

# **Alva Community Action Plan (CAPlan)**

## **Alva Community Access Point**

### **Note of Meeting on Monday 27 October 2014**

#### **In Attendance:**

##### **Alva Community Councillors:**

**Sandra Rees, Margaret McArthur, Iain Craig, Linda Greig, Lynn Cameron**

**Lesley Baillie, Community Planning Adviser, Clacks Council**

##### **Representatives of Groups from:**

**Alva Community Action Group, Age Concern, Alva Cadet Force**

**Members of Public: 10**

Sandra Rees introduced Lesley Baillie and members of Alva Community Council. She thanked others in attendance for coming along to the first public meeting to discuss the Alva Community Action Plan.

The following was explained;

- Alva Community Council (ACC), like all community councils, has responsibility to ascertain and articulate the views of the community to the Local Authority and other statutory bodies.
- To help us do this, ACC hope to develop a Community Action Plan and to achieve that, we hope to create a Community Action Plan Steering Group.
- The eventual plan will help us respond to relevant consultations, and generally help us act in the best interests of our own community. It gives us a mandate to carry out community-based action. It also gives us evidence of the need for this action which will help us apply for funding.
- Alva Community Council have agreed to set up a sub-committee for the Community Action Plan. This meeting has been set up to;
  - Open dialogue/engage with others in Alva about the creation of the Community Action Plan.
  - Utilise our collective talents and harness the potential of the Alva community.
  - Empower the community to shape the future environment in Alva.
  - Gather information about community priorities (community intelligence).
  - Stimulate and enhance local community involvement in the planning process and outcomes.

The aim is to be inclusive - to engage with those attending this meeting and as many different sectors of the community i.e. members of grass-roots organisations /youth /older people / health organisations, schools, church groups, etc.

Lesley Baillie, Community Planning Adviser, Clacks Council (CC) explained that she and other officers of CC will provide advice and support but they do not have ownership of the exercise to create the Alva Community Action Plan, it must be the work of the people of Alva and reflect their views. This ensures that the results are not influenced by the Council's priorities.

Copies of Community Action Plans of other towns in Clackmannanshire were available to look at including Tullibody, Cambus & Glenochil, Sauchie & Fishcross, Dollar and Muchart. Lesley explained the plans vary in style and size i.e. from a few to 58 pages but each contains a statement of priorities of the community.

Sauchie town centre has recently been ungraded as a result of the 'Village and Small Town Centre Initiative' and work in Tullibody is imminent. Lesley explained Alva could also benefit from this initiative but it's more likely if there is a Community Action Plan.

If an application is made CC could provide approx. £2000 for materials and resources which could, for example, be used to purchase services of an analyst if a questionnaire was used.

The following was explained;

The Steering Group will work in partnership with the Alva Community Council sub-committee to consider methods, timescales, etc for the people of Alva to express their views on community priorities.

The Steering Group's purpose is to propose an approach to the community plan and to set it in motion.

A very basic Participative Approach is;

- Carry out an audit/questionnaire of community interests and priorities.
- Present the results back to the community at an 'Open Day'.
- The result of the exercise will be Alva Community Action Plan: an analysis of community views which can be used to inform responses to most consultations and to direct resources to community-led action.

We can build on that and be more creative and participative.

Jobs the members of the Steering Group might do;

- The first meeting of the Steering Group could be a brainstorming session to determine strategies (plans/tactics) and objectives (aims/intentions).
- Meetings of the Steering Group will be open to others in the community.
- If the Steering Group decide to consult the wider community by means of a questionnaire the members would analyse the results or if we get a grant from CC some of it could be used for specialist services to compile statistics.
- The Steering Group would use results of the questionnaire to design a draft Community Action Plan which they would then present back to the community for refinement and approval.
- They would interpret the data gathered and the appropriate action required to respond to need and to help CC plan better services.

Typical requirements for a Steering Group include:

- volunteer time & effort
- local venue costs
- advertising
- material for publicity
- stationery & photocopying
- facilitation costs
- computer & printer, access to the internet
- training or some specialist expertise eg statistics analysis if we use a questionnaire

Those present were asked to consider becoming a member of the Community Action Plan Steering Group and issued a form. Completed forms can be put into the Community Council's zip file located in Alva Community Access Point (CAP).

The first meeting of the Steering Group was proposed for Monday 24 November, 7 - 9pm, Alva Community Access Point. In due course the venue will be booked and arrangements confirmed on [www.alvacomcommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.alvacomcommunitycouncil.org.uk) and also via posters, social media and an article in local press. This meeting will be open to members of the public who are interested in the Action Plan but don't want to be part of the Steering Group. An attempt will be made to contact representatives of other groups in the town and encourage involvement in the Steering Group.

There followed discussion about possible objectives including the desire for a skatepark, lack of toilet facilities, the general shabby appearance of the town centre and lack of parking. People wondered about the future of Ochil Leisure Centre and the Cadet Force. Those present were encouraged to attend the next CAPlan meeting on 24 November where there will be opportunity to consider these matters further.