



Community Planning News – July 2017

A foreword from Council Leader James Stockan, the new Chair of the Board



'I'm delighted to be leading the Partnership and to be taking it forward with a view to delivering outcomes as soon as possible. In such unsettling economic times all public services are expected to do more in terms of providing improved services to larger groups, yet with less financial resource. Through community planning we must find imaginative solutions within the current difficult environment, notably through better joint working.'

'As well as looking ahead it's important to recognise past and current successes. The two that spring to my mind are the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus, a project that will be hugely beneficial for Orkney as a whole and transformational for

Stromness, and the recent work in resettling two families through the Syrian Resettlement programme. These show what we can achieve by working together. As they say, watch this space ...'

Talking of the **Orkney Research and Innovation Campus**, designs have been agreed and planning applications submitted. Work is taking place around the governance arrangements for the planned joint partnership venture that will own and operate the campus. It's hoped work will commence on site in November 2017.

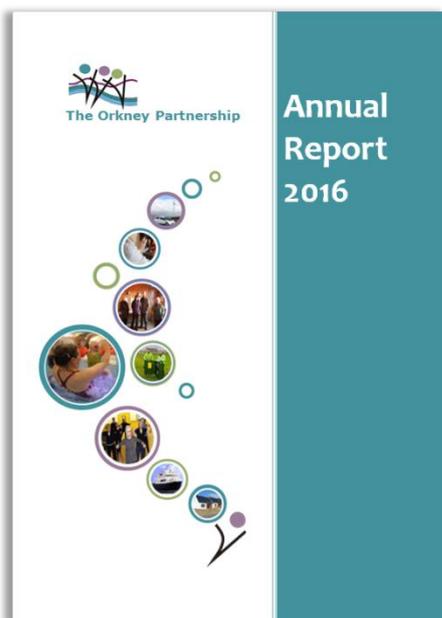
The [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) allows some community bodies to make **participation requests** to public service authorities to participate in 'outcome improvement processes'. The intention is to give a new way for communities to start formal dialogue with public service authorities about issues that are important to them, although they're not intended to replace good quality existing community engagement or participation processes. The request can involve one or more community planning partners. Whether you're a partner or a community body, please do get in touch if you want more information.

On the subject of community engagement, we've just updated our **Community Consultation and Engagement Guide**. You can see the updated document [here](#).

Walking Football - fun tournament on Saturday, 5 August between 09:00 and 10:00 in the Arena at the Pickaquoy Centre

Walking Football encourages older people who may think their football days are over to get involved again. It's aimed at improving health and wellbeing in older people by improving their fitness levels in an enjoyable way – but it's apparently great fun and people of all ages can enjoy it.

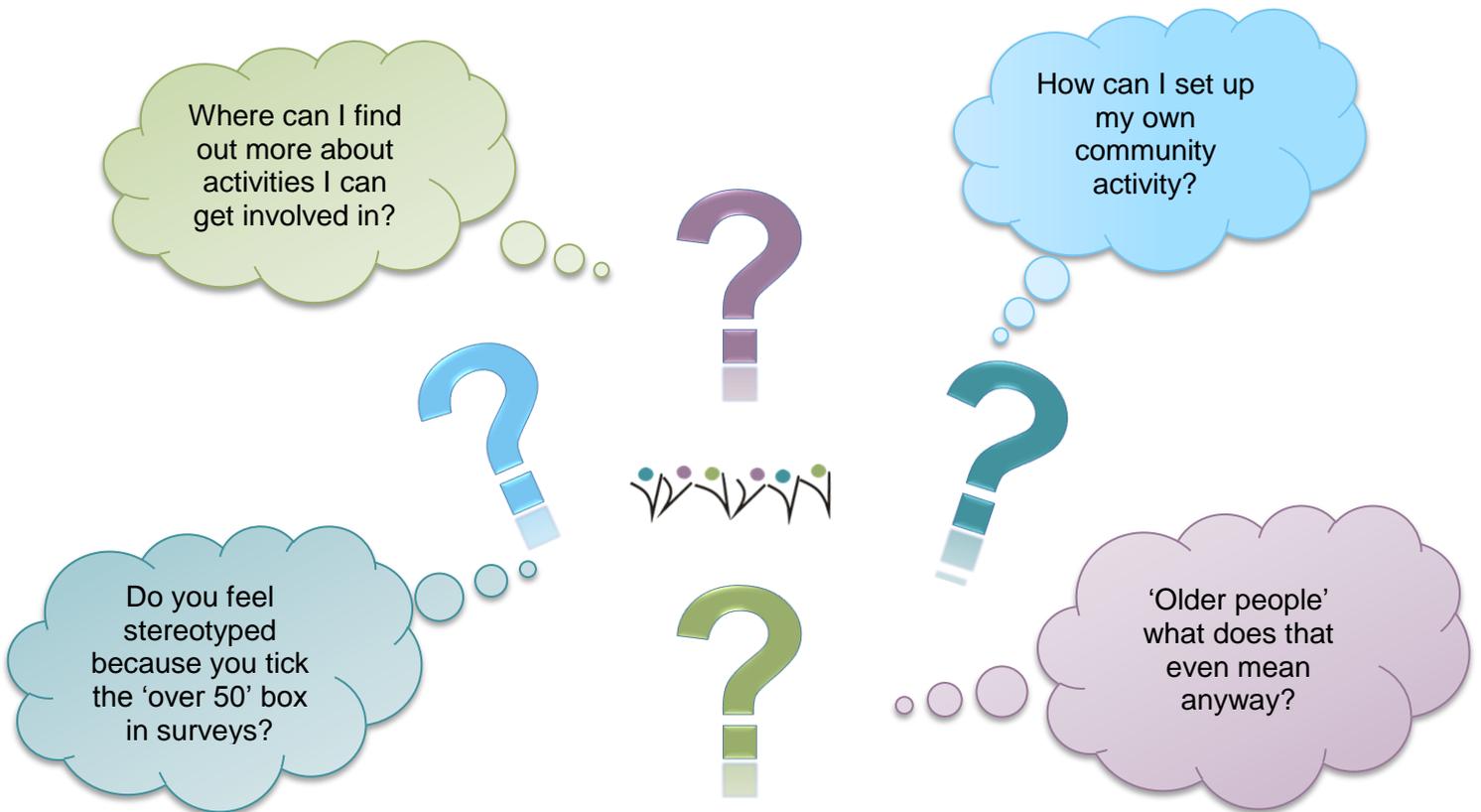
We want to encourage more people to take part in this fun but healthy activity. We've got a few teams together and are holding this tournament to raise awareness. If you've hung up your football boots – or maybe never played at all – why not come along and check it out.



Have you seen our Annual Report? If you want to read it you can find it [here](#) – or get in touch with us.

We want to work together and take a more innovative and creative approach to use, disposal and development of our properties. Our target outcome is the improved use of properties and to help us get there we've established a **Property Asset Management Working Group**. The group has started its work and we want to have a process in place by the end of the year to make sure this is built into all relevant partnership asset management activity.





In our last newsletter we let you know that the **Positive Ageing Delivery Group** is planning a live web chat.

If you've got questions you want to ask, or if you simply want to let us know what you think, we want you to join in, no matter what your age. Gail Anderson, chair of this group, will be there to 'chat'.

Join the chat on Wednesday, 9 August 2017 - 18:00 until 19:00

Facebook - OIC Updates page: <https://www.facebook.com/OICUpdates>

If you're really keen to get your question in, or if you're not going to be able to join the live chat, you can let us have questions or comments in advance. Send them to: enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk before 9 August.

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 Marie Love by email on corporateservices@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873535 extension 2153.