

# Arran Economic Group

## Minutes of Meeting

Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 1100 hrs in the Glen Cloy Suite, Auchrannie Resort, Brodick, Isle of Arran.

### In Attendance:

Tom Tracey (Chairman)  
Sheena Borthwick-Toomey (Development Director)  
Councillor Timothy Billings  
Kenneth Bone (VisitArran)  
Bill Calderwood (Arran Community Council)  
Vicki Yuill (Arran CVS)  
Lorna Spencer (CMAL Assets)  
Councillor Ellen McMaster  
Linda Johnston (Auchrannie Resort)  
Jennifer Nicoll (HIE)  
Barry Mochan (Arran Development Trust)

### Apologies:

Alasdair Laurenson (NAC)  
Karen Yeomans (NAC)  
Barry Smith (Arran High School)  
Ruth Betley (North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership)  
Stephen Gallagher (Scottish Government)  
Steven Cullum (Scottish Government)  
Alastair Dobson (Taste of Arran)

## 1. Introduction, Minutes & Welcome

TT opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and asked for a round table introduction from individuals and the community/business organisations represented for the benefit of the new AEG member; Barry Mochan, Chairman of The Arran Development Trust. The Minutes were adopted. TT recapped for the group on the last three years of the AEG formation and accomplishments. He further re-stated the priorities and deliverables for the next period of 18 months.

## 2. Housing

SB gave the group an update on current housing progress: A pre-application meeting is planned for mid- June with the Forestry Commission & HIE regarding the community asset transfer of the Dyemill Site for a possible 11-14 self-build plots. This should coincide with the launch of the Scottish Government Self-Build Loan Fund due to launch at the end of Summer 2018. The first draft of the new LDP has been produced and reflects the clear majority of points requested by the AEG. The exact wording of the statements has still to be confirmed however, it allows for greater flexibility around the locations/urbanisation of new construction on Arran. Councillor Billings mentioned page 13 specifically and suggested AEG members take time to read the wording.

An informal meeting has been scheduled to meet with NAC Housing senior officers within the next month to discuss the proposed ADT Local Lettings Policy and Points System. If acceptable, the Local Lettings Policy & Points system specifically designed for current and future social housing stock across the island, will be brought back for wider discussion with the Community Council and council representatives before implementation. Councillor Billings also mentioned the ADT Rents Comparison Document recently circulated was an eye-opener with confirmation that social rents on Arran were approximately 40% higher than on mainland Scotland. Councillor McMaster said she had not received this document. **SB confirmed it had been sent on 10 May but would undertake to resend.**

SB/KB/AD met recently with Arran Estates to discuss the possibility of utilising land at Springbank, Brodick for a mix of affordable home types. Further discussion will be required as the ADT agree decisions regarding priority of sites and workstreams, however the discussion was positive and will be followed up in due course.

The ADT held the first of two drop-in sessions in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick to showcase the housing feasibility study work. Feedback forms were available to the community and publicity was carried out through the AEG members social networks as The Banner Newspaper had suffered a technical problem and the planned publicity was dropped from the newspaper. Good interest was shown, and a few members of the community used the session as a route to promote the sale of their own land which the ADT could consider for affordable homes ... in total around 41 acres (various owners) was identified. This was a real tangible bonus for The ADT & Steering Group who will follow up these leads, showing both interest in the work being undertaken and the availability/acceptance of family owned land for affordable homes. The second drop-in session is planned for July in Lamlash.

The ADT is currently considering a Housing positioning Statement which includes working in partnership with Scot Gov, NAC & HA's regarding consideration being given to ways of incentivising the reintroduction/re-use of empty houses for affordable homes and to raise further revenue to fund solutions to the housing crisis.

More groundwork and discussion is required before the Statement can be agreed by the ADT, SB will report back to AEG.

The direction of travel in solving the housing crisis on Arran is positive.

### **3. Harbour**

LS gave the group the updated position regarding the ex-ferry terminal building. CMAL Assets has now been informed Calmac will vacate the building at the end of this week allowing CMAL Assets to freshen up the building in advance of the lease being advertised. Timescale was reckoned to be early July. Graham & Sibbald will be handling the business. LS also mentioned approaches had been made by large commercial operators, however the Board was keen to ensure a community venture was given due consideration and looked towards 60/40 weighting.

TT mentioned the de-commissioning of the old pier and asked if a specific timescale applied. LS confirmed it was within 2-3 years, however it could be a moveable date. The group agreed it was not aesthetically pleasing to the eye in its current state and if the area was to be leased by the ADT for step-ashore facilities et al, it would be good to have this done sooner rather than later.

LS also mentioned slow progress was being made by the Ardrossan Task Force, however in the last 3-4 months the pace had quickened somewhat with Transport Scotland due to have their financial model in place for the Minister before the end of June. However, as Peel Ports were the main operator, outstanding questions were still to be answered around community, delivery and the Irish Berth. KB asked about the level of disruption and the rumours of a temporary move to Troon. LS confirmed there was always going to be a level of disruption with works to an operational working pier, however this will not be clarified until a contractor has been appointed. CMAL Assets whilst undertaking the works in Brodick were unencumbered as the pier was new build and separate from the one in daily operational use.

### **4. AEG Proposed Delivery/Focus Workstream Items over the Next Two Years**

TT led the group through the 8 identified workstreams (which had been circulated to the group beforehand). Several suggestions were tabled to be added to the projects and were note by **SB for action. Once updated, these will be re-circulated to the group for final agreement.** TT made specific mention of the Clyde Islands Initiative and confirmed NAC had appointed a Cabinet Member for the Islands (Arran & Cumbrae); Councillor Alex Gallagher. He also confirmed that a suggestion had been tabled to ensure this was a permanent position which may require part-time officer support to ensure the workload was feasible.

Amongst the suggestions for the workstreams were LJ (Transport) Bike Racks on the Glen Sannox, KB (Transport) An Arran Airport, **SB/KB to investigate**, TT (Communications) would require to be phased in gradually and SB would take the

lead, SB (Communications) a web domain name had been offered to the ADT “DiscoverArran.com”, TT (Skills & Education) lead to be identified but would probably be Skills Development Scotland/Business Gateway, TT (Clyde Islands) cabinet member representing each island, LJ (Digital Applications) could the Arran Information Project be considered, TT (Clyde Islands) Arran Asset Register to be circulated to all AEG members **SB to action**. TT felt obvious leaders had been identified for most or part of the workstreams however it would be fully determined before the next meeting of the AEG for clarity.

## 5. Any Other Business

Councillor McMaster mentioned opening the membership of the AEG to the public. TT confirmed the AEG in its current form was a high-level strategy enabling group which was representative of all areas of the community, with members representing over 200 businesses and 120 community groups individually. Who in turn were responsible for reporting the group’s business back (which was not commercially sensitive) and general communication of the AEG work to those they represent. The AEG brought the decision makers together. TT also confirmed the AEG was now able to split the various workstreams into other organisations for enablement of work i.e. The newly formed Arran Development Trust taking on the housing workstream and currently considering setting up a housing association, which will require public participation and will be defined by the two entities. These decisions will be fed back to the AEG. Further workstreams would be treated in this way as they came on-line and progress was recognised which would involve more community involvement i.e. Arran Gateway Project & Step Ashore Facilities.

LS suggested the writing of an AEG Terms of Reference to make things clearer for the community around the AEG function, role and responsibility. LS also suggested it might be a good idea to present this in pictorial form. **LS to send details to SB**.

JN suggested possible models to consider were available and she would forward these onto SB. **JN to send details to SB**.

### Actions from Meeting

**SB confirmed it had been sent on 10 May but would undertake to resend details of Rent Comparisons.**

**SB for action. Update workstream sheets, to be re-circulated to the group for final agreement.**

**Arran Airport, SB to investigate**

**Arran Asset Register to be circulated to all AEG members SB to action.**

**LS to send details to SB of possible AEG Terms of Reference.**

**JN to send details to SB of possible community models.**