Alva Community Action Plan (CAPLan)

Notes of Steering Group meeting

Monday 15 May 2017   **Alva Community Access Point (CAP)**

In Attendance:

Alva Community Action Plan (CAPLan) Steering Group:
*Sandra Rees, *Anne Spruce, *Lynn Cameron, *Iain Craig,
  Sylvia Hay & Cllr Donald Balsillie (final 10 mins)

*Alva Community Councillors.

Apologies: *Linda Greig, *Gemma Waghorn, David Fraser, Anne Stewart

Stuart Crickmar, Head of Strategy & Customer Services, Clackmannanshire Council

The group discussed with Stuart how to develop the Alva Community Action Plan (CAPLan).

Village & Small Town Initiative (VSTI)–Alva Streetcape Improvements
Stuart confirmed that the town centre investment of £650,000 for Alva is in the Capital Programme of the Clackmannanshire Council budget for 2019-21. (previously, Elected Members thought it would commence in 2020). Stuart advised he and his line manager will discuss soon how to help communities with VSTI's and will let us know when and how consultation will commence regarding the improvements to Alva and will speak to Planning Dept regarding the suggestion in Alva CAPLan to narrow pavements to create parking on both sides of the street.

Community Hub / Alva Primary School Refurbishment – Stuart confirmed that the capital allocation for this is £702,000, the bulk of which is forecast to be spent in 2017/18 and 2019/20 and includes £100,000 for a community hub that is to be integrated into the school. Clackmannanshire Council agreed on 29/03/17 that there will be a community hub at Alva Primary School. Plans include; large multi-purpose meeting room, small consultation room, good wi-fi (including evenings). Discussion followed about concerns of many people in the community about the logistics of a hub at the school. Lack of overall space, lack of parking and security issues are among the list of concerns. Stuart confirmed there will be public engagement and a Working Group will be established which will include a rep from Alva Community Council. There will probably be a community drop-in/discussion/workshop event to set out proposals from Clacks Council.

Cochrane Hall – The group asked about the future of the Cochrane Hall and if consideration had been given for investment in the facility as the community hub as an alternative to the primary school. Stuart confirmed that Clacks Council have agreed in principal that the hub should go in the primary school and there are no approved plans to modify Cochrane Hall, which as a listed building would have limitations in terms of the extent of any redesign.

Alva Glen Upgrade – Stuart confirmed there is £103,000 in the budget for upgraded access to the glen over 5 years to 2022.

Clackmannan Development Trust – Stuart gave an example of how this trust may run the hub in Clackmannan and rent space back to the Council**.** The example is not agreed as yet but is a model Clackmannanshire Council have discussed with the Trust and will likely remain an option under consideration following asset transfer should it proceed.

Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI) – Stuart advised that Anthea Coulter at CTSI could perhaps assist in setting up a Development Trust and make a case for projects in keeping with guidance from Development Trust Association Scotland (DETAS).

Alva Traders – Following discussion it was agreed that Lynn will liaise with Cllr Dave Clark who has expressed an interest in encouraging Alva Traders to form a group to have a collective voice regarding town centre improvements. Lynn will give an update at the next CAPLan meeting.

Summary – There should be a collective vision for Alva Town Centre.

Stuart clarified that plans of Clackmannanshire Council could change depending on the political administration of the council following the local election (it was undecided on the date of the meeting on 15/05/17).

Public WIFI in Alva – Response from Stuart following a query about this topic

Alva CAP - Wifi is available and operating ok. The wifi is tied into the Web4U system and therefore only operates during Speirs opening hours (that is where the system is hosted from). However, we're currently looking to extend the time wifi is available. For IT security reasons, users need to have a library login which they can get from staff. Unfortunately, it's not simply a case of turning up and logging in automatically.

Alva Academy - No public wifi is currently available. There is a separate school wifi network but can't be used by the general public due to IT security issues. However, a new wifi system is currently being procured which will allow more general self-service access to wifi in the high schools and other council buildings. Latest update from our IT colleagues suggests installation around summer time.

Cochrane Hall - No public wifi available. Based on demand and cost, we have no installation plans at this point.

In essence, there is public wifi in Alva, however, it's not on an unrestricted use basis.

Next Meeting - Alva Academy on Thursday 15 June from 6.30pm to 8pm