

## **Commission on Parliamentary Reform**

### **Vibrant Communities, East Ayrshire**

**Tuesday 7 March 2017**

#### **Event note**

#### **Who took part?**

- 24 older people who attend exercise classes run by Vibrant Communities, East Ayrshire Council took part.

#### **We asked:**

#### **What experiences have you had with the Scottish Parliament?**

Very few had any specific experience. Three people had contacted a local MSP and all had a positive response and felt the MSP had worked for them, even when their issue wasn't resolved to their satisfaction.

#### **What do you think about the Scottish Parliament and how it works?**

- There is general cynicism about the Parliament and politicians and whether the parliament has made a difference to our lives.
- A few actions of the Parliament were seen as positive by some in the group (free prescriptions, tuition fees and social care).
- Some felt the Parliament didn't use the powers it has.

#### **Are you clear about the difference between Parliament and Government?**

- Most people tended not to distinguish between the government and Parliament
- A few people felt they understood the distinction
- Some people found the relationship between UK and Scottish Parliaments and governments unclear