

Action Note

Meeting:	North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	14 December 2021 – Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Present:	<p>Councillor Alex Gallagher (Chair); John Lamb (Vice-Chair); Councillor Alan Hill; Councillor Tom Marshall; Councillor Ian Murdoch; Russell McCutcheon, Senior Lead Officer (NAC); Rhona Arthur, Lead Officer (NAC); Louise Riddex, Locality Officer (NAC); Alison Wilson, Police Scotland; Alex Harvie, Cumbrae Community Council; Rita Holmes, Fairlie Community Council; Lesley Stringer, Community Representative; Louise McDaid, HSCP Locality Forum; Sarah Baird, Senior Islands Officer (NAC); Rosemary Ramsay, Funding Officer (NAC); Natalie Murray, Co-ordinator (Community Learning & Development) NAC; David Nairn, Wild Oysters Project (Agenda Item 3); Lynne Cathcart, Head Teacher (Skelmorlie Primary School) (Item 4); Barbara Conner, TACT (Agenda Item 5);</p>
Apologies:	<p>Councillor Todd Ferguson; Lizzy Barbour, Community Representative; Rebecca Black, Corporate Parenting Team (NAC);</p>

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair extended a welcome to those present, including Alex Harvie, newly appointed Chair of Cumbrae Community Council.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were recorded.</p>	
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The Action Note from the previous meeting, held on 14 September 2021, was approved.</p> <p>The Senior Lead Officer provided a brief update and highlighted a number of items, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 3 (COSD) – the important work being done to reduce the cost of the school day; • Item 5 (Senior Islands Office Update) – the evolving Islands Plans, which would be the subject of further consideration later in the meeting • Item 7 (Millport Town Hall) – further progress would be reported later in the meeting; and • Item 12.1 (Men’s Shed) - AOCB – the Men’s Shed and ongoing work to identify suitable premises in Largs. 	

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	<p>At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Murdoch provided a short verbal update on progress in respect of the Men's Shed project, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• success in attracting committee volunteers, trustees and office bearers;• the charitable status registration process;• work to look at funding opportunities; and• progress in terms of securing temporary premises, with options for permanent premises still being explored, including the potential for asset transfer or new-build premises. <p>Thereafter, the Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the potential to explore CIF funding for the development of a Men's Shed in Largs; and• the omission from the action note of a decision which had been taken in respect of the disbursement of Elderly Grants funding by West Kilbride Community Council. <p>The Partnership agreed to (a) confirm that, although omitted in error for the Action Note, a decision had been taken at the previous meeting to delegate authority for the disbursement of remaining 2021-22 Elderly Grant funding to West Kilbride Community Council; and (b) note that officers would liaise with Councillor Murdoch on the potential for a CIF funding application in respect of the Men's Shed.</p>	<p><i>Rhona Arthur</i></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Wild Oysters Project</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation by David Nairn, Project Officer with the Wild Oysters Project, a national project led by the Zoological Society for London, Blue Marine Foundation and British Marine aimed at restoring Britain's seas to health through the restoration of the native oyster.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the introduction of oyster hatcheries at various locations locally, including Largs and Fairlie Marinas;• the benefits of the project in terms of areas such as biodiversity, climate change, carbon capture and eco-tourism;• the educational work being done with schools and university; and• work being done to secure further funding to allow a continuation of the project beyond its current timeframe. <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the wide range of benefits which the project could bring to the local area and its marine environment;• the importance of partnership working with the Council and others;• the potential detrimental impact of a fish farm proposal;	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the work of the Clyde Marina Partnership and whether there was any scope for Elected Member involvement;• the importance nationally of the SSSI at Southannan sands;• the carbon capture potential of the project and the importance of the marine environment in tackling climate change;• the Council's Green Jobs fund;• any potential to incorporate habitat benefits into Cumbrae's flood defence scheme project;• the existing Cumbrae Marine Consultation area and the potential for the development of a marine regional park in the longer term; and• the work of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership <p>The Partnership agreed to note that the Executive Director (Place) would liaise with the Council's project team to explore further the feasibility of including some wild oyster habitat development as part of the Cumbrae flood defence works.</p> <p>Councillor Hill and Alison Wilson (Police Scotland) joined the meeting during consideration of this item.</p>	<p>Russell McCutcheon</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Learning Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal report from Lynne Cathcart, Head Teacher at Skelmorlie Primary School, on the progress being made and challenges faced around the education of school pupils during the pandemic, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the positive boost to children of a recent visit by Santa, arranged by Largs Events;• the significant pressures associated with staffing shortages as a result of the pandemic in general and the new Omicron variant in particular;• the challenges around maintaining in-school learning until the end of the current term; and• the potential for the Wild Oysters Project to provide input to local primary schools. <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• concerns around the Covid infection rate within schools; and• plans for a meeting between representatives of the Wild Oysters Project and the local primary schools cluster. <p>Noted.</p>	

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5.	Adult Volunteering Recognition Award and TACT Update The Partnership received a verbal report from Barbara Conner (TACT) on a new award scheme to recognise the contribution made by adult volunteers to their local communities. The Partnership was advised that the scheme comprised a range of awards (from Bronze for 25-49 hours through to Palladium for outstanding contributions) to mark the level of commitment by volunteers. The Partnership discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• whether there was any particular timeframe within which volunteering hours had to be accrued;• the extent to which volunteering hours could be backdated; and• whether it was anticipated that volunteers would be recognised with different categories of award as they accumulated hours, or if it was expected that a volunteer would be nominated for just one level of award. Noted.	
6.	Grants Update The Partnership received a presentation by Rosemary Ramsay, the Council's Funding Officer on the Largs Town Charitable Trust and Largs Common Good. The presentation highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the purpose of the Funds;• the balances available for disbursement;• the eligibility criteria;• the application and assessment process; and• examples of the types of projects which had been funded The Partnership discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how available funding was generated;• whether the balance of Charitable Trusts could/should be fully expended if their annual administrative/audit fees were significant as a proportion of their overall capital; and• an outstanding application from Largs Park Run for Largs Town Charitable Trust funding The Lead Officer provided a verbal update on a funding application from Largs Park Run which had been continued from a previous meeting for further information. The Partnership was advised that group had now obtained the required licence.	

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	<p>The Partnership unanimously agreed to approve Largs Park Run's application for Largs Town Charitable Trust, in the amount of £3,000.</p>	<p>Rosemary Ramsay</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>HSCP Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a report and verbal update by Louise McDaid, Chair of the HSCP Locality Forum, on a variety of issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ongoing survey on the HSCP's new Strategic Plan 2022-30; • a recent meeting with representatives of the North Coast and Cumbraes Youth Forum and the invitation for two young people to participate in the Locality Forum; and • the significant harm caused by problem gambling and the work being done to tackle it, including plans for a Gambling Charter and the role of organisations such as Gamtalk UK and Gamblers Anonymous. <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential funding opportunities to support Gamtalk presentations to local schools; • the demographics of problem gambling and the need to make information available on where to seek help; • the prevalence of betting shops, particularly in poorer areas; • the impact of targeted online advertising; • the petition for a 'Luke's Law' to ban 'free bets' and emails aimed at enticing gamblers; • the relevance of gambling to the Partnership's priorities around mental health and social isolation; and • the potential for KA Leisure's "Champions for Change" initiative to include problem gambling, in addition to drugs and alcohol <p>The Partnership agreed to note that the Lead Officer would liaise with the HSCP Locality Forum Chair to explore opportunities to develop a CIF funding application for a project aimed around problem gambling awareness raising.</p>	<p>Rhona Arthur</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Islands Plan</p> <p>The Partnership received a report and presentation by the Senior Islands Officer on development of the draft 10-year Cumbrae Island Plan and the proposed next steps.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approach taken with regard to community engagement and the development of economic baseline data; • the key themes emerging from community engagement; • the impact of the pandemic; • the role of action plans as part of the Plan; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the importance of capturing information on all local projects and activity;• the proposed governance model and reporting arrangements; and• the planned timescale for approval of the Plan <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• community concerns around the robustness of the baseline data;• the opportunity to review and refresh the data;• the extent to which timescales might be flexed to accommodate further examination of the strategy, mission, vision and baseline data;• the rationale for the timeline referred to in the report, in the context of Scottish Government deadlines and the forthcoming local government election period;• the need to bring the diverse interests of the community together, and Cumbrae Community Council's role in this;. and• a planned meeting between the Senior Islands Officer and Cumbrae Community Council the following day. <p>Noted.</p> <p>Alex Harvie lost connection during part of this item.</p>	
9.	Millport Town Hall <p>The Partnership received a verbal report by Community Representative Lesley Stringer on progress in respect of the Millport Town Hall project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a positive site visit by the Leader and officers of the Council;• agreement of the tender price and the commencement of work on site, notwithstanding that some costs remained provisional;• the creation of six local jobs to date as a result of the project;• the venue's first wedding booking, for March 2023;• the success of a recent crowd-funding initiative, which had raised more than £42k;• a number of recent capital funding awards;• delays associated with the discovery of asbestos within the building and some issues around sewer works; and• the next steps for the project, including a request for the release of the remaining CIF funding <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the impressive progress of the project from its initial inception; and• recent funding success <p>The Partnership unanimously agreed to recommend to the Cabinet approval of the release of the remaining CIF award to the Millport Town Hall Project.</p>	Rhona Arthur

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	Alex was able to re-join the meeting during consideration of this item.	
10.	<p>Locality Officer and Youth Forum Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a written report and verbal update by the Locality Officer, who highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the refreshed priorities agreed at the last meeting; and • the need to consider the membership of sub-groups and chairing arrangements <p>The Partnership agreed that (a) an update on sub-groups be submitted to the next meeting in March 2022; and (b) in the meantime it be remitted to the Locality Officer to progress arrangements in terms of the membership and chairing of the sub-groups.</p>	<i>Louise Riddex</i>
11.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>11.1 Remembering Together – Scotland’s Covid Community Memorial Programme</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Rhona Arthur, Lead Officer on a national programme of reflection and commemoration, led by greenspace Scotland, to mark the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Partnership was advised that a programme of public engagement would take place to consider an appropriate memorial for North Ayrshire, which could be in the form of a physical object or a piece of music/art.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to note that the Lead Officer would circulate a briefing note on Covid Community Memorial Programme.</p>	<i>Rhona Arthur</i>
11.2	<p>Locality Partnership Membership</p> <p>The Lead Officer provided a verbal update to advise that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current appointments to the Locality Partnership would come to an end with the local government elections due to take place in May 2022; • following the elections, Elected Members and community council chairs would automatically be entitled to serve on the Locality Partnerships within their ward and area, respectively; and • current community representatives were invited to consider standing for re-appointment to the Locality Partnership. <p>The Locality Officer advised that, following the recent community council ordinary elections, it was hoped that a representative of Skelmorlie Community Council would be able to attend future meetings of the Locality Partnership.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	

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11.3	Street Naming Councillor Murdoch referred to a request by one of his constituents to have a street(s) named after his forebearer, John Stewart, given Mr Stewart's importance to the town of Largs. This matter was initially raised at the Locality Partnership meeting in June 2021. The Partnership agreed to note that John Stewart's name had already been added to the bank of street names, for the Partnership's consideration when it was next called upon to name a street/development. .	
11.4	Report for Information – TACT Update The Partnership received an update report on the range of services provided by TACT to support the community and voluntary sector. Noted.	
11.5	Circulation of Presentations The Partnership agreed that a copy of the presentation slides for the meeting should be circulated for information.	Jennifer McGee

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.