

Alva Community Action Plan (CAPLan)

Alva Parklands Centre

Notes of meeting on Wednesday 28 January 2015

In Attendance:

Members of the CAPLan Steering Group:

*Margaret McArthur, *Sandra Rees, *Anne Spruce, *Linda Greig, *Lynn Cameron, *Gemma Waghorn, Kath O'Hara,, Nicola Baird, Mary Dalrymple, Eilidh Johnston, Anne Stewart & Cllr Donald Balsillie.

*Alva Community Councillors.

Apologies from: Iain Craig*, David Fraser and Craig Baird.

Representatives of Groups from:

Parklands - Alva Old Age Pensioners, Student from Stirling University

Members of Public: 6 & Cllr Archie Drummond.

Sandra Rees introduced the above members of Alva Community Action Plan (CAPLan) Steering Group and thanked others in attendance for coming along to the third public meeting to discuss the CAPLan. It was acknowledged that the heavy snow outdoors could've contributed to the low turnout of members of the public.

Tonights meeting was advertised in Alloa Advertiser via facebook, Stirling Observer, ACC website and Facebook page. There were posters in local shops inc Post Office, Pharmacy, the Co op, Higglety Pigglety, Nicols Opticians, and also in Parklands, Scout Hall, bowling clubs, golf club, Alva Primary, Alva Academy and Churches. Information about the meeting was emailed to Wee County Crafters and Toddlers Group. The primary school copied the poster and sent out a leaflet to all children.

A brief resume of the last public meeting on 24 Nov '14 was given and also of the Steering Group meeting of 13 Jan '15 where Margaret McAurthur was appointed as Chairperson of the CAPLan Steering Group and Sandra Rees as facilitator/organiser. At their meeting the Steering Group conversed about the Clackmannanshire Council '**Single Outcome Agreement**' (SOA) and the 9 priority outcomes they have agreed to.

Copies of page 12 of the agreement with the 9 outcomes was available for perusal at tonights meeting. As requested Cllr Archie Drummond talked more about this explaining that the SOA is a high level agreement and any funding applications the CAPLan group may make in future are more likely to be successful if our project (s) helps meet some of the outcomes . However, he stressed the CAPlan document itself is also powerful, will give a statement of priorities of the community and therefore a mandate to carry out action on behalf of the people of Alva.

Phase 1 - Margaret McArthur explained the creation of the CAPLan is currently at phase 1 where we have been gathering information, identifying groups within Alva, etc. After tonight's meeting it could be some months before the next public meeting as the Steering Group are going to meet as often as required to agree the next steps in the approach to the CAPLan and set it in motion. We hope to have the CAPLan completed by January 2016.

There followed discussion about the various questionnaires used by other local towns for their CAPLans and methods of how this could be distributed to each of the 2,500 households in Alva and how to encourage people to complete and return it. It was suggested we emulate one town who arranged an event opened by a pipe band, attended by the Provost and offered entry to a free raffle ticket to anyone who brought along their completed questionnaire. Local businesses had donated quality, sought after, prizes and there had been an excellent turn out.

Interactive Session

Those attending were split into 3 groups and asked to think of a list of questions for a questionnaire focussing on Alva town centre, parks and site of the former Ochil Leisure Centre (OLC). These are listed on page 3.

Next Steps

A member of the Steering Group has experience of work on community placemaking consultations, report writing, questionnaire design, focus groups, analysis, etc. There followed discussion about any other members of the Alva community who may have skills and expertise that would benefit the CAPLan group and if so how we could get them involved.

Cllr Donald Balsillie suggested and it was agreed that we invite Colin Roxburgh to the next Steering Group meeting. Colin has experience in supporting communities to prepare Community Action Plans.

The CAPLan Steering Group will meet informally on Wednesday 18 February in the back room of the No'5 Inn at 7pm.

Notes of CAPLan meetings and other documents are available at www.alvacommunitycouncil.org.uk.

Possible questionnaire questions from the Interactive Session

- What would you like to see happen to the Ochil Leisure Centre site?
- Would you like housing? Strongly agree ----- strongly disagree
- What do you like about the main street at present?
- How can we support local businesses to improve Alva town centre?
- What would you like to be able to do in Alva town centre?
 - What changes are needed to allow this?
 - Kerbside appeal?
- Which of the following changes would you like to see? (Rank from a list)
- What would you do to enhance the look to the entrance of town on the main road?
- What would you like to see on the site of the Alva Glen Hotel?
- How do we make Alva Glen work for us?
- What facilities should be in a Hub?
- What community facilities should Alva need?
- What leisure facilities would you like to see in Alva?
- Where is the best place to build a Hub in Alva?
- Would you like to be able to park on both sides on the main street?
- Would you like to see charity shops occupying empty premises?
- Parks
 - What enhanced facilities would be appropriate for the parks?
 - Do you feel safe in the park? What could be done to improve your safety?
 - What would improve your enjoyment of the park?
 - What events would you like to see happen in the park?

Comments

- Local shopkeepers - get their views on how to make the main street more welcoming / attractive
 - Who owns empty shops?
 - Why no charity shops in Alva - perhaps approach major charities
 - There is only parking on one side of the main street - why? - adequate room for parking bays which would aid business
- We have excellent parks in Alva - local youth football clubs would use and appreciate the parks in the summer months - youth football tournaments in the summer?
 - Hillfoots Community Club
 - Alva Swifts
 - Walking / Hiking groups - better access to the hills (via the glen)