



Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2011

Kyle Conversation

Friday 18th November

'Baking a Community-time to rise'

A talk by Andrew Whitley of

Bread Matters

Kyle Hotel 7.30pm

Andrew has recently been involved with setting up the new Dunbar Bakery, a community enterprise, in the East Lothian town.

The Plock continues to be a focus for the Group.

Discussions are continuing to transfer this to a new community group rather than remain with the existing Trustees all of whom no longer wish to remain in position.

With the help of the Scottish Community Foundation a solicitor, with considerable experience in this area, has been retained to assist with the transfer.

It is anticipated that a new community group will be formed to administer the ongoing operation of the Plock for the benefit of the community. If you wish to be part of this body it is essential that you attend the meetings which the Development Group hope to arrange over the coming weeks.

Report Reveals Consensus on a number of points

- Kyle is seen as a safe and friendly place to live and to bring up children.
- People appreciate the location of Kyle and its natural environment;
- People recognise the fragility of the local economy and are concerned to protect and, if possible, enhance job opportunities;
- People feel that Kyle needs to improve its appearance, both in the village centre and on the entrances to Kyle;
- There are unsightly gap sites in Kyle;
- Footpaths in and around Kyle (including on the Plock) need to be better maintained and signposted;
- Tourism is seen as a potential growth area, though it needs to be balanced with
- Kyle's position as a working town;
- There is not enough for tourists to do in Kyle;
- There is potential for a site for camping, caravans and camper vans (perhaps on the Plock);
- Car parking and traffic flow is an issue that should be addressed (although free parking is important);
- People would welcome greater opportunities to buy fresh food and locally produced goods;
- Housing for people living in the area is an issue;
- People are keen to see use of the Plock maximised for the community's benefit;
- The former toll building could be an important asset, both in providing access to the Plock and as a location for development.

Saturday 19th November Kyle Hotel

Kyle Conversation

Making an Action Plan

2 hour Facilitated session

10.30am -12.30pm or 1.30-3.30pm

Soup & sandwich lunch from 12.30

Sleat Community Trust presentation at 1pm

We aim for Kyle to maximise its assets and natural advantages and to be a place where people can fulfil their personal, social and economic potential.

The work that has been done to date points towards certain priorities in achieving this aim. At this stage in the process there is still a need for further exploratory work before agreeing on detailed action, and Kyle Development Group would look to work with appropriate community organisations in doing this. Reflecting the objectives of the Scottish Government, we would like to work towards Kyle in the future as a community that is:

Wealthier and fairer

Maximising its role as the employment and service centre for Lochalsh and improving job opportunities for all members of the community, through the public, private and voluntary sectors and through social enterprise.

Healthier

Supporting people to live longer, healthier and independent lives with access to high quality and appropriate housing.

Safer and stronger

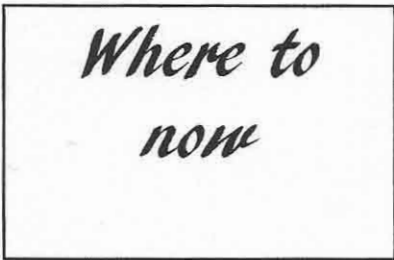
Addressing the potential causes of crime and ensuring there are positive pathways for the use of leisure time.

Smarter

Where people can access the learning and skills they need to make the most of their lives.

Greener

Where Kyle's outstanding natural environment and unrivalled position contributes to its success while being protected and enhanced.



Kyle Development Group now aims to incorporate itself as a non-profit community company. It is in discussion with the Plock Trust and sees potential for the Plock to be transferred to the new company for the benefit of the community. This would create a firm foundation for KDG to begin addressing the priorities identified.

HIE Progress

KDG is also in discussion with Highlands and Islands Enterprise for Kyle to enter the Community Account Management programme. There is strong synergy between the values of this programme and the work KDG has been carrying out with support from the Scottish Community Foundation. The expected outcomes of the programme for communities are closely matched to the identified needs of Kyle

Further Information

Even in these times of economic hardship funds are available for community development and this area is seen as a key driver of Scottish Government policy. Various agencies have been identified to assist with this process and the group have been encouraged by the response from these bodies. The best way to access this funding is by setting up a community development group and this is the reason for adopting this approach. If you have any ideas or comments on the ideas outlined in this newsletter please contact a member of the group Fiona Begg, Bob Anderson or Brian Easter.