

NAC held two Straight Talking sessions on 7 November which were well supported by representatives from the Arran Community Council, Elderly Forum and Brodick Improvements Committee and Arran Community and Voluntary Services.

David O'Neil the leader of the Council and the Chief Executive Elma Murray opened with a scene setting presentation (available @ <http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/CorporateServices/ChiefExecutive/Communications/StraightTalkingPresentation2011.pdf>).

Following the above presentation, the meeting then focused on the predetermined working groups established to address the 4 "Core Objectives" for the coming year and Arran had representation on each of these groups.

- Regenerating our communities and increasing employment
Arran Community Council
- Protecting vulnerable people
Elderly forum, ACVS
- Operating more efficiently and effectively
Arran Community Council, Brodick Improvements Committee
- Improving educational attainment
Arran Community Council

Each core group had its own "Scene Setting" document which provided details of current and anticipated issues and some history of achievements already completed. They were also supported by NAC subject experts to provide further knowledge, background and support for the discussions.

The work groups spent approx 45 minutes addressing each topic and then provided a summary to the general audience. Some general themes were apparent such as Collecting and publishing examples of work already undertaken and also identify "Best Practice" examples to allow others to learn from experience. NAC were encouraged to establish an "Asset Audit" for the various topics and this should not just be buildings or structure but include groups and personal skill examples.

A few minutes were left for the participants to ask any questions still outstanding and then Mr O'Neil and Ms Murray thanked everyone for their contributions and time.

NAC will publish the summaries from each of the Core Group sessions in the near future and also publish a list of proposed actions which have arisen.

All participants agreed it had been a useful exercise and looked forward to reading the reports and action plans when published. All felt that the discussion could have been allocated more time to allow groups to develop the various points and understand the opportunities highlighted. Many felt that it would be a valuable experience to be involved as the action plans are developed.

NAC will also be hosting live online discussions. These will take place on Monday 14 November and Wednesday 16 November from 6pm-7pm each evening and they have intimated that the libraries will be available for anyone who requires access to a computer to allow as abroad participation as possible. Brodick Library has confirmed it will be open on the Wednesday evening and anyone who wishes to use the facility should book in advance.

We will publish the outcomes from all these sessions as they are released.