

## ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### CONSULTATIONS WORKING PARTY – April 2016

#### **CURRENT CONSULTATIONS**

- a) **Consultation on landing controls for the Scottish crab and lobster fisheries** – Marine Scotland. Closing date: 20 May 2016

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/marine-scotland/crab-lobster-landing-controls>

Ross Cumming, Marine Scotland's Policy Officer in Inshore Fisheries Management & Coastal Communities advised that, as it crosses over with Irish waters, the Solway Firth region has not been included in the Scottish fisheries assessment areas. He also claims that, for the species being considered in this consultation (brown crab, velvet crab and lobster), few landings have been reported from Scottish fishing vessels in this region. Having said that, although not included in the consultation document presumably Dumfries & Galloway will still be governed by the proposed landing controls as its coast is in Scotland.

- b) **Transport Surveys** – SWestrans. Closing date – 27 May 2016

Ironic that SWestrans (the Transport Partnership for Dumfries and Galloway) has commissioned Sustainable Transport Options Studies to identify transport problems which affect the area and the surrounding communities on a day to day basis at the same time as it is proposing the withdrawal of bus services to the area on Sundays and after six in the evening on other days. Similarly Swestrans are looking to cancel the Stranraer-Cairnryan bus service while having aspirations for rail station re-openings for the Thornhill, Eastriggs, Dunragit/Glenluce, Newton Stewart/The Machars and Beattock areas – will there be bus connections to/from the stations?

Individuals can still complete the relevant online surveys for [Dunragit/Glenluce/The Machars/Newton Stewart transport study](#)

- c) **Consultation on secondary legislation proposals relating to Part 3A of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – the community right to buy abandoned, neglected or detrimental land as introduced by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 20 June 2016

Part 3A of the 2003 Act gives community bodies the right, in certain circumstances, to buy land without a willing seller, when the land is wholly or mainly abandoned or neglected, or the use or management of the land is causing harm to the environmental wellbeing of the local community. Before submitting the right to buy application the community body must fulfil certain criteria, for example:

- the community body must have tried to purchase the land,
- if the use or management of the land is causing harm to the environmental wellbeing of the local community, the community body must have approached all relevant regulators and asked that they take steps to reduce or remove the harm being caused to the community,
- the purchase of the land must be in the public interest, and
- the purchase of the land must be compatible with furthering the achievement of sustainable development of the land.

The consultation addresses the proposed procedures and processes that would apply when communities look to exercise their right to buy. The consultation document is available for download at [https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/community-land-team/abandoned-land/user\\_uploads/00497575.pdf](https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/community-land-team/abandoned-land/user_uploads/00497575.pdf)

- d) **Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Consultation on Draft Regulations.** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 20 June 2016

Community ownership or control of land and buildings can make a major contribution to empowering communities. It helps to provide stability and a sustainable base from which a

community organisation can develop its activities, and can create a stronger sense of community identity, cohesion and involvement.

Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 provides a right for community bodies to request the transfer of land and buildings belonging to public authorities. This paper seeks views on draft regulations for making and responding to requests, for review or appeal of decisions, and on registers of land. It also provides an indication of guidance and best practice to help relevant authorities develop or update their procedures. The Scottish Government are now seeking wider views on the proposed procedures from relevant authorities, who will be required to implement them, and community bodies who may wish to use them. [Click here to download a copy of the consultation paper.](#)

## **FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS**

No Forthcoming Consultation