

**MINUTES of MEETING of KINTYRE INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP held in the TOWN HALL,  
CAMPBELTOWN  
on FRIDAY, 31 AUGUST 2012**

**Present:**

	(Chair)	
	Councillor Rory Colville	
Councillor Robin Currie		Councillor Donald Kelly
Councillor John Semple		
Jim Martin		Campbeltown CC
Melissa Stewart		Argyll & Bute Council
Mary Kennedy		Business Gateway
Harvard Davis		Campbeltown Community Business Ltd
Jane Mayo		Campbeltown Community Business Ltd
Chris Haran		NFU
Andrew Anderson		Transport Scotland
John Lamont		HIA
Ann Gallacher		Argyll & Bute – Employability Team
Susan Paterson		KFCC & KPPF & other voluntary groups
Darlene Russell		Argyll College
Jamie McGrigor		MSP
David Roger		HIE
Alan Reid		MP
Ian Wardrop		MACC
Ishabel Bremner		Argyll & Bute Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated by:-

Cllr Anne Horn  
John Bakes  
Pat Dean  
Stuart Irvine  
Dhonna McCallum  
Stewart Clark  
Kate Fraser  
Brian McMillan (First Port)  
Audrey Baird  
Maryanne Stewart  
Mary Dott  
Iain McGlashan

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 29 JUNE 2012**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special welcome to Andrew Anderson, Transport Scotland and Ailsa Clark, ALBA.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true and correct record subject to the following change:-

Page 7, Item 6c - Darlene Russell had provide a report detailing forthcoming courses which was tabled at the meeting.

Proposed by Jim Martin, seconded by Harvard Davis.

Matters arising:-

The Chair informed the group of the recent CHORD meeting and detailed discussions which had been undertaken by the Project Board. In regards the development of the Marina, Options A and D were being progressed to full Business Case. A decision would be taken in Spring 2013 as to which proposal would be progressed. He also advised of an underspend in funding re the Renewable Hub and suggested that as this project had impacted on parking spaces, this underspend could be apportioned to the provision of car parking. Further to this he had requested a report to the next CHORD meeting specifically on car parking.

Councillor Semple reiterated the need for effective traffic management and agreed the need for additional car parking. However, he considered it would be premature to make a decision on this until the location of the proposed new school was agreed as the location of this may have an impact.

The Chair stated that Stewart Clark had been requested to bring a report on proposals for traffic management to the meeting. However, he had been unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Kelly stated that he was in agreement that any residual of funding from the CHORD project could be apportioned to car parking. The issue of the yellow lines on Longrow was discussed with requests for advance notification of Wind Tower traffic movements. In addition, the implementation of signage to allude to restricted times. etc.

Councillor Kelly enquired if traffic movements by Wind Towers could be scheduled during 'silent hours'.

Action: Contact would be made with David Steel, Wind Towers manager to ascertain if traffic movements could be scheduled during silent hours.

#### Creamery

The group were informed that plans for the re-development of the Creamery were being formalised. It was hoped for further updates towards the latter part of the year.

#### Campbeltown Public Toilets

The Chair stated that a report from the Head of Roads and Amenity Services was coming to the MAKI Business Day scheduled for 5 September.

Councillor Semple raised the issue of the proposed Pier Development facilities which would be developed within the CHORD project. He enquired of the possibility of implementing a pay-entry public toilet within this development which could be given consideration by the CHORD Project Board.

#### Victoria Halls

Jim Martin enquired on the status of his request for the refurbishment of Victoria Halls. The Chair reported that this issue was being reviewed by Jim Anderson.

#### Kennacraig Ferry Terminal

Councillor Currie raised concerns in regards the single track road which was used for access/egress of ferry traffic from the terminal. He highlighted the traffic parked at the junction which, on occasions, backed up for a considerable stretch on the A83

Action: A letter would be sent to CMAL on behalf of the KIWG detailing their concerns.

### 3. INFRASTRUCTURE

#### (a) **WIND TOWER LIMITED**

David Rodger reported that things were progressing well. SSE had increased their shareholding with the company, ensuring that a Scottish Company was in control

#### (b) **MACHRIHANISH MOD SITE - ABC, IAN WARDROP**

Ian Wardrop reported that the official takeover by MACC was completed on 11 May. At present, directors were fully utilised in getting the business operational. He informed the group of visits undertaken by ministers, MSPs and partners all of whom had been impressed by the operation. A new manager had been recruited - Matthew Willis - who would commence on 17 September. Matthew would attend future KIWG meetings.

Ian reported on the investigation of green renewable energy and aviation projects being undertaken. Discussion had been undertaken in the provision of service and maintenance contracts for aircraft.

Also, short-term storage for aircraft and the recycling of older aircraft. Jamie McGrigor enquired if there were still issues with the drainage at the site. Ian replied that Scottish Water were presently undertaking works which would serve both the base and the housing on the site and upgrade to Class 1 by April 2013.

He advised that £1.7 million had been granted for remedial work on water, sewage and power services. At present the tender was out for the electricity supply.

Councillor Semple enquired on the water capacity at the base and if the MACC had a direct link with Renewables companies. Ian replied that Scottish Water were reviewing the water capacity and detailed the newly refurbished pumps. This would be monitored with an eventual upgrade. In regards Renewables, Siemens were using the base for storage. Councillor Semple highlighted the need for MACC to ensure they were pro-active in their endeavours to push Machrihanish to the forefront.

Councillor Kelly requested that KIWG invite the relevant Scottish Water representative to the next KIWG as he had concerns about

capacity for extra connections based on advice previously given by Scottish Water.

Action: Scottish Water representative to be invited to a future KIWG meeting to discuss capacity issues relating to the additional connections proposed.

The Chair thanked Ian for his attendance at the meeting and informative update.

(c) **CAMPBELTOWN AIRPORT - HIA LTD**

John Lamont reported on the recent Board meeting held at Campbeltown airport on 16 August. He stated that recent movements had been down 38% and for the year this was 34%. He was hopeful that movements would increase. Passenger numbers were also down - 7%, but up overall over the year by 2.8%. Recent work on the runway was complete, with the fencing 95% and the joint facility again 95% complete. The fire station had been relocated nearer to the tower.

Councillor Kelly stated that the renewal of the PSO contract was scheduled for 2013 and the need for weekend flights to encourage more visitors to the Campbeltown area. John replied that additional staff would be needed to encompass weekend flights.

Councillor Semple reported on discussion being undertaken in regards the PSO to make the contract more attractive for operators. It was agreed to invite Moya Ingram to the next meeting to provide the Group with information on the PSO which would assist them with their desire to campaign for additional weekend flights, without having a knock on effect on the PSO which was agreed must continue

(d) **SCOTTISH WATER**

Councillor Kelly highlighted again the ongoing issue in the sewage line between Machrihanish and Campbeltown. Dry weather seemed to accelerate the odour which emanated from the sewage line.

Susan Paterson informed the group of the continuing issues in Southend with water bursts and questioned the rationale by Scottish Water in replacing a limited section of pipework.

Alan Reid replied that it was mandatory that Scottish Water provide an adequate water supply and Argyll and Bute Council should oversee this.

Action: Jamie McGrigor agreed to write directly to Scottish Water in regards the water quality provision and it was agreed to request suitable representation by Scottish Water at the next meeting.

Action: It was also agreed to invite a representative from Roads and Amenity Services to comment on the requirement to continually dig up parts of the roads in order to fix these leaks.

## 4. TRANSPORT

### (a) ROAD ISSUES

Andrew Anderson, Transport Scotland updated the group on recent drainage improvement work being undertaken at the Rest and Be Thankful. However, the water flow was unpredictable and caused difficulties. He advised on the instrumentation on the hillside which measured water levels and slope movement, providing real time information. The contractor who was involved in the installation of netting in strategic areas had been delayed due to recent landslips. There was also an additional problem caused in part due to the depth of the netting supports.

Andrew advised on the investigation of the Emergency Diversionary Route (EDR). Various routes had been explored and the old Military Road was proving to be the most favourable, as opposed to the Forestry Road which would require major work. However, they would need permission from the landowner to continue work on the old Military Road.

He reported on the recent Stakeholders meeting held in Inveraray to determine solutions to this ongoing problem. Jacobs were conducting the study of the A83 which was expected to complete by the end of October and then would be presented to the Taskforce group for consideration and review.

The Chair detailed the problems faced by local businesses and detailed the instance of transporting livestock and encountering delays on the A83. This was having a detrimental impact on the local economy and Islay was in the same predicament.

Councillor Semple stated the development of an Economic Development Plan and that, at present, businesses were experiencing a 20% drop due to road closures and adverse publicity. He stressed the need to counteract this damage to the local economy and it was now imperative to review ferry connections and alternative travel. He put forward the suggestion of utilising both the Forestry Road and the Old Military Road.

Councillor Kelly reiterated that the problems on the A83 were a continuing bone of contention and the need for a permanent solution. He questioned why the stretch between Kennacraig and Campbeltown were not being included in the review and the requirement for a properly managed Capital Programme.

Discussion continued in regards delays in patient transportation and the length of time it would take in utilising a convoy system on the EDR. Andrew Anderson advised that it would take approximately 40 minutes to traverse the Old Military Road and that there were no plans to include the Kennacraig-Campbeltown stretch.

Jamie McGrigor reported that he had written to Keith Brown in regards the 'pinch points on the A83'. He detailed a previous study which had been undertaken and had raised the question in his letter where this funding had gone.

Jim Martin raises the issue of RET being stopped for freight. Jamie McGrigor was aware of this in that the rules had been changed over freight vehicle lengths.

Action: A letter would be sent on behalf of the KIWG to Keith Brown

requesting an explanation on the cessation of the RET for freight vehicles.

Action: A letter would be sent to Keith Brown regarding the points raised at the meeting in relation to the A83

## **5. SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**

### **(a) BUSINESS GATEWAY**

A report was provided updating the group on the delivery of the service.

Business Gateway is offering two forthcoming training workshops in October aimed at supporting the local retail/tourism businesses. These are 'Build your own business website' and 'An introduction to social media'.

Mary Kennedy informed the group that this would be her last KIWG meeting as she was relocating to Glasgow and would be working from the Helensburgh office.

The Chair thanked Mary for her attendance at KIWG meetings and wished her well for the future.

### **(b) HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE**

Two reports were provided for May 2012 and June 2012. The group noted the reports.

### **(c) TAILORED TRAINING - ARGYLL COLLEGE**

Darlene informed the group of the continuing growth in the NC Agriculture and detailed a forthcoming meeting with Fergus Younger and Lucy Sumsion to review progress.

Jamie McGrigor questioned the possibility of future courses around Renewables. Darlene replied of continuing discussions being with Wind Towers Ltd and Argyll College in conjunction with HIE. Isabel Bremner informed the group of a 'skills demand analysis' being undertaken to review future courses.

Councillor Kelly reiterated the need to initiate formalised training in this area.

Susan Paterson highlighted a further area of concern in regards Personal Care services and the need to encourage younger people into this avenue of employment. Darlene Russell replied that the course was available, but no candidates had undertaken the training.

### **(d) AGRICULTURE - LUCY SUMSION / JOHN FORSTER**

Chris Haran informed the group of correspondence which had been sent to both Alex Neil and Michael Russell in regards the lack of sustainable mobile phone signal in Southend. A response had been received from Michael Russell, but nothing as yet from Alex Neil.

The Chair stated that he was fully aware of this problem and of an approach made to HIE for funding to alleviate the problem.

Alan Reid informed the group that the UK Government was

responsible for electoral communications; the previous Government had sold the spectrum to mobile phone companies. Under the terms of the licence, conditions of provision were not universal. He had written to Jeremy Hunt on this issue.

Councillor Semple made the suggestion of initiating a campaign directed at the mobile phone companies to pressurise them into providing a suitable and adequate service in the area in question.

Action: It was agreed that David Rodger would bring a report to the next KIWG meeting on this issue, that the KIWG would also write to Jeremy Hunt and that contact would be made with Vodafone to investigate provision of signal boosters

## **6. PLANNING, PLACE AND PARTNERS (INCLUDES THIRD SECTOR PARTNERS)**

Maryanne Stewart detailed her concerns there were no public toilets open in Campbeltown after 5.00p.m. The exception being the Aqualibrium which was open to 9.00p.m but that this did not accommodate the arrival of the bus at 10.00p.m.

The Chair further commented that he recollected that a major upgrade had been planned for the public facilities at Bolgam Street.

Action: It was agreed to contact Jim Smith, Head of Service, for an update on the closing time of public facilities and the status of an upgrade for the Campbeltown facilities on the Capital Programme.

### **(a) AILSA CLARK - FIRSTPORT**

Ailsa Clark clarified that she was speaking on behalf of InspirAlba and detailed the support provision from the Scottish Government, depending on business needs. In the local area over the past 6 months, there had been significant activity and 6 local businesses had received support.

Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ABSEN) had signposted people towards First Port who provided a range of support.

She informed the group of a forthcoming meeting with the Public Sector services on 22 October which would discuss a wide range of support.

The Chair enquired if the Local Service Initiative would continue.

Ailsa replied that this would be reviewed, discussing the critical issues and determining a solution.

Councillor Semple enquired if the Minute from the meeting would be accessible to ascertain the level of support which would be available and stressed the need for more formative work being undertaken with preventative services.

The Chair stated the need for a central body which would provide over-arching support and thanked Ailsa for her informative update.

Action: It was agreed that Ailsa's contact details would be included in the Minute.

Ailsa Clark  
InspirAlba  
[aclark@inspiralba.org.uk](mailto:aclark@inspiralba.org.uk)

Tel: 01700 501 642 Mob: 077 486 74861

(b) **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

There was no report.

(c) **CHORD PROJECT**

**Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI):**

- Campbeltown CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) project completed 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Heralded as one of the most successful completed so far in Scotland.
- Old School (Bunkhouse) – complete.
- Royal Hotel – complete 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012.
- 13-15 Kirk Street – funding approved 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2012.
  
- **Town Hall** – South Kintyre Development Trust (SKDT) stage1 bid to Big Lottery, Growing Community Assets, approved on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – Argyll and Bute Council is supporting the Trust with development of the business case and stage 2 Big lottery application.
- Campbeltown Tenement Maintenance Guide now published – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Launch event in the Aqualibrium on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- Heritage Trail in third year - 150 people have attended this year's walking tours to date.

**Berthing Facility:**

- Proceeding to Full Business Case for two options following Project Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> August – complete April 2013.
- Dredging for both options to be undertaken in September 2012 saving £60k+ in mobilisation costs.

**Kinloch Road Regeneration.**

- Kintyre Renewables Hub marine works due to complete on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and road works due for completion end 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012, with under grounding of electricity cables by SSE in October 2012.
- New Footway works – to be completed 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.
- Soft Landscaping Works- complete 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

(d) **TOWN HALL UPDATE**

Noted that the Stage 2 application had been submitted.

(e) **TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**

- Issue regarding vacant shop premises in town centre is being

addressed. TCM is working with property owners and estate agents on improving the appearance of any vacant shops and is looking at available window space that can be offered to community/art groups for displays. Also investigating the possibility of a temporary use option either for commercial use or for use by a group, and liaising with Business Gateway regarding possible business start-ups.

- On a positive note, two recently vacated shop units have now been re-let, change of use planning applications have been submitted for two vacant units on Longrow and refurbishment of units on Main Street is still on-going.
- Good progress is being made by the steering group of the Kintyre and Gigha Marketing Group. Funding options from VisitScotland Growth Fund and Argyll and the Islands LEADER have been investigated. Group members have been liaising with members of marketing groups from other areas in Argyll. Membership lists which include all businesses and groups within Kintyre and Gigha are being compiled and each will be invited to join the constituted membership organisation.

## **9. INWARD INVESTMENTS - KEY FACTORS**

### **(a) ARGYLL AND THE ISLES STRATEGIC TOURISM PARTNERSHIP**

There was no report.

### **(b) KINTYRE WAY**

Councillor Semple advised that discussions were still being held in regards the on-going operation. There were not concluded, as yet.

### **(c) ENERGY (RENEWABLES) - ISHABEL BREMNER**

- Following the last meeting of ABRA the review of the REAP has been finalised. No changes were requested by members of ABRA. It will be approved at the next meeting of ABRA on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- The ABRA skills sub group, working closely with the industry, have now completed a skills demand template for an on shore, off shore and a tidal device. The information is currently being checked by the industry.
- Work currently in progress to finalise the proposed update to the onshore community wind farm policy and to further develop the framework for an off shore policy. This will be taken back to the next meeting of ABRA.
- Work is currently on going with HIE to develop a logo/mark for the promotion of the area in regard to renewables. This will be presented to the next meeting of ABRA.
- Stuart Green, Argyll and Bute Council, attended the Argyll Renewable Energy Show in Oban on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

- Argyll and Bute Council and HIE will be attending the Marine Renewable Conference in Inverness on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September and will be representing the area and a number of local businesses will also be in attendance. SPR will be in attendance to represent the Islay Tidal Array project.
- Working with SPR through the development of a new strategic concordat which will be linked to the completion of Beinn An Tuirc 2.
- Review of existing on shore community wind farm policy has been undertaken and the draft policy was presented to ABRA at their meeting in March 2012. A number of minor changes were suggested and these have been incorporated. The principle of the increase from £2,000 pmw to £5,000 pmw was agreed. Further work has been undertaken regarding the policy and in particular looking at a regional element and the opportunities for funding towards skill and a report will be taken back to the next ABRA meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September for their consideration and approval.
- Draft off shore wind farm community policy framework developed and presented to ABRA in March 2012. Further development work is being carried out and the policy will be further refined and reported back to ABRA on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

## **10. MAKI COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP**

### **(a) MAKI COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP - MEETING DATE**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as – 5 September 2012.

## **11. A.O.B.**

The Chair congratulated Jane Mayo on the successful progress of the 2nd round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Jane replied that they were now awaiting an update to ascertain how the application had been reviewed. She felt it was a good project and detailed the help they had received from HIE.

The Chair reiterated that the group forward any items (including local initiatives) they wish included on forthcoming Agendas to Theresa.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for – 26 October 2012 – 10.00a.m.  
Town Hall, Campbeltown.