

Colvend & Southwick Community Council

Local Place Plan Team

Meeting No.3 (17th February 2023 2pm Colvend Public Hall)

Present: S.W.Pain (Convenor), J.Coates, M.Rosindale, P.Shaw, D.Reilly (Consultant)

1) Community Led Vision Fund Application

SWP indicated that the application to the Community Led Vision fund had been successful and that a grant of £6000 was being offered. The grant is for £5000 consultancy fees and £1000 for publicity, and consultation expenses, such as room & hall hire and refreshments at the consultation event. The project end point for which the grant is provided is "*The outcome will be the provision of a draft Local Place Plan for detailed local consultation, prior to submission to the D&G Planning Department.*"

The meeting was reminded that the deadline for the production of the initial draft plan is 31st March by which time all associated costs to be claimed from the fund must be invoiced and paid. Any underclaim at that time is likely to have to be repaid.

At this time the grant has not been formally accepted, because SWP has requested comment from Matthew Pumphrey regarding the grant terms & conditions. However, in reality it is likely to be a case of either accepting the grant or declining it, and the latter is very unlikely.

Action SWP to accept the grant offer by the 28th February, unless advised to the contrary by MPu.

2) Boundaries of the LPP

The boundaries of the plan were discussed. The Colvend & Southwick Community Council boundaries were displayed and accepted as the most appropriate boundaries for the plan, given that the work was being driven by the Colvend & Southwick Community Council. It was agreed that the plan would be known as the Colvend & Southwick Local Place Plan.

3) Suggested key areas for inclusion in the plan

The work started and recorded in the previous minutes was continued. The following areas were agreed:

1. Beaches

- a. Sandyhills, Portling, Port O'Warren, Rockcliffe, Glenstocken ,Rough Island & others in area?
- b. Prevent / or control over commercial development
- c. Develop climate crisis mitigation measures
- d. Promote the natural environment for education and sustainability purposes
- e. Retain Rough Island Causeway
- f. Control Pollution - water & plastic

2. Education

- a. Retain & develop Colvend Primary School
- b. Field Study groups – Interpretation boards and use Colvend School as a base
- c. Outreach for Dalbeattie High School
- d. Links with Barony Rural College?
- e. Promote arrange evening classes in Village Hall, languages, IT, STEM

3. Communications

- a. Current status of fast fibre broadband everywhere in the Area?
- b. Improve mobile coverage
- c. Emergency contact (e.g. Rockcliffe defibrillator)
- d. Contact Outreach for timetable
- e. Retain Mobile Post Office services
- f. Improved EV charging point network
- g. Retain Sandyhills phone box for emergency communications

4. Infrastructure

- a. Improve the standard of the A710 & routes to Rockcliffe & Portling with particular focus on:
 - Potholes / surface
 - Improved speed control measures in villages and hazardous locations
 - Improved litter collection / control
- b. Parking - Improved Parking arrangements (especially Portling & Rockcliffe). Portling parking will definitely be needed if the National Park goes ahead.
 - Better parking enforcement
 - Maintenance of signage – particularly yellow lines.
 - Residents only parking in Rockcliffe & Kippford?
- c. EV charging point network
- d. Improve ongoing maintenance of core paths
- e. Maintain frequency of rural bus services (Should the old Colvend Community bus be re-introduced?)
- f. Retain the weekly RBS mobile bank at Kippford
- g. Local library service (mobile or in one of the village halls)

Time did not allow for the discussion of the following “Key Areas”. They will be discussed at the next meeting:

5. Housing

- a. More affordable family homes & hence attract more young people
- b. Create affordable family homes by allowing those homes that are limited to 10 or 11 months occupancy to be extended to 12 months

- c. Encourage higher levels of occupancy of holiday properties (c.f In Spain holiday properties are taxed on the basis of how much time the properties are unoccupied)

6. Economy/Employment

Overall in the Dumfries and Galloway region 26.3% of the population are above working age. This is higher than the Scottish and U.K. average. In our Parish this is likely to be considerably higher. Average wages of the working population are low and below the national average.

- a. There is no discernible manufacturing or retail outlets in the area.
- b. Visitor numbers to the area are rising sharply and there are opportunities for new/ enlargement of existing hospitality facilities. With the sparse population there is little hope of attracting large retail outlets. However, with the population at least 30 minutes' drive to major retail outlets in Castle Douglas and Dumfries there is a need to attract these nearer to hand in Dalbeattie, where manufacturing businesses could be encouraged to boost employment
- c. There is a great divide in the incomes of the population with several settlements housing mainly wealthy retired/ professional people. This makes existing housing in these areas out of reach of the rest of the population who are generally on low wages. These individuals generally live in tied and/or rented accommodation.

7. Transport

There is a dependence on car travel in the area, with a limited bus service and no rail link. This is a big problem for disabled/disadvantaged individuals.

- a. There is scope here for community link schemes.

The road network in the area is generally good with drive times to major settlements much lower than the national average.

- b. However the provision for cyclists is poor and could be seriously improved.

The bus service to the major settlements is satisfactory for individuals who are able to plan their travel times.

- c. However, for those who are in employment and need to travel at specific times it is poor. For example the last bus from Dalbeattie to the area is 5 p.m. and this on a request only basis. This is a chicken and egg situation with most busses running almost empty. There is a need to restructure the timetables.

8. Tourism

Action: MR to provide initial suggestions prior to next meeting

9.

Environment

Action: MR to provide initial suggestions prior to next meeting

10. Others

a. Community involvement

SWP reminded the team of the feedback from Jennifer Quinn at D&G Planning Dept *that "It would be the council's stance that Local Place Plans would only have the potential to influence matters within the defined area boundary"*

4) Plans for Community Consultation

DR reminded the team that consultation arrangements need to be recorded so that we can demonstrate that adequate consultation has occurred.

SWP indicated that there were a number of community get-togethers planned in the next few weeks (2 defibrillator training sessions and an Evening Talk event) and these could be used to start to get awareness of the LPP and obtain some early useful feedback. It was agreed to prepare some display material for these events.

Action: SWP & DR to prepare A1 sized posters in time for the first display on 27th Feb

It was suggested that a central email address be established to collate feedback from residents, together with the use of the 4 WhatsApp groups and the Colvend Community website;

Action: SWP to discuss with J.Stanning about the use of the colvendconnect@gmail.com address.

(Note, subsequent to the meeting it has been agreed with JS to use this address.

Action: SWP to discuss with Stuart King about setting up a LPP webpage on the website.

DR recommended that there should be a consultation event held in Colvend Hall to allow residents to have their say. He recommended that there should be light refreshments provided free as an incentive to attend.

5) LPP Format

Action: DR to review the formats of other LPPs that have already been completed to recommend what sort of format the LPP report should be in.

6) Contact with other groups

There is a need to involve other key groups in the area to see if they wish to make a contribution to the LPP.

Action: JC to contact NTS & RSPB

Action: SWP to contact Scottish Forestry and Land

7) Date of next meeting

It was agreed that because of the very tight deadline associated with the grant funding, that the team should aim to meet weekly until the end of March. It was agreed that the next meeting would be conducted over zoom at 1100am on Sunday 26th February. MR will link into the meeting at SWPs house.

S.W.Pain 19/2/23