

Appendix 4 Agenda Item 8a

Consultation: Amendments to the Council's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils:

Draft Response of Rhu and Shandon Community Council

- We accept without question all the minor amendments to conform with the new voting age, the term of co-opted members and the emphasis on the CCLO as the main point of contact.
- **SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

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10. Liaison with the Council/Other Agencies/Area Community Planning Groups.

We believe that the Local Area Committee should be added here.

We do not feel that the Area Committee as it currently operates serves the community

For these reasons:

1. The Public Question time is at the beginning of the meeting. If there is an item that a member of the public wishes to raise is on the agenda, they have no idea at this point of the meeting, what the discussion on that item will involve. If they wait until the item is discussed and it does not cover the specific aspect, then there is no way to raise the issue in open forum for three months
2. This is a meeting which does not have a Matters Arising as an Agenda item. The point raised as described in 1 is never followed up by the Committee. This is even more frustrating for the community if the item raised is not on the agenda. It is never followed up by the Area Committee.
3. Some of the documents, for example the Council Scorecard serves no useful purpose to the public. What was presented at the last area meeting was a screen shot. To be any use the attendees would need an active link to this database.

There was a lukewarm reception from Community Councils for "Meet the Community Meetings". In seeking to justify these, it was said at the last Area meeting in Helensburgh that 'Community Councils do not have all the facts so discussions are sometimes sterile'. Having a member of the Community Council on the Area Committee and the attendance of Local Councillors to Community Council meetings as happens at present, would negate this statement and obviate the need for more meetings. We recommend that this should happen.

11. Resourcing a Community Council

11.5 Add Website costs to the list

- **APPENDIX 1: MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR COMMUNITY COUCILS IN ARGYLL AND BUTE**

5. We note the addition of a period of 7 days for transferring files.

It would be useful if advice were provided as to

- which files should be kept and for how long
- what is the recommended format for these files

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We believe that Argyll and Bute should publish on their website the meeting papers for all of the Community Councils. Alternatively, to save the duplication of effort, where a CC has their own website, the Argyll and Bute website should point to this page.

A new paragraph will need to be added here to indicate this.

Add to 11

The Community Council will adopt a Constitution at the inaugural meeting following an election.

- **GOOD PRACTICE AGREEMENT**

6.1. Community Councils should keep Argyll and Bute Councillors informed....

It would be useful if all officers in Argyll and Bute were aware of this clause. We have recently had communications with an official of A&B who took exception to this practice.

- **BEST PRACTICE AGREEMENT**

Argyll and Bute Commitment. Community Council Commitment, Community Engagement.

The information displayed on the A&B website on Community Councils could and should be improved.

For each Community Council it should be possible to easily find the name of the Council, the area it covers, the name and contact details of the secretary and convener, the url of the website, and if the CC does not have a website the dates and location of the meetings and the papers for each meeting. This is not unconnected with the comments made above on Appendix 1 above.