



Community Planning in Orkney – April update



February's meeting of the Orkney Partnership Board featured an in-depth discussion of strategic matters relating to Transport. The aim was to find out what's being done to address any areas of concern, and to see if there are any gaps where a partnership approach might help to overcome barriers. Top topic was the Northern Isles ferry routes and the tender for the new contract due to take effect in April 2018. The Scottish Government has been conducting a comprehensive study to inform the tender process for the next contract (called a STAG study as it follows Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance). A consultation event was organised in Orkney by Transport Scotland on 16-17 March and, for anyone who missed it, there are online surveys for Orkney residents and businesses at: <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/OIC-News/Go-online-to-give-your-views-on-ferry-services.htm>. The Board agreed to put together a collective response, to demonstrate the unity which partners feel over the importance of this contract for Orkney.

Also up for discussion and partner input were two pieces of work currently being undertaken by the Council: our own STAG study of internal air and ferry services, and a review of community transport provision. The latter is being revisited following the establishment of Orkney's Integrated Joint Board (IJB), Orkney Health and Care. Recommendations arising from the review will be submitted to the IJB in June 2016 with a view to finding a partnership solution that works for everybody.



For those who are keeping up with the progress of the **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**, the long-awaited draft guidance on secondary legislation, regulation and guidance has now been released by the Scottish Government. This comprises five separate consultations on various aspects of the Act: the community right to buy abandoned or neglected land, the crofting community's right to buy eligible croft land, formal requests by community bodies to participate in public service improvement processes, community asset transfer, and community planning. Altogether this amounts to some 277 pages of

documentation, but buried in it are some really innovative ideas. If your group would like any help in interpreting the consultation, or in contributing to an Orkney response, please get in touch.

The Orkney Partnership has three Delivery Groups which are working hard to progress particular strategic priorities on behalf of the Board. In this report we will focus on the Positive Ageing Delivery Group, which aims to keep us all active and independent into old age. This means taking responsibility for our own long term health and wellbeing, and the St Andrews Community Association/Senior Citizens' Club has certainly been doing that with their new weekly "**Gentle exercise for the elderly**" class, pictured below. To join in contact Ida on 861347 or email bruceandida@btinternet.com.



Other new projects supported by the group include an older people's forum, "**Orkney Voices**", which aims to inform, discuss, consult, co-ordinate, campaign and represent the view of anyone aged 50 or over in Orkney. The forum is behind the current consultation "**Age is just a number**", which seeks to challenge stereotypes of older people. For more information, see the forum's website at www.orkneyvoices.co.uk, or you can call Kasha at Voluntary Action Orkney on 872897.

For those of a more practical bent, the group is supporting a "**Men's Shed**", a community venue for men to get out of the house and do something useful in good company. Westhill in Aberdeenshire has been pioneering the concept and their projects include repairing and selling tools and restoring a steam engine. They are also building a model railway. Watch the local news for progress on Orkney's shed.



If you would like more involvement in community planning, and making a difference to your community, or if you would like this publication in a different language or format, please contact us by email on corporateservices@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873535 ext 2160