

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

At a Meeting of the Community Alliance held in the 'The Bridge' Meeting Room, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Thursday, 29 August 2019 at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Anne MacDougall, Chair; Councillors Caroline McAllister and Sally Page; Rhona Young, Clydebank Seniors Forum; Barbara Barnes, Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Locality Engagement Network; Frances McGonagle and Polly Wheelans, WDTR.

Attending: Suzanne Greer, Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer; Brian McQuillan, Communities Project Worker – Communities Team and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

**Also
Attending:** Ian Bain, Greenspace Manager.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mary McAleer, Clydebank Seniors Forum (Substitute).

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 MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Alliance held on (a) 24 October 2018 and (b) 30 April 2019 (Development Session) were submitted and approved as correct records, subject to some discussion taking place on reviewing the wider membership of the Community Alliance, and giving as much notice as possible to community groups of future meeting dates for the Community Alliance.

REVISED REMIT AND REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP AND ROLE OF THE ALLIANCE

After hearing Anne MacDougall, Chair, it was noted that the views of the local community would be sought on the revised/draft remit of the Alliance which had previously been circulated to groups.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing information on the development of a Community Empowerment Strategy and Action Plan for West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion and having heard Suzanne Greer, Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Alliance agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place in respect of this matter, particularly on the next round of consultation events which would take place in Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank (the details of which were circulated at the meeting)..

DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE

Councillor McAllister, Vice-Chair, gave an update on the above. The Alliance agreed to note the following:-

- Continued work with Scottish Leaders Forum to progress this agenda;
- A programme of community focused and community planning partner sessions to influence the behaviours linked to domestic abuse;
- Support for the community conference planned for November 2019; and
- Continued commitment of CPWD senior officers to deliver the spirit of the Domestic Abuse Pledge, including a formal pledge signing at its November meeting.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing a summary of the emerging work associated with developing community transport provision in West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion and having heard Brian McQuillan, Communities Project Worker – Communities Team, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Alliance agreed to note the contents of the report and the terms of the update given.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE PLANNING

The Communities Project Worker – Communities Team gave a verbal update in relation to the plans for the above. As discussed at the Development Session on 30 April 2019, a small sub group had been set up which would take proposals forward with regard to conference planning and organisation, for a provisional date of 27 November.

NOTE: Date of Community Alliance Conference has been changed and is now scheduled to take place in January 2020.

COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGEMENT GROUP PAPERS

The Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer gave a verbal update on the above. It was noted that further discussions would take place to ascertain the best way to communicate the work of the Delivery Improvement Group's that worked under the auspices of the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire Management Board, perhaps including a summary of actions, etc. following meetings.

COMMUNITY BUDGETING

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability providing a summary of the most recent phase of Community Budgeting and plans for future forms of *participatory budgeting (PB)*.

After discussion and having heard Suzanne Greer, Acting Communities Manager/Community Empowerment Officer, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Alliance agreed to note the contents of the report and the terms of the discussion that had taken place in respect of giving consideration to the role of the Alliance in developing future PB models.

GRASS CUTTING

Ian Bain, Greenspace Manager, gave a presentation to the Alliance on grass cutting and grounds maintenance. Lengthy debate ensued and following discussion and a question and answer session, Anne MacDougall, Chair, thanked Mr Bain for his interesting and informative presentation.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Discussion took place on the previous role of Community Planning and Community Councils and the historical context was noted in relation thereto. With regard to the current structure of Community Planning, it was noted that the Chair of the Community Alliance was the link into discussions taking place within the Partnership Board. Members of the Alliance were reminded that, they could raise through the Chair of the Community Alliance, any items of concern they wished to be addressed by the Partnership Board.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that discussions would take place with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community Alliance with regard to the next meeting date, and communication would be made to community representatives in early course.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.