

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

At a Meeting of the Community Alliance held in The Denny Meeting Room, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Thursday, 12 March 2020 at 2.03 p.m.

Present: Anne MacDougall, Chair; Councillor Sally Page; Barbara Barnes, Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Locality Engagement Network; Frances McGonagle and Polly Wheelans, WDTRO.

Attending: Suzanne Greer, Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer; Ric Rea, Performance and Strategy Officer; Stephen Burns, Communities Project Worker - Communities Team and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf Councillor Caroline McAllister; Brenda Pasquire, West Dunbartonshire Citizens Advice Bureau; Jackie Maceira, West Dunbartonshire Access Panel; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; and Neil Etherington, Clydebank Mens Shed.

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.

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Note of Meeting of the Community Alliance held on 12 November 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to noting that the next meeting date of 15 January 2020 was rearranged, to today's meeting date instead.

In terms of matters arising from the Note of previous meeting, it was noted that any actions in relation to any points contained therein would be taken forward as necessary by officers.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE: SUMMARY REPORT AND KEY OUTCOMES/NEXT STEPS

A report was submitted by the Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer providing an update on the Community Alliance Conference held on Saturday, 22 February 2020 in Clydebank Town Hall.

After discussion and having heard the Communities Project Worker and the Community Empowerment Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Alliance agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the verbal update given;
- (2) otherwise to note the content of the report and to continue consideration to a future meeting on the key outcomes from the Conference and the next steps moving forward;
- (3) in view of (2) above, that there was an identified need to build on the key findings and to promote the Alliance more widely. This could be done using a variety of methods, social media and the development of a communications and marketing plan. Also, there was a key need to consider the timing, format and location of meetings in reaching out to new members and ways of including young people and increasing the representativeness of the Alliance; and
- (4) to note the discussion that had taken place on 'Your Community', the Community Alliance and how it links into the wider strategic aims of the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD) Management Board.

REVIEW OF SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Community Empowerment Officer gave a verbal update in relation to the process of reviewing the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils and advised that this was the formal part of the process (including a nine month review timetable). The officer also gave an outline of what was planned in relation to the review, which would then be proceeded by new community council elections.

After discussion, the position was noted in respect of this matter.

WORKPLAN FOR COMMUNITY ALLIANCE/FORWARD PLANNER

Discussion took place on what measures might be most effective in ensuring a better attendance at future meetings of the Community Alliance (CA), and it was noted that the timing, location of meetings should not be a barrier for members who wished to attend. The use of social media was also discussed as this could be used to advertise the existence of the Community Alliance and make more community groups aware of how they could interface with the CA, to the benefits to themselves and to the wider community of West Dunbartonshire.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Having heard Anne MacDougall, Chair, it was noted that there had been no intimation of any items to be taken forward under this.

DATE(S) OF NEXT/FUTURE MEETINGS

Anne MacDougall Chair, Chair, thanked Stephen Burns, Communities Project Worker, Suzanne Greer, Community Empowerment Officer and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer for their work in taking matters forward with regard to raising the profile and making the Community Alliance generally more effective and fit-for-purpose.

Anne also took the opportunity to welcome back Elaine Troup, Communities Manager. It was noted that officers would take away and consider the key themes that emerged from the recent conference which would inform the workplan for the Alliance for 2020/21 and allow planning of meetings and inviting speakers and making the meetings more accessible and appealing to new members.

The meeting closed at 3.23 p.m.