**Working with Island Groups**

Below is a list of existing groups on the island who have expressed an interest in using the new Town Hall facility. They reach through the young to the elderly, they include the handicapped and there will be many opportunities for isolated and marginalised individuals to be welcomed in to activities.

Employment, volunteering and skills training through the Town Hall Project will enhance the lives of many. The economy of the island will be boosted by increased footfall and spend.

**Costs to local groups**

Community lets will be at community rates ie comparable to those currently charged by NAC. These low rates will be subsidised by higher priced ticket events which will be marketed further afield.

**Groups who have been struggling to hold events since the closure of the Town Hall**

The Burns Society This group have expressed a desire to come back to their old haunt – the Town Hall - for their annual celebrations of St Andrew’s Day and Hogmanay. They have been struggling with the loss of a central, large venue with suitable catering facilities.

The Boys Brigade The BB’s have an annual camp and quite often have a problem with the weather. The space where they meet is currently small and their Leader has welcomed the possibility of having their old space becoming available again. We would also be able to offer the members volunteering and educational opportunities.

Millport Scottish Dance Group Since the closure of the Town Hall this group have been really struggling. By nature they need a big enough space to dance in. They host an annual Dance Weekend which has attendees coming from Europe and further away. This is a bonus for the accommodation providers and businesses on the Island and we wish to provide them once again with a large enough venue. With a large venue once again it will be possible for their events to be increased.

Badminton Club This was abandoned because of the lack of high ceiling venue. We would hope to introduce other high ceiling sports such as volleyball and basketball. There is nowhere at all for indoor sports at present.

Cumbrae Gardening Club The Club holds an annual show which historically used to be held in the Town Hall. The current facility is simply not large enough. This show is very historical, well attended and maintains an interest in gardening along with its physical, creative and emotional benefits.

Festivals Committee This Committee organise several events during the year – Country Festival, Comedy Festival, Scooter Rally. It is envisaged that the Town Hall would once again enhance these festivals, running concurrent exhibitions, offering venue space and facilities. These events are vital to the economy of Cumbrae.

Millport Pipe Band The Pipe Band have expressed their wish to once again use the Town Hall facility. At present if the DA Hall is not available they have nowhere at all to go as they require a space large enough to ‘hold the sound” at a safe level for their ears. Their rehearsal and performance opportunities have been hampered by the loss of a large venue. They also need somewhere to store their accessories.

**Existing Groups who will be able to expand their capabilities**

Millport Care Home The Sanctuary are extremely keen to rent a space from the Town Hall on a 52 weeks per year basis. They are just around the corner from the Town Hall and would be able to reach the venue without the need for special transport. They hope to rehearse for a show which can be presented to the public. There will be opportunities for other activities within the Arts and Crafts which will enhance their emotional, physical and mental well being.

The Elderly Forum The Forum has been approached and they are keen to get involved. It would be possible to have an indoor carpet bowls facility which would be welcomed as at present people have to travel to the mainland, which they do three times per week. For those who have been unable to take part due to concerns surrounding the slip and the ferry this would be a new opportunity. There is nowhere else large enough on the Island. There would be many other activities and social events that could be organised within the Town Hall facility – tea dances, lunches, physical exercise, book club – all good for social interaction and enjoyment. The Community Hub would be a centre for meeting, socialising and also for advice if needed.

Cumbrae Beecology: Beecology are delighted we will have a Conservation Area in the lower ground floor. They are keen to be involved in its development and it will be used for the education of all on the flora and fauna on Cumbrae.

The Poetry Group The Poetry Group already have a meeting space but what they lack is a performance and exhibition space. We would work with them in a collaborative way, possibly sometimes in conjunction with other Expressive and Performing Arts. They will also be welcomed to create work for use in the Heritage and Conservation Centre and it would be hoped they may be able to work with some Cumbrae Primary School children.

The Art Studio The Art Studio are developing and expanding their community classes and events. They are extremely keen to see this project become successful in order to have extra space and exhibition potential. They have recently lost their Studio at the Cathedral and are keen to be rehoused within the Town Hall. It may also be possible to have their skills used occasionally within our Community Hub. We would like to involve them in the decoration and decor of some space. Both of the founders are respected Artists and one is well known for her leaded glass work and it is anticipated that this will be incorporate into our glass atrium.

Sonoro Choir This Community Choir is one year old and has a large membership and everyone is welcome regardless of age or ability. There have been two concerts, one in our Nissan Hut which was too small and one in the Chapel when the Hut was closed because of asbestos removing work. The Choir urgently need a space fit for purpose which is safe for such a large number and will have the capacity for a decently sized audience. They would also use this space for their rehearsals.

Cumbrae Historical Society This popular group could benefit so much with the creation of the Millport Heritage Centre. It would be possible to share stories and images and events and social evenings would be arranged.

The Cathedral The Cathedral of the Isles is of special significance architecturally to the island and also because of its music programme and acoustics. Collaboration with them on a programme of training, rehearsal space and venue for possible National Youth Orchestra and Choir could be a distinct possibility. They have also mentioned the possibility of a Choir Convention. The Cathedral is limited by size for larger audiences and number of performers.

**General advantages for existing groups and Organisations**

Millport Golf Club – this Club is working hard to promote itself through a Tourism approach. Added attraction to the Island through the Town Hall project will enhance their offer. There will be the opportunity for an Organisation like this to freely advertise their facilities within the Town Hall space.

Cumbrae Tourist Association – There is strong support from this group who see the Heritage Centre would add strength to the Island’s bid for Ancestral tours which are one of the most popular tourist activities in Scotland. The Heritage Centre will exhibit long and varied history from Vikings to smugglers, evacuees to collaborative farming and fishing practices with the Isle of Bute.  We were a destination for “Doon the watter” in Victorian times with the puffer steamers, had the historic “Arc” research centre berthed off Farland Point and have the smallest Cathedral in the British Isles with its own unique history.

Cumbrae Community Council CCC have already evidenced their support in becoming the umbrella organisation for this steering group. We will work with them in reporting at their meetings as and when required.

The Brownies/Girl Guides Partnership working could be achieved with the building offering the availability of badge taking facilities.

CCDC/Garrison House

It should be noted that as Garrison House and CCDC are dependent on some services which may be reduced they are considering alternative ways to make themselves secure for the future in their sustainability. If the Town Hall is open it would leave the way clear for the old DA Hall to be removed, thereby offering up potential space and income making opportunities. Discussions so far have centred on car parking and motor home site provision.

**Potential New Groups**

Citizen’s Advice Bureau There are currently investigations being made into once again having this presence on the Island. The people involved have expressed interest in this being placed one day within the proposed Community Hub within the Town Hall.

Men’s Shed The proposal is for the Men’s Shed to develop organically, dependent on demand and interest. The Town Hall can offer a variety of spaces which could be used on a flexible basis.

Youth There is nowhere for the youth of the Island to go and this is especially important during bad weather. We have been asked about sports provision within the hall for this age range and it is also intended to develop activities within the Community Hub. The Heritage Centre will enable inter generational initiatives.