, and provided by STAR (Small Town and Rural Network), to staff from community development within the Council, Third Sector and HIE. Further to this, communities in MAKI were offered more localised training and a widely publicised training day for community groups and community councils was held in March 2011 in Tarbert. The training was attended by representatives from Kintyre Development Trust, South Kintyre Area Development group, Southend Community Council, East Kintyre Community Council, West Lochfyne Community Council, Islay Community Council and Islay and Jura CVS.
- 2.2 Since this training, South Kintyre Development Trust has received grant funding from LEADER and the BIG Lottery Fund (approx £10,000 from each) to undertake community action planning in the five community council areas in South Kintyre. This will be supported by the area Community Development Officer. Also, East Kintyre has already started its community consultation exercise as part of its community action plan.
- 2.3 The Community Development team received LEADER funding for a community engagement project in partnership with Kintyre-based Inspiralba. "Viewpoint" involves a drama presentation which raises issues facing rural communities and is followed by discussion workshops which enable participants to consider issues in their own communities and ways of addressing them. This project was taken up in MAKI by groups in Islay, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Glenbarr, and possibly in Carradale. The information gathered by this project may be used to support community action plans where these are being considered.

A new community engagement tool has recently been used in MAKI with communities. Voxur is a fun and accessible resource that records people's views on film. Voxur is on loan for free from Learning & Teaching Scotland and has been used at two Viewpoint activities and was well received. This equipment can be booked by community groups and training will be provided by the Community Development Officer.

- 2.4 The Better Community Engagement Resource Pack produced for LACPGs by the Community Development team with partners in health and the third sector will be available online for community groups to access. This includes information on useful engagement and evaluation

exercises, as well as information on how to access community engagement equipment.

- 2.5 It should be noted that several communities in MAKI, including Tarbert, Ardrishaig, Craignish and Jura, have independently created community action plans. These have been promoted at community events such as Forward Together 2 and the MAKI LACPG, and this has helped to drive interest in the community action planning process from other communities.
- 2.6 For information, on Islay, Diageo undertook a community consultation in late 2010 and the results were published earlier this year. One of the key outcomes from the consultation was that islanders felt Islay lacked, what was termed, a 'leadership group' to lead strategic thinking and planning, influence decision makers, encourage inward investment and add gravitas. As a result of this, Diageo, through their consultants Liddell Thomson, organised a meeting on the island, at very short notice, on 19 June. The meeting was chaired by Sir George Robertson (who has offered his assistance) and attended by around 15 community representatives. A working group was set up and is scheduled to meet again in late August/early September. Also, Karen MacDonald, of Liddell Thomson, has asked to attend a Mid Argyll Partnership or Kintyre Initiative Working Group meeting in October in order to learn about the function and focus of these groups.
- 2.7 For information, earlier this year the Community Planning Partnership launched a 'Consultation Diary' to keep track of community consultations being undertaken throughout Argyll and Bute and ensure that the results of those are fed back to the Partnership.
- 2.8 It is important to note that the Community Development Officer's workplan contains work in addition to community action planning and community engagement/consultation, including co-ordination of the Mid Argyll Public Health Network and Health Improvement Fund grants; support to the LACPG, as well as to MAP and KIWG; administration of the Third Sector grants; and building community capacity with vulnerable groups.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Area Committee notes progress on community action planning locally and acknowledges the commitment of communities in the time and effort involved in this process.
- 3.2 That the Area Committee considers if any community warrants priority support from the Community Development Officer in this work, bearing in mind the capacity issues of having one officer covering the area.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

*Policy: None*

*Finance: Funding of these projects has been from external sources*

*Personnel: ``One Community Development Officer for MAKI area,  
working in partnership*

*Legal: None*

*Equal Opportunities: None*

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