



In this edition of Bitesize, we're looking at some of the most recent developments in community planning including work to improve community engagement, changes to Board membership and, budget issues.

We're also introducing a new feature interview with individual Board members, which will continue in every edition.

We hope you enjoy and we'll be back with our summer edition later this year.

A New Partner at the Table

We now have a new partner on the Community Planning Partnership – Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA), which has been established following a full merger of CVS Kyle and Carrick and the South Ayrshire Volunteer Centre.

One of the first tasks of the new organisation is to set up 'mirrored theme groups' that represent the six themes of community planning to give a voice to community and voluntary sector organisations as part of community planning structures. VASA's manager, Marie Oliver, will now represent the voluntary sector on the Community Planning Board.

Our thanks go to Jess Dunabie who previously represented the sector but retired last year as Development Manager for CVS Kyle and Carrick.

VASA is based at 60 Kyle Street in Ayr and further information is available on the website:

www.voluntaryactionsouthayrshire.org.uk.

Engaging Our Communities

Community engagement is a vital element in successful community planning and we are about to pilot a new approach that will take into account existing engagement arrangements, the challenging budget situation faced by public sector organisations and the desire of the community planning partners to be responsive to the South Ayrshire Community.

We are in the process of finalising arrangements (including dates) for two Community Engagement Forum events – one in Troon and the other in the Carrick area. At the events, representatives from the Council and Community Planning partner organisations will be on hand to update members of these local communities about services available in their areas and to listen to suggestions from community members as to what could be improved. The events will offer a 'drop in' throughout the day, with a more formal meeting in the evening, hopefully giving as many people as possible the chance to take part. Update to be included in the next Bitesize.

Budget Approval for Funded Projects

As part of its budget-setting process for 2011/12, the Council considered a programme of services, formerly funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund and endorsed by the Community Planning Board. An allocation of £1,438,796 was approved to continue provision of a range of employability services to assist local people into jobs and training and support community-based organisations to deliver services which will improve their neighbourhoods. A number of services for children and families will also be delivered to ensure an 'early intervention' approach.

The full list of the funded projects is:

- Access to Employment £329,000
- Skills Towards Employment (STEP) £210,000

- Stepping Stones for Families – Girvan Family Connections £132,240
- Domain Youth Centre £64,276
- North Ayr Resource Centre £106,530
- Wallacetoun and Newton Regeneration Forum £48,150
- Care and Share Youth Worker and Development Worker £23,000
- Community Development Fund £75,000
- Arts and Sports Programme £60,000
- Lochside Learning Centre £37,600
- Community Planning Team £167,000
- Ailsa Horizons £53,000
- Contribution to running costs of John Pollock Centre £100,000
- Rural Income Maximisation Worker £33,000



Community Conference Feedback

More than 160 people from a wide range of community and voluntary sector organisations attended our Community Conference, which included a general update on community planning as well as specific examples of where our work is making a real difference.

With briefing sessions, workshops on funding, training and development and developing local action plans, the conference was a great success and provided many opportunities for two-way discussion and dialogue. The full report can be accessed at: www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/cpp/engaging.aspx and by phoning **Marie Welsh** on **01292 612622**.



Community Development Fund

To date, eight organisations have accessed more than £47,000 of funding through our new Community Development Fund.

The funding awards are:

- **Girvan Youth Trust** – £3,000
- **Maidens Kirkoswald and Turnberry Community Council** – £10,000
- **May-Tag Ltd** – £8,000
- **Ayrshire Sportsability** – £390
- **Carrick Community Transport Group** – £3,435
- **Maybole Community Council** – £9,500
- **Maidsafe Foundation** – £9,181
- **Maybole Golf Club** – £3,500

A further £75,000 has been allocated to the fund this year, so if your local organisation needs support, training or professional assistance to improve your area or develop funding bids, contact **Marie Welsh** on **01292 612622** or visit:

<http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/cpp/community-devfund.aspx>

Closing dates for applications are 22nd July, 28th October 2011 and 20th January 2012.

Getting to know you . . .



Joe Lafferty

In this new feature, we'll be talking to one of the representatives from the Community Planning Board about their role, their views on community planning and finding out what drives them, ensuring we get to know them a little bit better.

In our first interview, we chat with Joe Lafferty, the board's community representative for the Kyle area.

Joe Lafferty is a man on a mission – he knows what he wants for local communities and has very clear ideas about how that should be achieved. At the heart of all of this is a desire to better involve local communities to make sure community planning genuinely comes from the community.

He said:

"For a long time, opportunities to work better together and to involve local communities were missed by many organisations and we need to continue to make progress to ensure we turn this around."

"Communities are at the heart of community planning and that's why there needs to be a real focus on their role and involvement to ensure the services and facilities delivered through the CPP and its partner organisations are delivered in the right way, at the right time, to the right people. It's really as simple as that."

"People don't actually care about who provides a services – as long as they get that service. That's what matters and there are some very good examples of this working in practice. Getting the job done has to be the focus at all times and doing that is much easier when we involve the communities themselves."

"Communities know their areas far better than anyone else – they know the issues, they know what works well, they know what needs to be improved and they have excellent ideas on how to go about that."

"Genuine community engagement has to be at the heart of successful community planning and we need to progress that through the theme groups, working at ground level to encourage and influence the decisions that will affect our daily lives."

"That input and involvement – and the difference it can make – is what drives me and I will continue to do all I can to ensure the communities' voices are heard by South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership."

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Telephone : 01292 612134 www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/cpp

