

## Colvend & Southwick Community Council

### Local Place Plan Team

Meeting No.10 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2:30pm Colvend Hall)

Present: S.W.Pain (Convenor), J.Coates, R.Morriss, D.Reilly, P.Shaw (Part time)

Apologies: M.Rosindale,

#### 1. Matters arising

**Action: RM - Arrange a meeting with Rev J Murdoch to explore whether the LPP could support the longer-term survival of Southwick Church**

All other actions completed.

#### 2. Recent group consultations

##### a. Colvend School update

Following a discussion with the Head Teacher, it appears that the school currently has 9 pupils. When numbers are 10 or less, schools go onto the closure list. Colvend Primary has been on the closure list since the beginning of this school year. However, next year's anticipated school role is hoped to be 13, which would mean that Colvend could come off the closure list. The significance for the LPP, is that if the school remains open for some years to come, then it is worth exploring the possibility of attracting school-age families into our area.

##### b. Solway Yacht Club

A chance conversation, led to SWP holding a meeting with 3 members of the Yacht Club. It appears that the current clubhouse does not meet the current requirements in terms of female changing & safeguarding. Furthermore extensive maintenance expenditure is likely to be needed in the near future. The Yacht Club have had an Architect's Appraisal carried out, which has identified 4 options for the way forward:

- i. Extend & renovate the existing clubhouse
- ii. Rebuild the clubhouse in the existing location
- iii. Create a "village hub", by linking a new clubhouse linked to the village hall
- iv. Build a new clubhouse on the yacht club land on the water-side of the road

At this stage, no firm preference has been decided by the Yacht Club members. Whichever option that they go for is likely to be very expensive, however the fact that this is being discussed makes it very relevant to the LPP.

A further development was also put forward. The Yacht Club are interested in taking the arisings from the excavation works for the new Kippford WasteWater Treatment Work, and using those to create a new pier. Again this is directly relevant to the LPP. Such a proposal makes very good sense, in

that it not only provides the Yacht Club with an additional pier, but it also saves Scottish Water the cost, environmental disruption and road damage of transporting the arisings to beyond Castle Douglas. The LPP Team was very supportive of this plan, provided that there are sufficient arisings to create a new pier. The Yacht Club have put forward this idea to Scottish Water, but so far have had no response.

c. South of Scotland Community Housing (SoSCH) grant application

An earlier proposal from JC to carry out a Housing Needs & Demand Assessment (HN&DA) failed to get grant funding. The recent news about the future of Colvend School has prompted us to submit a grant application to the D&G Coastal Benefit Fund to carry out a HN&DA using the South of Scotland Community Housing Trust at a cost of £3,000. Discussions with SoSCH not only enabled us to strengthen the grant application, but we were advised that if the HN&DA was successful in pointing a way forward, we would then need to carry out a Site Appraisal at a cost of a further £3,000. It was decided at short notice to amend the grant application to include a Site Assessment. There was some discussion at the meeting about possible sites, particularly in Colvend. It was mentioned by PS that Tynron Community Council have already built some family-affordable homes using land previously owned by D&G Council. SWP indicated that we had already asked D&G Council whether there was any available council owned land in our area, but it was confirmed that there was none. Any new housing would either need to be rented or have some sort of legal burden to prevent it being bought up as second homes by people outside the area. The grant application was submitted before the application deadline.

d. Community Consultation Training Event

SWP reported that he had attended a 3-hour training event for community consultation relating to LPPs. There are now 11 communities in D&G working on Local Place Plans. We appear to be further along the road than most and so the consultation training largely reinforced what we are already doing.

e. Manning of Colvend Family Gala LPP Stand

The target is to have a draft LPP available to display at the gala on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May, although it is unlikely to contain the section about housing until the SoSCH work is completed. There was some discussion on how to make the display attractive enough to make people read it. The plan is to have 10-12 large display panels around the walls of one of the marquees. There should be seating / refreshments available in the marquee so that people remain in there long enough to read some of the LPP panels.

RM, PS & DR all indicated that they would be available to help man the LPP display at the Colvend Family Gala on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

3. Results of 2<sup>nd</sup> Consultation Survey

The survey closed at the end of February. There were responses from 177 properties, which we consider to be a good response. Most of the 54 questions gave

a clear result. The summary document has been circulated on the 5 WhatsApp groups.

4. Draft Plan development

SWP had circulated the initial stages of the draft LPP (as far as introductions & first 2 topics). These have also been circulated to D&G Council for comment, but so far we have had no response. SWP encouraged team members to provide feedback on the draft so far and indicated that he would circulate further paragraphs from the document as they became available.

5. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm in Colvend Public Hall