

Minute of Meeting

Local Partnership - Houston, Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Kilbarchan, Howwood, Lochwinnoch & Elderslie

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 21 March 2019	18:00	Rainbow Centre, 27 Byres Road, Elderslie, PA5 9AQ,

Present

John Anderson (Howwood Sports and Hobbies); Anne-Marie Balfour (Elderslie Community Council); David Blair (Renfrewshire District Scouts); Councillor Derek Bibby; Councillor Bill Binks; Sandy Clark (Bridge of Weir Community Council); Councillor Jacqueline Cameron; Bill David (Howwood Community Council); Councillor Andy Doig; Councillor Audrey Doig; Councillor Natalie Don; Margaret Dundas (Brookfield Community Council); David Fowles (Lochwinnoch Community Council); Meg Gilzean (Bridge of Weir Tenants and Residents Association); Councillor John Hood; Councillor Alistair Mackay; John McEvoy (Houston Community Council); Councillor James MacLaren; Linda O'Malley (Rays of Hope); Councillor Emma Rodden; Councillor James Sheridan; Councillor Andy Steel; and Fiona Stewart (Kilbarchan Community Council).

Chair

Councillor Natalie Don, Chair, presided.

In Attendance

A Armstrong-Walter, Strategic Partnerships and Inequalities Manager and S Graham, Partnerships Planning and Development Manager (both Chief Executive's); O Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection (Lead Officer) and K Dalrymple, Development Plans and Housing Strategy Team Leader (both Communities, Housing and Planning Services); and E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer (Finance & Resources).

Community Planning Partners

A McNiven, Chief Executive (Engage Renfrewshire) and Chief Inspector H Scott and Sergeant G Smith (both Police Scotland).

Apologies

Councillors Dowling, Kerr and McCulloch.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillor Don thanked Rays of Hope for hosting the meeting.

1 Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Don welcomed those present to the meeting and invited members and officers to introduce themselves.

2 Membership of Houston, Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Kilbarchan, Howwood, Lochwinnoch and Elderslie Local Partnership

Under reference to item 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Local Partnership held on 29 January 2019, there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the appointment of community representative to vacant positions within the Local Partnership.

The report intimated that at the meeting held on 29 January 2019 the Local Partnership appointed five community representatives which left three vacant positions. Since then, three organisations and one individual had expressed an interest in providing a community representative and the report provided details in relation to the three organisations. The individual request had not been included for consideration as this did not meet the criteria for membership.

It was noted that Jennifer O'Brien (Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) Project) was now unable to take up the position of community representative on the Local Partnership.

Councillor Don proposed (i) that James Fletcher (Brookfield Bowling Club); Neil Thomson (Brighter Bridge of Weir); and Gary Noonan (Houston and Killellan Kirk (Church of Scotland)) be appointed to the Local Partnership; (ii) that it be noted that Jennifer O'Brien (Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) Project) was now unable to take up the position of community representative on the Local Partnership; and (iii) that this vacant community representative position be reserved for a youth organisation. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That James Fletcher (Brookfield Bowling Club); Neil Thomson (Brighter Bridge of Weir); and Gary Noonan (Houston and Killellan Kirk (Church of Scotland)) be appointed to the Local Partnership;

(b) That it be noted that Jennifer O'Brien (Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) Project) was now unable to take up the position of community representative on the Local Partnership; and

(c) That this vacant community representative position be reserved for a youth organisation.

3 Appointment of Vice-chair

Councillor Don advised that, in terms of the Standing Orders for Local Partnerships, each Local Partnership would appoint its own Vice-chair, who should be a community representative and called for nominations.

Councillor Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor Audrey Doig, moved that David Blair (Renfrewshire District Scouts) be appointed as Vice-chair of the Local Partnership. There being no other nominations, this appointment was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That David Blair be appointed as Vice-chair of the Local Partnership.

Sederunt

Councillor Cameron entered the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

4 Minute

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of this Local Partnership held on 29 January 2019.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

5 Code of Conduct/Register of Interests

The Head of Corporate Governance provided information about the adoption of a Code of Conduct for Devolved Public Bodies that set out standards of behaviour that could be applied to members, given that their role would include the allocation of public funds.

The Code of Conduct would require community representatives to register their interests and to declare those interests at meetings. In this way, business conducted by the Local Partnership, which was not part of the formal Board structure of Renfrewshire Council, would be open and transparent.

It was noted that Councillors were required to adhere to the Code of Conduct for Councillors and already had a Register of Interests in place.

Copies of the Code of Conduct and the Register of Interests form were made available at the meeting.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed that the Code of Conduct for Devolved Public Bodies be adopted for this Local Partnership; and

(b) That it be agreed that community representatives appointed as members of this Local Partnership sign up to the Register of Interests.

Sederunt

Councillor Andy Doig and Councillor Audrey Doig left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

6 Key Local Priorities

A presentation was delivered by the Strategic Partnerships and Inequalities Manager, the Partnerships Planning and Development Manager, the Development Plans and Housing Strategy Team Leader and the Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire, relative to identifying common matters that were important to people in the area and setting local priorities for improvement. It was envisaged that, once identified, these local priorities would be used to target resources and improvement actions.

The presentation, together with a Local Profile providing background information, detailed key facts about the population; children in low income families; access, health and crime deprivation; children and education; parks and play areas; health resources; care homes, extra care and sheltered housing specific to this Local Partnership area.

Based on the information provided, members worked in groups to identify and set local priorities for the area. After discussion, the following local priorities were identified by the groups, activities for youth; activities for elderly; community facilities to engage villages; lack of public services; crime; local transport; school parking; engagement with local businesses; community involvement; speeding; connectivity between villages; unadopted roads; housing; environment; litter; appearance of villages; cycle paths and green paths; local people to influence policy decisions; sustainability; poverty; food banks; and how the community policing model worked well in villages

Following this feedback from groups the Strategic Partnerships and Inequalities Manager and the Partnerships Planning and Development Manager grouped these local priorities under headings of transport as an enabler; social isolation; lighting; public services and spaces; community halls; roads; crime and anti-social behaviour; working with businesses; village activities and a programme of events; litter, fly tipping and visual appearance of villages; greener connectivity; and housing.

The Lead Officer then identified key themes of connectivity and transport; environmental improvement and parks; access to services, facilities and assets which would include things to do; and village identity which would include supporting local groups and things to do.

Based on these key themes and discussion at the meeting, the Strategic Partnerships and Inequalities Manager advised that the local priorities identified would be grouped under each of the key themes and that this information would be circulated to members of the Local Partnership.

DECIDED:

(a) That the key themes of connectivity and transport; environmental improvement and parks; access to services, facilities and assets which would include things to do; and village identity which would include supporting local groups and things to do be approved; and

(b) That the Strategic Partnerships and Inequalities Manager group the local priorities identified under each of the key themes and circulate the information to members of the Local Partnership.

7 Local Partnership - Future Arrangements

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to arrangements for meetings and the name of the Local Partnership.

The report intimated that Local Partnerships would meet a minimum of three times per year. In addition, a community event would be organised to enable engagement with community groups, voluntary organisations and members of the public who were not members of the Local Partnership.

The report requested that members consider the name of the Local Partnership and whether they would prefer a single venue for all meetings or to alternate between different venues within the Local Partnership area. Suggestions for accessible local venues were to be submitted to communityplanning@renfrewshire.gov.uk by 7 May 2019.

It was noted that as per the previous Local Area Committee arrangements, community representatives on the Local Partnership were entitled to expenses of £50 per annum to attend meetings. This resource would be drawn from the Local Partnership grant funding allocation.

DECIDED:

(a) That the next meeting of the Local Partnership be held at 6.00 pm on 20 June 2019 in Cargill Hall, Bridge of Weir;

(b) That further meetings of the Local Partnership be held in November 2019 and March/April 2020 with a wider community engagement event being held during September/October 2019;

(c) That the name of the Local Partnership be amended to The Villages Local Partnership, subject to any further suggestions being received;

(d) That members identify accessible venues in the area and indicate a preference for a single venue for all meetings or alternating between different venues in the area and advise communityplanning@renfrewshire.gov.uk by no later than 7 May 2019; and

(e) That the arrangements for community representative expenses, as detailed in the report, be noted.