

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

At a Meeting of the Community Alliance held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 24 October 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Anne MacDougall, Chair; Councillors Caroline McAllister, John Millar and Sally Page; Rhona Young and Daphne MacKay, Clydebank Seniors Forum; Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Bureau; Jack Fordy and Drummond McNair, Community Councils' Forum; Barbara Barnes and George Murphy, Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Locality Engagement Network.

Attending: Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing and Employability; Elaine Troup, Communities Manager and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Also Attending: Chief Inspector Scott Carlin, Police Scotland; Stuart McLean and Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS); and Rose Harvie, Silverton & Overtoun Community Council.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Hope Robertson, Clydebank Asbestos Group and Donnie Nicolson, Bellsmyre Development Trust.

Ms Anne MacDougall in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Alliance held on 19 April 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

DEVELOPMENT SESSION: THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

With reference to the previous meeting of the Community Alliance, Anne MacDougall, Chair, led a discussion on 'Developing the Community Alliance'.

After discussion and having heard the Communities Manager and the Strategic Lead – Housing and Employability in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Alliance agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place in respect of what measures were required to be taken in order to enable the Community Alliance to be as meaningful as possible, in terms of achieving community objectives, whilst still being representative to the communities they represent;
- (2) that, in light of feedback received from community representatives, officers be requested to consider a review of the remit, organisation and operation of the Community Alliance;
- (3) that, in view of (2) above, the review would be reported back to a future meeting of the Community Alliance, to enable consideration to take place; and
- (4) that it was considered important that the format of Community Alliance meetings changed to make them as meaningful and as constructive as possible.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Anne MacDougall, Chair, invited the Communities Manager to provide a brief update on the work being progressed around the development of a Community Empowerment Strategy and Action Plan for West Dunbartonshire and it was noted that these aimed to improve the Council's and its partners' understanding of the barriers faced by local communities in their efforts get more involved in shaping their community.

In this regard, it was noted:-

- (1) that Phase 4 of Community Budgeting would launch at the end of October 2018 and that the process had been refined following consultation with previous participants of Community Budgeting who had responded to the Survey Monkey questionnaire, some of whom had also participated in small focus group sessions; and
- (2) that the main event would take place in late February/early March 2019 and that Community Planning were working with the Improvement Service to develop an online voting system.

After discussion, the Community Alliance noted the update given, including the response from the Communities Manager that the new online system would minimise the chance of multiple voting, and looked forward to receiving more information, when available.

The meeting closed at 3.38 p.m.