

**Minutes from Ballachulish Community Action Plan meeting,
Tuesday 3rd November 2015
Held in Shinty Pavilion, 6.30pm**

Present: Dawn Beaton (Scout, High School), Shirley Grant (BCC, Shinty, Playparks, PPG), Naomi Hannah (Scout, High School), Katie Higgins (Scout, High School), Alistair Jack (BCC), Dave Kitson (BCC, BC Co, Boat Club), Argyll Knox (Primary School Pupil Council), Rob Malpas (BCA, BCC, Scouts, School Parent Council), Sheila McLean (BC Co), Morag Milne (Primary School, Scouts), Brook Murray (School Eco Committee), Colin Roxburgh (STAR), Kath Small (BCC, Step it up, Car share group), Catherine Susans (BCA, Discover Glencoe), Jo Watt (BCA), Jimmy Waugh (BCC, BC Co)

BCA = Ballachulish Community Association SCIO; BCC = B. Community Council; BC Co = B. Community Company

Apologies: Kathy Blanc, Brian Dickie, Kevin Murray, Isobel Robertson, Kevin Smith, Lawrence Young

Welcome

The meeting opened with introductions, and thanks to all those who came, especially the younger members of the community. Colin Roxburgh, from STAR who have been appointed to undertake the Community Action Plan was also introduced.

Overview

Colin Roxburgh from STAR development group (<http://www.stardevelopmentgroup.org/>) then went through an overview of the plan, as follows:

The whole project will take approximately 6 months. The aim is to find out everyone's opinion, including:

- Likes & Dislikes
- Their stories of the village and what makes it
- Opportunities for the future
- Their vision of what the village will look like in 10 or 20 years time

This is done through surveys, interviews and meetings with as many people as possible from the community, including:

- Residents including School Children and Abbeyfield
- Local clubs, groups and organisations
- Local businesses
- External stakeholders, such as Highland Council, NHS, Forestry Commission

These are then collated by STAR and formulated into a document which details the communities aspirations, and also can be used as a guide as to how to achieve those aspirations, to provide us with a better environment and a better place to live, work or visit.

Why are we doing this?

Community Action Plans have been used successfully in communities across Scotland for at least 15 years. Some communities are now on their third plan, proving that they have found it a useful tool.

It gives those people who are elected or nominated into decision making positions in the community a guide as to what the community wants to happen, and so makes it easier to make these projects happen, and ensure that they can progress in a more focussed manner.

It is easier to get funding for projects if it can be shown that a large proportion of the community are in favour.

It helps the community to control its own future, especially when dealing with external parties who may not understand the area fully.

Five Steps

1. Form a steering group to guide the STAR project team. This also allows the community to maintain ownership of the project.
2. Survey created and distributed to all households, one for each person.
3. Talk to:
 - a. community groups, organisations and clubs
 - b. local businesses
 - c. local authorities and other stakeholders
4. Create a community profile, detailing various facts and statistics like a mini census
5. Public event to explain the finished plan and combined with a fun day with raffle draw etc.

Steering Group

It was agreed that while a few people would be involved with the day to day detail of the project, essentially those who had brought the project forward to this point, anyone would be welcome to future meetings which will be held roughly once a month. Any major decisions will be made at full meetings.

Surveys

The surveys will take the form of a short questionnaire, comprising five main questions on two sides of A4. The young people present at the meeting expressed the opinion that people would be more likely to fill in the surveys if the school children and scouts were distributing and collecting them (with appropriate supervision), so it was agreed that the school and scouts would work together on this.

The five questions on the draft survey are:

1. What do you like about Ballachulish and Glenachulish?
2. What don't you like about Ballachulish and Glenachulish?
3. What would make Ballachulish and Glenachulish a better place to live in, work or visit?
4. What are the priorities for action – one small thing we could try to do soon and one big thing to work on?
5. Ballachulish & Glenachulish needs 2020 vision! What would you wish the community was like by 2020?

The survey will also be available online, and there will be a raffle draw from returned surveys with a prize. The survey will also be advertised on Websites, Facebook and other means to try and encourage as many people as possible to respond.

It was agreed that due to the short time window available before Christmas, the surveys will be distributed in mid January. Younger members of the community, still at Primary School, will be given the opportunity to fill in the survey at school to ensure that they all fully understand what the survey is about.

The surveys with organisations, businesses and other stakeholders will be carried out in a variety of ways, including face-to-face meetings with a number of similar groups/businesses at once. These meetings will hopefully take around 45 minutes, but there will be time to ensure everyone gets their say.

Public Event

The public event with the final plan will be held in the Village Hall next spring, dates to be confirmed nearer the time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at **6.30pm on 24th November 2015 in the Committee Room at the Village Hall**. Everyone is welcome, and at the meeting the final design and detail of the survey will be agreed so that it can be printed in time.