

**North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership**

**Environment Partnership**

**Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

**Attendance**

Sandra Bale, Policy Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Councillor Tom Barr (**Chair**), North Ayrshire Council  
Councillor Margie Currie, North Ayrshire Council  
Damien Griffith, Principal Officer Housing, North Ayrshire Council  
Richard Henry, Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Jimmy Hyslop, Scottish Natural Heritage  
Robert Loney, Representative, Outdoor Access Forum  
Liz Marquis, Director, Energy Agency  
Alex MacKenzie, Team Leader – Technical Support, North Ayrshire Council  
Jack McConnachie, Transportation Manager, North Ayrshire Council  
Carol McGinnes, Environmental Partnership Manager, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)  
Steve Morley, Team Leader - Economic Development, North Ayrshire Council (For Alex Anderson)  
Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager, North Ayrshire Council  
Kate Whittaker, Senior Environmental Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) (For Pat Doherty)

Also In Attendance

Shirley Laidlaw, Community Planning Assistant (Chief Executive's), North Ayrshire Council

**Apologies**

Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer (Chief Executive's), North Ayrshire Council  
Marlene McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
Mairi Cunningham, Quality Improvement Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Pat Doherty, Public Transport Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)  
Yvonne Hunter, Cleansing Controller, North Ayrshire Council  
Alex Anderson, Economic Development Manager, Economic Development, North Ayrshire Council

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Councillor Tom Barr welcomed everyone to the meeting and the above apologies were noted.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 26 June 2009**

North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

Rob Loney advised that the Forum had been successful in receiving funding from Healthy North Ayrshire. Rob has submitted a bid to the Leader Fund for Arran and welcomed any contributions from partners for the 3 towns area, as Leader Funding cannot be used in the three towns area.

Councillor Currie noted the importance of these maps for the Arran area and Rob noted that it was a good chance for the partnership to create a good public profile.

### Community Planning Week

Cameron Sharp advised that he had fed back to the CPP Team that it might be more successful in future, to tag on an environmental day to other larger events. E.g. Park Live, which attracts around 6000 people. Councillor Barr advised that this had been noted at the last meeting.

### Future Jobs Fund

Steve Morley advised that North Ayrshire had been successful in its bid for funding from the Future Jobs Fund. £1.7m has been awarded to the area. Councillor Barr asked for clarification the definition of green jobs. Steve advised that there would be an awareness session taking place soon and further information will be given there.

### Greenspace Scotland

Sandra Bale advised that she had spoken to Louise Kirk, Richard Henry and Yvonne Hunter to discuss inviting Greenspace along to a future meeting. Sandra had been advised that Grounds Maintenance are currently working on an Open Space Strategy and it would be more appropriate to wait until this is complete and invite Greenspace along to provide advice on how this can be implemented.

The minutes were then approved.

## **2.1 Matters Arising from minutes**

### Carbon Management Sub-Group

Alex MacKenzie advised that the Group had met for the first time yesterday. Representatives were present from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and North Ayrshire Council. The Group made good progress in identifying the next steps. The minute of the meeting has been circulated for comment and will be sent to this Group for information. The Group will meet again in September and Alex will provide a written report for the next meeting. **ACTION: ALEX MACKENZIE**

Councillor Barr highlighted the importance of Carbon Management for all partners.

## **3.0 SOA Action Plan Report**

The group received the SOA Action Plan quarterly progress report.

Sandra Bale advised that most of the actions within the report were green, and suggested that the group look at the amber actions for an update.

### **10c: The condition of roads, footways, path networks and lighting has improved**

*Invest sufficient funding in road and footway resurfacing to improve conditions on all public roads maintained by the Council in terms of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984*

Jack McConnachie advised that there although there is a £1m budget for road improvement this year, this is still not enough to carry out all the repairs that are needed. This £1m budget gives a standstill position for North Ayrshire.

Jack advised that they had been successful in applying for funding through the Timber Transport Fund, and have been awarded £1m. This funding has been

allocated for Arran, but it will free up any funding set aside for Arran to be used elsewhere in North Ayrshire.

Jack advised that the winter maintenance budget for roads had been increased this year, and that this occurred across the country. This has had implications nationwide. A national survey will look at this impact the previous winter has had on the roads network and this report will be available shortly.

Jack quoted the statistic that "94% of the road network is managed by the local authorities and 6% is by the Scottish Government, 94% of all spend goes on the 6%."

Councillor Barr noted that we are always going to be in a catch up position with regard to road repairs, but that does not mean that we need to accept this.

Rob Loney advised that pedestrians previously, when walking on narrow rural roads, used to move over onto the grass verge when traffic was passing. Now when the Council are digging the roadside ditches these are put on the verge so this means pedestrians have no where to go. Jack agreed to raise this with Roads.

**ACTION: JACK MCCONNACHIE**

The Group noted the importance of the road network as the backbone of the country and the impact it would have on the economy if it were not properly maintained. The Group also noted the importance of rural roads as a lifeline for communities. There was also some discussion on the roads in the rural networks and islands, and how these were never constructed for heavy goods vehicle.

Councillor Currie advised the Group of a campaign she is involved in to create a capital fund that Local Authorities can bid into for funding for roads maintenance. This would ensure that Local Authorities do not need to divert funding from big educational and social services to maintain the road infrastructure.

Councillor Barr stated the Group would need to accept that this action would always be amber, but that the Group needs to push ahead and maintain its interest in this.

### **1a: Transport links and services to and from North Ayrshire have improved**

*Work with SPT to improve park and ride facilities at Kilwinning and Irvine*

Sandra Bale asked for clarification on this action, as it is green on the update but at the last meeting it had been reported that there was a problem with the land. Jack advised that the action should be amber as there is a problem with the land and negotiations are taking place with SPT. Sandra asked if this is something that could be raised at CPP Board level, but Jack advised that the CEX of NAC and SPT had met recently and were aware of this issue. Jack agreed to change the action to amber.

Councillor Bar agreed that both areas need a solution to encourage commuters to use the rail and parking facilities.

### **10c: The condition of roads, footways, path networks and lighting has improved**

*Reduce the percentage of street lighting columns within the network that are over 30 years old by a programme of column replacement.*

Jack advised that the budget for this has been reduced from £1m to £0.5m. It is an ongoing programme to replace old lighting and also feeds into carbon management as it includes replacing old and inefficient columns. This action is amber, again due to the amount of funding and the numbers that need to be replaced.

Jack agreed to bring figures to next meeting to show progress.

**ACTION: JACK MCCONNACHIE**

There was some discussion on solar lighting columns but it was thought that these would be too expensive and the benefit would not outweigh the cost. Liz agreed to look into the costs of these are report back to a future meeting.

**ACTION: LIZ MARQUIS**

Councillor Barr Tom asked if any other partners had further updates on actions.

#### **12a: Our environment is protected and enhanced**

*Promote environmental initiatives, litter and energy awareness in nursery, primary and secondary schools, particularly through the Eco School initiative, Ranger Service and Culture and Lifelong Learning.*

Liz Marquis advised that she could provide more figures for energy activity within schools at a future meeting.

**ACTION: LIZ MARQUIS**

Councillor Barr advised that North Ayrshire is going into its final phase of the blue bin recycling. This will increase the recycling figure for North Ayrshire. They are also preparing to look at trials of residential waste for the next stage of this ongoing action to reduce waste and increasing recycling.

Rob Loney advised that as a rural resident he hasn't been asked to participate in alternative weekly collection scheme. Councillor Barr advised that this has been rolled out as widely as possible but that are certain areas where this is not practical. Councillor Barr advised that 95% of North Ayrshire is covered at present.

#### **4.0 Local Development Plan SEA - Scoping and Gateway responses**

As Iain was not present at the meeting it was agreed to add this to the agenda for the September meeting.

**ACTION: SHIRLEY CAINE**

#### **5.0 CPP Update**

Sandra Bale provided this update in Anne Todd's absence.

It was agreed that partners would complete the Partners Activity Report prior to each meeting.

**ACTION: ALL**

The People's Panel summer survey is currently underway.

#### NAC SOA Annual Report

The NAC SOA Annual Report has now been completed and this will be approved by Council Committee then the CPP Board before being submitted to the Scottish Government in September. Sandra noted that although the CPP have a new 3-year

SOA, partners were consulted in the process with the NAC SOA and the CPP SOA. Sandra thanked all the partners that contribute to the SOA Annual report.

#### Fairer North Ayrshire (FNA) Forward Plan

Meetings took place last week with Gordon Clark/Ian Kinghorn and Trevor Jones/Steven Andrews regarding the Playpark Improvement initiative and the Environment Hit Squad.

The FNA Fund is a 3-year fund to address poverty and deprivation in certain areas. Playpark Improvement initiative and the Environment Hit Squad are the two projects that are funded under the Clean and Green priority. Funding will be included in the Council's budget for year 3, so meetings have been taking place with all FNA lead officers to discuss their proposals for next year. The CPP Team will make recommendations to the CPP Board taking into account their performance to date and discussions that have taken place. This will allow the Board to make recommendations to the Council as to how future funding will be allocated

Councillor Barr asked when the Group would find out the outcome of the recommendations. Sandra advised that the report would be submitted to the Management Group and the CPP Board in September, and partners would be notified as soon as possible after that.

#### All Ability Play Facility

Cameron Sharp highlighted the work that is being done with Margaret Craik to develop an All Ability Play Facility at Eglinton County Park, this is being funded partly through the FNA fund.

## **6.0 AOB**

#### Energy Assistance Package

Liz Marquis thanked the CPP Team for circulating the information on the Energy Assistance Package. This is an update of the Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme and Warm Deal (detailed information was contained in the email that was circulated). This Fund is suitable for the elderly and families with disabled children. Liz advised the South West Scotland have had a good number of people applying successfully for this Fund.

#### Sustainable Energy Fair – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, Auchincruive Campus, Ayr

Liz advised that this free event would run on 12<sup>th</sup> September, and usually attracts around 1500 people. Topics covered on the day are: transport, house design and waste management as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy.

- Stands are open from 10am-4pm
- Eleven 30 minute presentations ran from 10.30am until 4pm
- 'Ask An Advisor' Surgeries 11am-12pm & 3pm-4pm
- Free biofuel bus from Ayr town centre to venue

There are still some spaces for stand holders and anyone interested should contact Liz direct.

It was noted that the Climate Change Bill became an act on 4<sup>th</sup> August for Scotland, this has interesting targets set for Scotland.

Kate Whittaker, SPT circulated copies of the Arran area transport guide.

Shirley Caine advised that SOA packs had been circulated to everyone, but if anyone requires further copies they should contact Shirley direct.  
Councillor Barr noted that the SOA Signing event went well and thanked everyone who attended.

#### **BTCV**

Sandra Bale advised that Anne Todd has suggested that BTCV could be an item for a future meeting. They had been mentioned at the last meeting by Louise Kirk as they had applied for funding from Healthy North Ayrshire (FNA funding project) for a green gym pilot. Cameron Sharp agreed that it would be useful for the group to hear more information about this. It was agreed to ask BTCV along to a future meeting.

**ACTION: SANDRA BALE**

Cameron advised that Group that the Country Park now has two new plasma screens in the Visitors Centre. These can be used for advertising. Information from the Recycling Officer has already been publicised, and Cameron asked partners to get in contact if they had anything they wanted to promote.

Liz Marquis advised the group that a recent renewable energy event had taken place on Arran and these had been a lot of uptake and the event had been very successful.

#### **7.0 Date of Next meeting**

This was agreed as Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.

**Matters Arising**

<b>Minute Item</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Checklist for next meeting</b> ✓
2.1	Provide update report on Carbon Management Sub-Group to next meeting	Alex MacKenzie	
3.0	Take up issue raised by Rob Loney with Roads re roadside ditches and pedestrians	Jack McConnachie	
3.0	Bring figures on street lights renewal to next meeting to show progress	Jack McConnachie	
3.0	Look into the cost of solar powered street lighting columns	Liz Marquis	
3.0	Provide figures on energy activity within schools	Liz Marquis	
4.0	Add Local Development Plan SEA to next agenda	Shirley Caine	✓ Done
5.0	Partners to complete activity template prior to each meeting	All	
6.0	Invite BTCV to future meeting to update on green gym pilot.	Sandra Bale	