

Developing a Community Alliance – Community Participation Committee Facilitated Session

Background

The Council and our partner organisations, through the Community Planning Partnership, recognises the need to engage more effectively with local communities and work better together to tackle challenges. To ensure a strong community voice within this approach and to ensure the CPP delivers outcomes based on the issues raised by communities we are keen to:

Developing the Community Participation Committee into a broader Community Alliance

A new Community Alliance will involve a broader range of community interests, looking at the big issues for communities across West Dunbartonshire, and offers a more representative voice for the West Dunbartonshire area than is possible through a committee membership.

The Community Alliance will be a connection between many groupings in the community and the Community Planning Partnership and will act as a bridge to the proposed neighbourhood management groups.

Operating as an umbrella structure for relevant community structures, this alliance will consider and advise on the plans being developed through the CPP as well as raising issues for the CPP to consider and progress, whilst importantly giving a direct route back to communities.

Key aims are to:

- Involve a broader range of community interests
- Operate as an umbrella structure for relevant community structures
- Scrutinise plans from Community Planning partners

Supported by:

- **West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel**

The Panel is an example of best practice nationally and we'll be looking at how to develop it further to attract and engage our younger population. These approaches will achieve both a strategic overview for West Dunbartonshire and meaningful engagement at a local level.

- **Neighbourhood management**

At the same time, we'll be developing closer links with neighbourhoods to help us engage more effectively on local issues and work closely with communities on joint solutions for improving community life. This will allow local people to get involved in discussing and addressing issues of importance in their own communities. It will build on the strengths and enthusiasm already present in the area, with support and development provided from key services.

CPC Facilitated Session:

The facilitated session to help develop the Community Alliance will consider the following:

- Who needs to be involved? e.g. officers, groups, elected members
- What will the agenda be? e.g. what issues and topics will the Alliance have a say on
- How will the group operate e.g. pre-agendas, timing and frequency of meetings
- How will the Community Alliance link with other Community Planning decision-making structures? e.g. what influence will it have, how will it affect decisions
- How will we support community to be involved? e.g. what kind of support and training is needed
- How will we ensure employees have the right skills? e.g. what kind of support and training is needed
- How will we ensure communication is good? e.g. what methods will we use