

Community Alliance – revised / draft remit

The Community Alliance ensures communities and individuals have an understanding of and an effective influence within Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD).

The Alliance brings together representatives from neighbourhood, interest and user groups across West Dunbartonshire with the intention of:

- Strengthening and widening involvement across communities (both geographical and interest);
- Advising CPWD on policy and planning priorities identified by local people; and
- working with CPWD to ensure delivery of the issues identified as local priorities.

The Community Alliance has been established to promote and support community empowerment. One way it does this by providing opportunities for communities to engage with and influence discussion at CPWD level. However the emerging role for the Alliance should be focussed on:

Our remit is to:

- act as a conduit between the CPP and local communities ensuring the transfer of information in both directions; and
- ensure that communities can inform and / or influence the services that affect them and impact upon their quality of community life.

We do this by:

- Raising awareness of key priority issues drawn from communities and feeding back to communities on how these issues are being addressed by CP partners;
- Working alongside the CPP Management group to identify solutions based on local needs;
- Effective engagement with communities;
- Effectively sharing and receiving information from communities;
- Using a diverse range of engagement methods appropriate for all within our communities;
- Providing opportunities for communities to constructively share their issues/concerns with us;
- Making efforts to understand and overcome the barriers to engagement / activity;
- Respecting the diversity and differences of opinion within communities;

- Considering, promoting, and reviewing arrangements for consultation, participation and involvement.

Governance

The Community Alliance will meet bi-monthly. The agenda will be set by the Chair of the CA and in response from relevant issues raised by the communities of West Dunbartonshire. The minutes of each meeting will be approved by the Chair and circulated to members and made available to the public on-line.

Our members will be drawn from:

- West Dunbartonshire Council
- Elected members
- Community Councils
- Community Groups
- Champions Board
- Community Development Trusts
- West Dunbartonshire Equality Forum
- Seniors' Forums
- West Dunbartonshire Youth Alliance / Y Sort It
- Locality Engagement Networks (Health & Social Care)
- Neighbourhood Organisations
- Tenants & Residents Associations
- Black & Minority Ethnic organisations
- Disability Groups
- LGBT Groups
- West Dunbartonshire Chamber

It is anticipated that each of the above groups/departments are represented by one member and one substitute.

The CA will communicate with local citizens by:

- Ensuring meeting venues are roving, i.e. held within different communities and at varying times of the day / evening
- Ensuring elected members attend the roving meetings
- Through the use of social media (Facebook)
- Ensuring information on the CA website is up-to-date
- Ensuring that the CA is contactable, that there are various methods for local people to contact us
- Writing a monthly up-date in a local newspaper
- Including regular up-date in WDC Housing News

The CA will set their agenda for the year ahead, with scope to deal with emerging issues. This will include:

- Attending and hosting events
- Guest speakers responding to key themes / issues
- Training sessions

Chair of the Alliance should be a community representative and be on a 24 month revolving basis. (to be agreed)

DRAFT