

# **NOTE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF CLUSTER 3 HELD IN BORESTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL, STIRLING ON WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2005 AT 7pm**

## **Present**

### **Community Representatives**

#### **Borestone**

Maureen Allan, Borestone Community Council  
Alex Black, Borestone Community Council  
Jim Bruce, Borestone Community Council  
Ian Crawford, Borestone Community Council  
Mathew Currie, Borestone Community Council

#### **Broomridge**

Ken McDonald, Broomridge Community Council  
Hugh McEwan, Broomridge Community Council  
Ann Rogerson, Broomridge Community Council

#### **Carron Valley and District**

Dave Petch, Carron Valley and District Community Council and Borestone School Board

#### **Cambusbarron**

Ann Finlayson, Cambusbarron Community Council  
Mike Graham, Cambusbarron Community Council

#### **Cultenhove Opportunities Partnership**

Brember Turner

#### **King's Park**

Jack Harris, King's Park Community Council

#### **St Ninian's**

Ethne Brown, St Ninian's Trust  
Maureen Campbell, St Ninians Trust  
Ms Mary Ewbank

#### **Stirling Assembly and CVS**

Tom Murray

#### **Torbrex**

Ellen Dickie, Torbrex Community Council  
Murray Dickie, Torbrex Community Council  
Carolyn Edward, Torbrex Community Council

#### **Central Scotland Police**

PC Brian Park

#### **Elected Member**

Councillor Gillie Thomson – Broomridge Ward

## **Officers**

Barbara Allan, Service Manager (Communities), Stirling Council  
Andy Davis, Community Worker, Stirling Council  
Ann Dromgoole, Committee Officer, Stirling Council  
Kevin Gillespie, Community Worker, Stirling Council  
Lyn Kennedy, Community Governance Manager, Stirling Council  
Lynne McKinley, Senior Community Worker, Stirling Council  
Jacqueline Walsh, Health Development Worker Cultenhove Opportunities Partnership

## **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Liz Curtis and Keith Hendry.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In December 2004 following a period of consultation, Stirling Council approved the Community Governance Strategy putting in place seven Area Community Planning Clusters across the Council area. Cluster 3 included the Communities of King's Park, Borestone, Broomridge, Cambusbarron and Torbrex.

Lyn Kennedy, Community Governance Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting (that included representation from all of the Community Councils within Cluster 3). She explained the purposes of the evening and introduced the Council Officers who would be taking the lead roles in supporting the work of the Cluster i.e. Lynne McKinley, Andy Davies, Ann Dromgoole and Kevin Gillespie. She also confirmed that John Risk, Head of Customer Services, Corporate Services, Stirling Council had been appointed as a "Champion" for the Cluster with the role of ensuring that issues identified by the Cluster were pursued with the relevant Community Planning Partners and other Agencies.

## **PRESENTATION**

Lyn Kennedy gave a short presentation entitled "Area Community Planning – What Is It?"

The Presentation covered:-

- An area process;
- A community led process;
- Develop a Way of working;
- Developing a Area Community Plan;
- Taking the issues forward;
- Making this happen.

A map showing the Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for a new Multi Member Ward in 2007 was on display together with a map of the Cluster.

The meeting was given the opportunity to ask questions on the key points of the Presentation. Lyn Kennedy responded to questions on:-

- the Facilitators for the meeting and the Cluster Champion.
- the opportunity to gauge from those present what they see as a way forward.

Following the Presentation the representatives were divided into small groups and asked to consider the under-noted topic questions:-

- Why are we here?
- What we want to achieve?
- How we, as communities want to work together?

The feedback from the Group discussions were as follows:-

### **Question 1 - Why we are here?**

- Social Responsibility to communities;
- Strengthen the community voice;
- Co-operation amongst communities;
- To find common issues;
- Will the Cluster be listened to?
- Duplication?
- Timing and frequency of Cluster meetings;
- Co-operation, important;
- Priorities for Cluster 3;
- It was not just Community Councils that were involved in the Cluster process;
- Role and influence of the Cluster;
- The concern that the Cluster will undermine the role/identity of Community Councils;
- The Role of St Ninian's Community Plan;

### **Question 2 - What we want to achieve?**

- Influence;
- Ensure that information that is relevant to all Community Councils/Trusts etc. can be disseminated;
- An influence across community themes;
- Demonstrate improvements in local services – action;
- Reduce the burden on Community Councillors;
- Communities of interest;
- Are the Area Community Planning Partners 'really' committed to the process?;
- An agreement on priorities;
- Representation/engagement;
- Health issues;
- Less bureaucracy;
- Any other purpose?
- How to involve excluded groups – but impact on time.

The Cluster was seen as an avenue to disseminate information to Community Councils e.g. Information on G8 Conference;

Issues were raised about the formation and geography of the Cluster;

The Community Plan for St Ninians had already identified citizens' wishes. Where does this Community Plan fit in with the Cluster?

**Question 3 – How we as Communities want to work together**

- Big common issues only – probably only a small number of these;
- Exchange of information and to learn from each other how to tackle issues;
- Sharing of good ideas and information; engage with other Communities share Newsletters and details of open meetings.
- Time factor is an issue – not enough time – Volunteers are already busy activists
- Don't want to have meetings about meetings;
- Exchange contact details of all of the Groups within Cluster;
- People focus on local area;
- Don't want the Cluster to be a Council led talking shop – discussion needs to be really meaningful and make a difference;
- Support the establishment of a Webpage: someone with time and skill eg. Officer from the Council;
- Use the strengths in each Group;
- Range of community organisation;
- Willing to work on an Ad hoc basis on common problems e.g. Public Private Partnership;
- Community Councils wish to retain their uniqueness;
- Meetings of the Cluster should be called by a Community Council to discuss a single issue or how to tackle a common issue;
- View the Cluster as a method of exchange of information and liaison – Boomridge Community Council is not committed to the process.

In response to **Question 3(a) Decision Making –**

Broomridge Community Council did not view Area Community Planning as a Decision making process. It considered that there should be equal representation on the Cluster from amongst the Community Councils e.g. two Members from each Council; one of whom should be the Chair. In the event on a Member being unable to attend a Cluster meeting a Community Council representative from that Council be able to Substitute – the Substitute Member to have full voting rights. In the event of being unable to reach consensus voting should take place - the Chair of the meeting having the casting vote. The Cluster should have a rotating Chair appointed at each meeting from amongst the Chairs of the Community Councils on the Cluster.

In general the feeling was that the Cluster should operate on a consensus basis.

In response to Question (b) on Roles and Responsibilities the view was expressed that there should be shared responsibilities amongst the Community Councils/Regeneration Groups/Trusts for the operation of the Cluster.

In response to a question on support needed – the comment was made that the support available at present was adequate. However funding may need to be provided in the future e.g. for the provision of PCs for Members.

Training may also be required on aspects of Community Planning and the Law, with access to Legal Advice and Legal Protection.

In response to Question (d) Process between Meetings of the Group it was suggested that the Cluster meet 3/4 times per year (with flexibility).

In response to the Question (e) where/when the Cluster will meet it was suggested that the meetings rotate amongst the Community Council venues.

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENT/ISSUES RAISED DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- The Council appeared to use the same people, all of the time, for consultation purposes;
- Two Community Councils were concerned that the establishment of the Clusters would undermine the role of the Community Councils, leading to a loss of their identity. Representatives of these Community Councils were concerned by the Cluster's influencing role/aspect.
- Could the services provided by Council Officers not be better utilised by Community Councils, as and when required, obtaining information from the Services or using their expertise to facilitate access to other Council Services or Council Partners? Why cannot Officers liaise with the existing Community Groups and why can't Community Groups use these Officers as a means to influence?
- Stirling Council and the Community Planning Partners did not have the resources to fully respond to the 41 Community Councils and 28 Trusts plus Regeneration Groups. Implementation of Area Community Planning would enable best levels of response and communication to occur. For Community Councils to have an effective voice they needed to organise and make the best of the Cluster potential.
- There was usefulness in Communities coming together to talk about issues. However the agendas for any such meetings had to be targeted to fit the Cluster Group. The main issues concerning Communities might not in fact concern the Council. Only a small number of issues had a commonality amongst the Community Councils and for the Cluster to be meaningful issues raised at Cluster meetings had to be relevant at local level. The Cluster was perceived as an arena to take up business that was outwith the influence of a Community Council or other Community Organisations e.g. the closure of the SRI and the alterations to the original plans concerning the Hospital. An individual Community Council could not challenge this type of alteration. Community Council representatives would not attend Cluster meetings to undertake business that could be done via their own Community Council. The issue was to use Area Community Planning to address, on behalf of communities, large issues that were common to all, that working via the Community Council/other processes had proved ineffective.
- Based on (a) the information provided on how the establishment of 3 Health Boards for the whole of Scotland could impact on the citizens of

Stirling Council area; and (b) the consultation process to be adopted by the Health Board/Community Health Partnership, a representative of St Ninians Trust did not see that there was any other option available other than to set up the Clusters;

- What barriers presently existed that prevented Community Councils from meeting together? It was suggested that it was useful for the Community Councils and other Community Representatives to get together to discuss issues and that the agendas presented to any such meetings should be tight and concentrate on issues that affect the whole Cluster Group;
- It was suggested that the Cluster either meets in September or October 2005 prior to the Council's budget process;
- There was scepticism about whether the Clusters will have more influence with the Council's Community Partners than do Community Councils currently and whether the Cluster will be able to influence the Community Health Plans for Forth Valley area. It was explained to the meeting how it was hoped the Health Board/Community Health Partnership would consult via the Area Community Planning process. The opinion was expressed that at the end of the day the Cluster will have no option but to liaise with the Health Board's via the Area Community Planning process if the people of Stirling are to be represented.

## **WAY FORWARD**

It was suggested that as a way forward, the Community Councils, Trusts and the Regeneration Group talk about priorities for their particular areas to identify issues common to all communities and work together to try and make a difference.

### **Action Point**

- 1 the representatives from the various Community Councils, Trusts and Regeneration Group to report back to their respective Organisations on the outcome of this meeting;

#### **Action – Community Councils/Trusts and Regeneration Group**

- 2 that:-

(a) the 5 Community Councils; 2 Trusts and 1 Regeneration Group within Cluster 3 should talk about/identify their own priorities for the area;

#### **Action – Community Councils/Trusts and Regeneration Group**

(b) the Community Planning Partners are requested to identify their priorities for the area;

#### **Action – Lynne McKinley/Ann Dromgoole**

(c) thereafter the Cluster will take a view on which issues it wishes to take forward in the future.

**Action – Cluster 3**

- 3 that copies of the Local Community Plans relevant to Cluster 3 area be circulated to the Community Councils, Trusts and Regeneration Group within the Cluster area;

**Action – Ann Dromgoole**

- 4 that a copy of the Note of this Meeting be circulated to all in attendance at the meeting;

**Action – Ann Dromgoole**

- 5 to remit to Council Officers to set the date for the next Cluster meeting for sometime in Autumn 2005.

**Action – Lynne McKinley/Ann Dromgoole/Andy Davis/Kevin Gillespie**

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.