

Rothesay and Isle of Bute – A growing population?

An overview of progress on the SOA and a Vision for bringing partners together

Activity under SOA Outcomes in Bute

There are a large number of groups in Bute including businesses, Social Enterprises, community groups and Mount Stuart Trust. The work of these towards the SOA is attached in the Appendix. This shows that there is an increasing amount of activity taking place to secure the future of people's lives in Rothesay and Bute. However, there is recognition that there are still key areas that need to be worked on where key partners need to come together.

Proposal to bring partners together: Bute Area Development Group

There is a willingness to re-ignite the Bute Area Development Group or another similar group. This would have the potential to bring groups together that would not normally have their voices heard at other groups or forums and to look at where there is a benefit of working together. One of the main purposes is to address the needs of vulnerable individuals or groups as this will make a difference in Bute, alongside having key partners share what they are doing and so benefit from better knowledge and potential project development from this.

The Community Development Officer in the Council will organise a meeting of this Group to scope potential for future partnership projects and to build relations between groups.

The following groups have been identified as important:

1. Argyll Training – This is primarily funded by SDS, dealing with mainly disengaged and vocationally undecided youths. It is linked into key partners on Bute through “16+ Opportunities for all” which includes Rothesay Academy, Argyll College, DWP and Argyll and Bute Council.
2. The churches on Bute are an untapped resource and Rev Owain Jones is keen to look at where the Churches can fit into the needs of the community .They offer messy play after school clubs and are keen to introduce a drop in information centre.
3. Legacy organisations from Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme i.e. Bute Conservation Trust, Brandaii Archaeology , Woodwatch Heritage Bute working together with Buteshire Natural History Society, Bute Community Land Co and Mount Stuart Trust to sustain and improve on the great works carried out from 2008 to 2012 to engage visitors and the community of Bute with the wonderful landscape of Bute.
4. Help Project, Skills Development Scotland, DWP, Bute Advice Centre, Mental health workers, youth workers, migrant groups (there is a growing eastern European population on Bute).
5. All businesses

Potential new projects:

- Alliance for Action for Rothesay project – funded by HIE this project has recently looked at the potential for social and economic development in Rothesay and will be a key document for bringing people together.
- The Vital Spark – new project in Rothesay and Dunoon to help new Social Enterprises to start up
- Digital summer School

Future inward investors on Bute

Scottish Salmon Co, Tesco?

Appendix: Background information

Isle of Bute

Vision for Rothesay and Isle of Bute – A growing population?

Outcome 1 -The Economy is diverse and thriving?

Farming and Tourism were always the main industries on Bute. However with the Dairy Farm crisis, the future for Bute's farmers is looking uncertain. Scottish Government and Mount Stuart Trust are trying to look at possible solutions.

Visit Bute is working hard to get the Bute Brand out there. They have designed a new website, a visitor brochure and a Marine visitor brochure. They have produced new car stickers to carry the message of Bute far and wide. Mackirdy haulage has the Visit Bute message on the sides of their HGV lorries.

Visit Scotland -Isle of Bute Discovery Centre and Theatre are an important first port of call for visitors arriving on Bute and the cinema is an important venue

Significant investment has been made by local business for the future of production and to secure their place in the domestic and overseas market. Two fine examples of the turnaround in economic activity and securing the financial stability of their business and staff are Bute Fabrics and Flexible Technology Ltd.

Bute Fabrics

- A couple of years ago staff hours were reduced to a four day week and future orders were Looking uncertain.
- Now Bute Fabrics is going from strength to strength.
- They have made a significant Capital investment and ordered an additional loom to meet their new demand for tartan
- Employees are now working overtime hours.
- Orders have been taken in excess of £100,000 and will help secure even more jobs for longer at Bute Fabrics.

Flexible technology Ltd – manufacturer of flexible components

A few years ago orders had fallen and staff on a four day working week. They now have 41 employees and have secured steady orders and have contracts with the medical equipment industry- they have exported to all continents in the world.

Other important Employers on Bute

- ACHA

- Allied Health Care
- Apple Tree Nursery- linking in with Early years and community groups
- Ardmaleish Boat Yard - 30 full time employees – 3 apprentices
- Argyll and Bute Council – Apprentices or graduates?.
- Banks - could banks take on apprentices?
- Bute Art Exhibition
- Bute Blacksmiths – two apprentices
- Bute Blacksmiths – two apprentices
- Bute Brew Co – new business
- Bute Estate – renovation of Bute Sawmill – biomass fuel , investment of £400k
- Bute Practice
- Cal Mac
- Careplus
- Cooperative Ltd - good involvement in Community events
- Electric Bakery
- Fyne Homes , Fyne Futures, Car Bute, Bute Produce – New 360 degree Project for food waste management and grow your own Project. Also Fyne Heat, helping people affected by fuel poverty.
- Garages on Bute – two apprentices
- George Hanson building – apprentices
- Henshelwoods Fyne Foods – putting Bute on the map
- Historic Scotland = 1 traditional stonemason apprentice from Bute
- Isle of Bute food – dairy free cheese- trying to break into North American market
- Ladbrokes
- Lloyds Pharmacy
- Mackirdy Haulage – apprentice and advertise Visit Bute on their HGV vehicles
- Mount Stuart Trust – Operational Director keen to work in partnership with Community Projects
- Original Factory shop

- Port Bannaytne Boat Yard and Marina – 1 apprentice
- Rothesay Playgroup – linking in with early years, criminal justice etc
- Superdrug
- The Buteman -Editor great involvement with local community
- Web help UK– approx. 100 employees(50% between ages of 18-25)
- West Coast Motors = 1 apprentice

All the above employers plus hoteliers, restaurant owners and shop keepers are working together to brand Bute to as wide a market as possible and to sustain the workforce on Bute

Successful festivals and Events bringing visitors to Bute

- Bute Agricultural Show, Sheepdog Trials and Annual ploughing match
- Bute Fest
- Bute Highland Dancing Festival September weekend
- Bute Highland Games
- Bute Triathlon
- Isle of Bute Cycling Festival
- Isle of Bute Jazz Festival
- Isle of Bute Open Studios
- Middle of Scotland Science Festival
- Port Bannatyne Gala day
- Tee in the Port

Outcome 2 – We have the infrastructure that supports sustainable growth

- Caledonian MacBrayne – introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff will make a significant difference to the people of the island and visitors
- BT – roll out of high speed Broadband
- Hydro Electric, Gas and BT – could utility firms invest in more apprentices or graduates training schemes on Bute?
- Mount Stuart Trust – Mount Stuart Master plan – significant capital investment into new builds and renovating empty farm houses and properties
- ABC – ongoing roads maintenance
- Bute Community Power

- **The Townscape Heritage Initiative** has made a significant improvement to the town centre and to East Princes Street area of the town
- **The refurbishment of the Pavilion**- when completed this iconic building will be an essential hub for tourism and the community,

Outcome 3 - Education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all :

Linking up CLD, Argyll College, Secondary School, Argyll Training, HELP Project, Skills Development Scotland, ABC youth worker, CLD (new website programme)- these groups are all involved in the group 16 plus – Opportunities for All.

- Argyll Training – Call Centre training, Hairdressing, Food Hygiene. PVG training. Argyll Training does not get a high enough profile. It provides a brilliant service for Bute but is losing referrals.
- Argyll College - great partnership working with Rothesay Academy, local businesses, skills development Scotland
- Help project – great service for 16-24 year olds, helping prevent homelessness

Outcome 4 -Children and young people have the best possible start

Argyll and Bute Council Early years , Schools, Apple Tree Nursery, Child minders, Rothesay Playgroup, Baby Bistro – NHS, Rothesay Christian Fellowship and UNESCO. Good partnership working. Early intervention working in partnership with Police and Social Services.

Outcome 5 -People live active, healthier and independent lives

Addressing the needs and bridging the gaps for the vulnerable and hard to reach groups on Bute:

- Achievement Bute – great service on Bute for disabled and able bodied children
- Addaction – is this bridging the Gap left from Encompass, drugs and alcohol?
- Ardrannan Riding School – links to Nurseries and schools to help children with additional needs.
- Baby Bistro – NHS, UNESCO and Rothesay Christian Fellowship – baby feeding and massage
- Bute Advice Centre – great additional service to ABC offering welfare, debt advice, Also works in partnership with retirement homes offering gentle exercises for residents to strengthen muscles and improve balance to prevent falls
- Bute Alcohol and Drugs – good partnership working – Moat Centre
- Bute Arts Society – bringing Classical music to Bute

- Bute Befrienders – offering support and friendship to older people
- Bute Bowling Association
- Bute Clay Pigeon Club
- Bute Community Power
- Bute Dance Studio – Highland, ballet etc
- Bute Flower Clubs
- Bute Forum for Older Voices – trying to lobby for free swimming for older people
- Bute Health and Wellbeing Network – use to match fund with Stalled Spaces Project?
- Bute Oasis – Food Bank – helping people in crisis
- Bute Rugby, Shinty and Cricket Clubs
- Bute Stroke Club – offering gentle exercises – Moat centre
- Bute Talespinners
- Bute wheelers – cycling club
- Bute WRI's – bringing together ladies in rural areas.
- Bute Youth Football coaching -5-13, 14-17 links with Rothesay Joint Campus
- Callum's Cabin – holidays for terminally ill children – legacy of Callum Speirs
- Crossroads for Carers Cowal and Bute – lifeline services for carers, have just taken on a Youth Development worker for supporting Young Carers
- For Bute – all proceeds of shop goes to local organisations
- Help Project 16-25 excellent work on Bute to help vulnerable young adults.
- Home Start Majik – befriending scheme for children and families
- Isle of Bute Angling Association
- Isle of Bute Artists collaborative
- Isle of Bute Sailing Club
- Isle of Bute Trust – hopes to use donations from Island residents to put back into Community Projects.
- Light up Bute – to bring families together in a fun environment

- Memory Group - helping people with Alzheimer's- Moat Centre
- Mother and Toddlers groups
- Rotary Club – good interaction with schools and Community
- Rothesay Community Sports Hub – where a range of sports clubs can work together
- Rothesay Library – book bug , linking in with Island schools, reading group, MacMillan Cancer Support, safe place for vulnerable individuals
- Rothesay, Port Bannatyne and Bute Golf clubs
- Transclyde Music – bringing different types of singers and bands over to Bute
- Trinity Church Lunch Club – reaching out to vulnerable older people.
- United Church of Bute – looking for a way forward to help the community

Outcome 6 – People live in safer stronger communities

- Prevention- diversion from prosecution – Criminal justice
- Community Payback team - linking in to Community Projects
- School/community Police Officer – excel project?
- Youth Forum – Saltire awards, Duke of Edinburgh, Youth achievement awards etc
- Neighbourhood watch?
- Fire Service – good partnership working – Fire your Career Roadshow
- Moat Community Centre– badminton clubs, football clubs, Children 1st, snooker, table tennis,
Tai Chi, Chi Ball, Country dancing, ballroom dancing, keep fit, kick boxing.
- Loch Fad fisheries linking in with Youth worker, Woodwatch Heritage Bute, Kayak Club?
- Community Spirit is alive and kicking on Bute.

Please note this is an illustration of what the businesses and Community Groups are doing on Bute at present
It is by no means a comprehensive list.