

## SCDN Dunbartonshire Online Network Meeting

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Online Via Zoom

**Present:** Anne-Marie Timoney, Community Worker, East Dunbartonshire Council, Stephen Burns, Community Project Worker – West Dunbartonshire Council, Isobel Plunkett, Activist - AOK/OK Community Council, Claire Guthrie, Community Worker – East Dunbartonshire Council, Stephen Horsburgh, Resource Generation Officer - East Dunbartonshire Council, Joyce Kerr, Community Safety Advocate - Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Susan Campbell – CD Consultant – SCDN.

**Apologies:** Janice O'Connor, Community Co-ordinator – Corra Foundation, Lynn Sweeny, Community Safety Advocate - Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Anne Reed, Community Safety Advocate - Scottish Fire & Rescue Service,

### Welcome

Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone had received the notes of the previous meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and these were agreed as accurate.

### Updates

**Claire** has been continuing to work on the community consultation to review Place Plans which are changing to Locality Plans. This has been ongoing since June 2021 in partnership with Third Sector Interface and the Health Improvement Team. It's been a learning process and workers have been given autonomy to plan, analyse and evaluate the work.

She continues to stay connected with community groups and support funding applications. Work continues in a hybrid way.

**Joyce** has been on a training course, due to the number of deaths due to drowning, on 'throw line', a tool to save the lives of people who have fallen into water. This was done through RNLI and canals. This training can be offered to community groups who feel it would be relevant. Isobel asked for a leaflet and it was agreed that if we have a face-to-face meeting next time, Joyce will ask if the group can be shown how to use the tool.

**Stephen B** is also working in a hybrid way, attending meetings when required face-to-face and online. The CCTV team has now joined the Community Team and there is a new Team Leader covering maternity leave. He has been reviewing West Dunbartonshire's Community Asset Transfer process asking people if they understand and are aware of it. He has fed back his findings so far and improvements are needed to the website page and offering.

The Community Alliance has still not disbanded and an alternative can't be set up until this happens. With local elections now up and coming, this is likely to be June. He is at the end of the consultation of the Community Council Scheme of Establishment and there is a special meeting in May about the findings. There will be new elections based on this and a

promotion of community councils in the run up to this. The Stronger Voices group has produced a leaflet and the community engagement and delivery plan work continues.

Anne-Marie asked for information on the Alexander Community Council. Isobel shared that if twenty people sign a petition expressing their interest in a community council, it can go ahead. Those twenty people need to be on the electoral register of their area, but they don't need to part of the community council if it is set up. The Scottish Community Council website has lots of information about this.

**Stephen H** works on the regeneration of towns and priority neighbourhoods, supporting policies and funds and ensuring the community is involved in the process. He links in with Anne-Marie and Claire and community councils and groups. He has been working on a big project in Kirkintilloch with the community council, looking at how the community can taking ownership of the area and community spaces. He is also looking to increase volunteering and community health projects.

Capacity can be an issue in terms of sustaining projects and he works alongside EDVA and college employability services. The Scottish Land Fund is great for offering advice and resources.

**Isobel** feedback that there is a new staffing system as workers have moved on. Asset Transfer is not working in Old Kilpatrick as buildings are not fit for purpose. She feels that volunteer motivation has dropped and the community needs support after the pandemic. Isobel feels her own motivation dipping. The community council consultation was very labourious with little change. Her ongoing work with the food pantry is going well.

**Anne-Marie** stated that a lot of groups are not starting up again. The flood forum is working well and supporting the community to be pro-active. The Play Bus is setting up a toddlers group again. A pilot of micro-grants from the Big Lottery is being worked on in Lennoxton to support groups to set up without having to become constituted. She continues to work with the community council and is working with North Lanarkshire College to link people into courses to increase confidence and connection such as art course.

A discussion took place about the value placed on Community Development and disparity of pay across local authorities. Susan feedback that CDAS ran an event earlier in the month to work with partners on raising the profile of CD. A lot of the points raised this morning would be of value to this piece of work. She will find out more about how this meeting went and feedback to the SCDN board too.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10 am. We agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting next time and Isobel will check if the café in Old Kilpatrick Food Parcel's premises is available. This will be confirmed.