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MINUTES of MEETING of KINTYRE INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP held in the TOWN HALL, CAMPBELTOWN on FRIDAY, 26 APRIL 2013

Present:

	(Chair)	
	Councillor Rory Colville	
Councillor Anne Horn		Councillor John Semple
Jim Martin		Vice-Chair & Campbeltown CC
Melissa Stewart		Argyll and Bute Council
Stewart Clark		Argyll and Bute Council
Ishabel Bremner		Argyll and Bute Council
David Roger		HIE
Chris Haran		NFU
Pauline Houston		PA to Jamie McGrigor MSP
Jane Mayo		Picture House
Harvard Davis		Campbeltown Community Business Ltd
John Lamont		HIAL
Darlene Russell		Argyll College
Tracy Grant		SKDT
Maryanne Stewart		AVA
Susan Paterson		KFCC, KPPF
Barbara Halliday		Business Gateway
Alan Reid		MP
Matthew Willis		MACC

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated by:-

John Forster
Jamie McGrigor MSP
Ann Gallacher
Michael Russell MSP
Councillor Robin Currie
Alan Walker
Pat Dean
Dhonna McCallum
John Bakes

2. **MINUTES**

The Minute of the previous meeting held on 8 March, 2013 was approved as a true and correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Anne Horn, seconded by Councillor Rory Colville.

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3. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chair informed the group that the issue of a representation to the Argyll Ferry User Group would be given further discussion at a special MAKI Area Committee scheduled for 1 May.

In regards the issue of HIE taking forward Councillor Currie's concerns for the Carradale area, David Rogers agreed that he would follow up this issue and get an update for the next KIWG meeting.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE AND INWARD INVESTMENTS

(a) A83 - WORLD HERITAGE

The Chair related the background to this item and sought the views of the KIWG in regards the preparatory work and research which would be needed to present a case to take to Westminster.

He reported that a volunteer had been found to undertake the lengthy work, although the person was on holiday and, therefore, this had not yet been confirmed. The work would involve researching and detailing the unique history of the local area, highlighting the scenic views of the local landscape from the A83.

Councillor Semple commented that there may be hurdles to overcome in terms of UNESCO's criteria and suggested that this be looked at before a final decision was made to proceed.

Discussion followed and various suggestions were put forward as strategic areas for research. These included:-

Kilmartin Museum

Kintyre and Gigha Marketing Group (possibility of linking into this group).

The group agreed to retain this issue on the Agenda for future discussion.

(b) FERRY - UPDATE

Councillor John Semple informed the group of the proposed timetable and operational dates for the new Campbeltown - Ayrshire Service. He advised that the service would initially be a pilot scheme, with the first year being primarily to 'imbed' the service.

Although representatives from the Ferry Users Group (which includes a representative from KIWG) and CalMac would undertake the process of review and monitoring of the service to help develop the best model, Councillor Semple felt that there was an opportunity for the KIWG as a Group to take this forward..

Councillor Semple reported that discussions were still ongoing with South Ayrshire Council in regards the possibility of the inclusion of other routes to the service. Isabel Bremner advised that the

Economic Development Action Plan had been approved at the full Council meeting, with potential to amend the local Area Plan to include a Northern Ireland route

Further discussion followed in regards the final sailing date for 2013 - September 28. Susan Paterson informed the group that this was in fact the September Weekend holiday and advised that it would perhaps be prudent to extend the sailings to accommodate visitors to the area.

The Chair voiced further concerns in regards the potential impact of the service to existing Harbour users and the practicality of extending the Harbour to ensure that these users were not impinged upon.

Action: It was agreed to write to CalMac highlighting the issue of extending the date of the final sailing in September to accommodate visitors to the area.

(c) TOWN HALL - UPDATE

Tracey Grant informed the group that the legal process of the Asset Transfer of the Town Hall had commenced and it was proposed to submit the bid next month. She further advised that a Cost Plan had been adopted and that an Open Day was being held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 30 April between 11a.m.-6p.m.. This presented an opportunity for the local community to see the plans and meet with the architect.

The Chair encouraged the group to review the plans and highlighted some of the proposed works. He stated the need to identify more users for the building and reported on the 2 new Directors to the SKDT.

Ishabel Bremner advised that a report was being brought to the Strategic Management Team meeting scheduled for May.

(d) CAMPBELTOWN AIRPORT

John Lamont reported that passenger's figures over the year had increased by 1.2%; however flight movements were down by 21.8%. He advised that the reason for the reduction in the flight movements was due in part to the lack of training flights.

Plans were being put in place for out of hours flying which would be introduced in a couple of months and a risk assessment exercise was being planned for the near future. He informed the group of the proposed timetable for the new Sunday flights service which would commence on 16 June and run to 29 September. Flights would arrive in Campbeltown at 1800 and depart at 1825 and this would

initially be part of a 2 year trial.

(e) **FARMING AND CREAMERY UPDATE**

Chris Haran updated the group on the impact of the recent severe weather to the farming industry. Discussion followed in regards to hardship funding and Chris advised that funding would be available to dispose of dead stock although other discussion specifically about compensation were taking place. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chair advised the group of the Phase 1 construction work on the Creamery. The contract had been awarded to 2 outside contractors; however they were employing local labour.

Maryanne Stewart enquired why there was no representation from the fishing industry which played an important and integral part in the local area.

Action: It was agreed that contact would be made with representatives from the local Clyde Fishermen's Association and an invite be extended for them to attend the next KIWG meeting.

(f) **ROAD ISSUES**

Stewart Clark tabled a report providing an update on local roads issues. He advised the group that the additional Capital Funding would be given further discussion at the forthcoming MAKI Business Day on 1 May. He advised on a proposal for a Traffic Management survey in Campbeltown Town Centre.

Concerns on local roads were highlighted and these included:-

Excavation works by Scottish Water at Southend
School Road, Tarbert
Drum
Moss Road

(g) **KINTYRE RENEWABLE ENERGY HUB**

The group held discussion about Renewables issues in the local area.

Ishabel Bremner reported on the recent visit to the area by Nicola Sturgeon and comments which alluded to Kintyre as the only Council area to have achieved what they said they would in their Renewable plans.

Matthew Willis highlighted the need to advertise the whole area as a package, with effective and coordinated marketing. He reported on various parties who had expressed interest in the MACC site, but, as yet, no firm commitment.

Discussion continued in regards having the necessary facilities in place to attract investors to the area.

Ishabel Bremner informed the group of an event in Aberdeen under the ABRA banner which promoted awareness. She also detailed the forthcoming visit of the National Grid Director to the area in September.

The Chair advised that a representative from Community Energy Scotland would be attending the June meeting to provide detail on alternative examples of community energy models that might meet the aspirations of individuals and communities in Kintyre

(h) **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

No update but to remain on Agenda.

(i) **KINTYRE WAY**

The Chair advised that John Bakes had sent his apologies.

Councillor Horn reported that the 2 new Kintyre Way employees were in place and that an introduction at a future KIWG meeting would be arranged.

(j) **CHORD**

Ishabel Bremner reported on the following:-

13-15 Kirk Street - completion was envisaged by June 2013.

50-52 Main Street - developers had provided costs

Berthing Facilities - Full Business Case prepared with a planning application to Marine Scotland and Crown Estates.

The Chair advised that a CHORD Project Board meeting was being held on 1 May and further discussion would be given to the issue of the berthing facility.

5. **BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**

(a) **HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE (HIE)**

David Rogers reported on funding for the Jura Community shop.

(b) **BUSINESS GATEWAY**

Barbara Halliday tabled a report for the group.

The Chair enquired if any enquiries had been made by members of the farming community. Barbara Halliday replied that she had not received any enquiries and it was agreed that she would make

contact with Chris Haran (NFU) to help promote Business Gateway. In addition, it was agreed Barbara she would make contact with Matthew Willis to arrange a visit to the MACC site.

The Chair advised that Mary Dott's post would come to an end shortly. He expressed thanks on behalf of the KIWG to Mary and highlighted the excellent work she had undertaken and progress she had achieved in her time as Town Centre Manager.

(c) ARGYLL COLLEGE

Darlene Russell informed the group that the recruitment process for Full time courses commencing August 2013 at Argyll College had begun.

She reported on 2 new courses an HNC in Hospitality and Agriculture; the HNC in Agriculture could be networked. Darlene advised of the accreditation of the Fire Service's Young Fire Fighters certificate which would be implemented in August 2013. Darlene detailed an example of local success; the Schools for Work Award which had been won by a local student in Tarbert.

Darlene would provide information on forthcoming Open Days at Argyll College. She detailed another initiative which was focusing on skill sets for the Commonwealth Games in 2014 and these would include Security qualifications, Customer Care and Hospitality.

Ishabel Bremner reported on the new Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership Group which was an action-based partnership endeavouring to match local skills to potential employers. She advised that the Principal of Argyll College was one of the Board members.

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) THE WEE PICTURE HOUSE CENTENARY

Jane Mayo reported on the forthcoming celebrations to mark the Centenary of the Wee Picture House in Campbeltown. She informed the group of the history behind the building of the cinema which had been pioneered and completed by a group of local businessmen.

Jane highlighted the support and contribution from Argyll and Bute Council, the Common Good Fund and the local Rotary Club towards the celebration and thanked all concerned.

The event was being held on 26 May and 164 tickets would be available on a first come first served basis from 4 May. These would be limited to 4 per person with a voluntary donation towards costs. There would be 100 invited guests and the guest of honour was - Liz Lohead, Scottish Makar.

The weekend of celebration would coincide with the Mull of Kintyre Run and the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival.

Jane Mayo advised of on-going discussion with the newly appointed architect and of a forthcoming meeting with Heritage Lottery. She reported that a new Stage 1 application would be submitted with more fund raising initiatives in the pipeline. One of which was for Jane to compete in the Mull of Kintyre run and it was agreed that sponsorship forms on behalf of Jane would be sent out to the KIWG electronically.

(b) **MACHRIHANISH COMMUNITY FACILITY**

Matthew Willis refuted comments made on Radio Scotland during the recent severe weather in Kintyre which reported on generators at the base which were connected to the grid. He reported that the said generators were not connected and were in the process of being disposed of.

Jim Martin advised that £300,000 had been spent on infrastructure at the base utilising the services of local contractors. He updated the group on other enquires which had been received at MACC.

Councillor Horn took this opportunity to highlight the positive stories during the Kintyre Emergency and thanked all the services who assisted during this onerous time. The Group conveyed their gratitude to all involved.

(c) **OPPORTUNITY KINTYRE**

Tracy Grant informed the group of an application made by Opportunity Kintyre to the People and Communities Fund.

In addition, plans were in progress to work with Business Gateway and a meeting was planned.

(d) **SOUTH KINTYRE DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE**

Update given at Item 4 (c).

7. MAKI COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

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

The next MAKI CPG meeting was scheduled for:-

5 June, 2013.

The venue would be decided at the next MAKI Area Committee meeting.

8. A.O.B.

Councillor Horn advised the group of a forthcoming event in Tarbert. The event was called Medieval Melee and was scheduled for 1 June.

This would be a good family day and would commence at 10.00a.m. with the official opening taking place at 12 noon.

Susan Paterson provided detail of the St Columba event in Southend on 1 June. This would involve plays and pageants relating the local history of Southend, culminating in a ceilidh. The day would start at 1.00p.m. and continue to 11.00p.m.

Susan provided information of a Community Care Forum in Campbeltown Library on 8 May. This would focus on the service provision of the new MacMillan Information and Support Group.

Alan Reid reported on the new Mobile Infrastructure contract which would be awarded in May 2013. It was agreed that he would notify the Chair of the announcement.

Jim Martin enquired if the Relief Road at the Rest and Be Thankful was now fully operational. Stewart Clark replied that, to the best of his knowledge, this was ready for use if needed.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on:-

**Friday, 28 June 2013
10.00a.m. Town Hall, Campbeltown**

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