

# Ayrshire 21

growing rural communities together





## Building Community Capacity – an introduction

**Rural Ayrshire 21 is all about ‘growing’  
stronger communities that can:**

- *Have a strong voice in shaping the future of their village or community*
- *Take a lead in setting up and running needed local initiatives*
- *Get the funding and support they need*
- *Work together across the Ayrshires to learn from each other and link to development agencies and others*



To do this means having the opportunity, the motivation and the capacity.

- *Rural Ayrshire 21 is the **opportunity**.*
- *The **motivation** is in the communities involved – local groups are best placed to know what’s needed and to make the case: again Rural Ayrshire 21 can help*
- *The **capacity** is what it takes to make the change: and Rural Ayrshire 21 is here to support it*



## So what is community capacity anyway??

*Activities, resources and support that strengthens the skills, abilities and confidence of people and community groups to take effective action and leading roles in the development of communities*



## Four components of capacity

***Skills***

***Organisation***

***Equality***

***Involvement***

*Communities need all four to be really effective*



## Skills

*The skills, knowledge and confidence that helps communities, community organisations and their members to be effective in achieving their aims, to participate fully in community life, and benefit from community activity*

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## Organisation

*The development and activity of community groups and organisations, and how well they work in the interests of the community*

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## Equality

*the extent to which community and voluntary groups are inclusive, and work to build equality in their communities*



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## Involvement

*the extent to which community organisations encourage local involvement and influence decision making and change*



## What this means for Rural Ayrshire 21

- *Assess and develop community capacity*
- *Review and improve the support from agencies*
- *Plan for building capacity as well as for local action – the two work hand in hand*
- *Make best use of the supports available*



## Discuss: to what extent ...

- *Are community organisations in contact with each other and with wider networks to access resources and share learning and ideas?*
- *Can community groups bring about tangible and beneficial change for their community?*
- *Do community organisations involve and include all interests and identities in their work?*
- *Are community organisations effective in exerting influence and articulating their priorities in planning and decision making structures?*