

North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

Environment Partnership

Minutes of meeting held on 29 January 2010

Attendance

Councillor Tom Barr (**Chair**), North Ayrshire Council
Alex Kirk, Manager, Property Services, North Ayrshire Council
Jack McConnachie, Transportation Manager, North Ayrshire Council
Iain Hossack, Policy Officer (Environment), North Ayrshire Council
Councillor Margie Currie, North Ayrshire Council
Richard Henry, Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Yvonne Hunter, Cleansing Controller, North Ayrshire Council
Joanne Balmer, Programme Manager Healthy North Ayrshire, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (For Marlene McMillan)
Louise Kirk, Access Officer, North Ayrshire Council (For Rob Loney)
Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager, North Ayrshire Council
Pat Doherty, Public Transport Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
Sandra Bale, Policy Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Mandy Hickman, North Ayrshire CHP (For Marlene McMillan)
Bob Baillie, Energy Agency (For Liz Marquis)

Also In Attendance

Shirley Caine, Community Planning Assistant (Chief Executive's), North Ayrshire Council
Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer (Chief Executive's), North Ayrshire Council
Brian Shaw, Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Stewart Brabbs Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Marion Francis, Irvine Bay URC

Apologies

Carol McGinnes, Environmental Partnership Manager, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
Liz Marquis, Director, Energy Agency
Marlene McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Mairi Cunningham, Quality Improvement Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Damien Griffith, Principal Officer Housing, North Ayrshire Council
Kevin McMunn, Chief Environmental Health Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Robert Loney, Representative, Outdoor Access Forum
Jennifer Steadman, Energy Officer, Property Services, North Ayrshire Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of meeting held on 18 December 2009 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

A) LEAF

Sandra Bale advised that following their presentation to the last meeting Leaf had requested that they have a representative attend future meetings. After discussion it was agreed that Liz Marquis/Bob Baillie could feedback to Leaf as they are members of the group and work closely with Leaf.

B) Local Development Plan

Richard Henry advised that the Local Development Plan Main Issues Document is out for consultation until 19 March. This is available www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/localplans

Councillor Barr urged all partners to have a look at this document and comment where appropriate.

C) Glasgow's Climate Change Partnership

Sandra Bale advised that the meeting would not be held now until February. She would attend and report back.

ACTION: SANDRA

4. Irvine Bay URC Environmental Projects

The Group received a presentation from Marion Francis, Irvine Bay URC on environmental projects.

The presentation covered:-

- 9 town centre projects currently underway
- 5 key sites
- enabling strategies
- community engagement
- strategic environmental assessment
- coastal park
- lottery funding options
- Irvine beach park

The group thanked Marion for the presentation.

5. Ayrshire Rivers Trust

The Group received a presentation from Brian Shaw on the work of the Ayrshire Rivers Trust.

The presentation covered:

- The background to Ayrshire Rivers Trust
- Problems in the area with invasive weeds, such as:
 - Giant hogweed
 - Japanese Knotweed
 - Himalayan Balsam
- River Garnock Habitat Survey 2005 & barriers to fish passage

Brian advised that the Rivers Trust are keen to work with CPP partners in North Ayrshire to tackle invasive weeds and barriers to fish passage. The purpose of today's presentation is to make these links with partners.

Yvonne Hunter agreed to speak to Brian outside this meeting regarding litter at riversides. Councillor Barr asked Yvonne to report back to the meeting on this.

ACTION: YVONNE

Councillor Currie thanked the Rivers Trust for their very useful and informative presentation to the group and the possibility of working with other Councils in Ayrshire.

The Rivers Trust website is:- www.ayrshireriverstrust.org

The presentation was noted.

6. WWF's Earth Hour

The Group received the letter dated 1 December 2009 from WWF Scotland on WWF's Earth Hour 2010. Partners were requested to consider participation in this event.

Sandra Bale advised that this is a national event to raise awareness of climate change. She advised that 22 local authorities participated last year, although not North Ayrshire. Earth hour is from 8:30pm –9:30pm on Saturday 27th March 2010.

Sandra suggested that if this is something that the CPP want to participate in, it could be remitted to the sub-group which is looking at community planning week. This was agreed.

ACTION: MORNA

Tom suggested that this group write to the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council to encourage the Council to participate corporately.

ACTION: SANDRA

7. Fair trade: Kilombero Rice Project

The Group received the letter from the Leaders of East Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire Councils on the Kilombero Rice Project.

The letter highlighted that East Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire Councils have been working with Just Trading Scotland to bring fairly traded Kilombero rice to Scotland from the National Association of Smallholding Farmers of Malawi. The rice is now being used regularly by the two Councils and also East Renfrewshire Council and the total amount purchased so far is 700kg, which has generated enough income to send 8 Malawain children to school for a year.

It was agreed that this is a worthwhile project and to take this information to Educational and Catering Services.

ACTION: YVONNE/SANDRA

8. Partners Activity Reports

a) Roads Services

The Group received the activity report from Jack McConnachie, Roads.

The report was noted.

Councillor Currie noted that actions are likely to remain amber, due to the work required to maintain the road infrastructure and the budgetary position. It was also noted that the winter weather had also affected the roads network.

b) Outdoor Access Forum

The Group received the activity report by Rob Loney, Outdoor Access Forum. Louise Kirk, Access Officer provided an update in Rob's absence.

The report was noted.

Louise advised that the Forum is planning to hold a discussion session on the Local Development Plan Main Issues Report. The Forum is also reviewing its membership at the moment and would welcome involvement from CPP partners.

Louise advised that Rob had asked her to highlight an issue the Forum had with the Draft SOA Action Plan 2010/11.

The issue is that 2 actions were proposed under 6e – the core path plan and the work with schools and community organisations. Only the schools and community organisations element has been taken forward and this has caused concern and disappointment within the Forum. The Forum will respond directly to the CPP regarding this and although it appreciates that the SOA cannot list all actions, it is keen to get this action included.

Sandra Bale advised that the Draft SOA Action Plan 2010/11 was discussed at the Management Group meeting in January, and at the request of the Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council all actions were scrutinised thoroughly. Sandra advised that the Action Plan is still out for consultation and any comments will be welcomed by the CPP. Also a new section has been added to the Action Plan, which will list any strategies, and action plans that link to the outcomes.

Louise advised that the Forum might be able to reword these actions.

ACTION: OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Louise advised that the Outdoor Access Forum is holding a consultation day on 15th February regarding the Outdoor Access Strategy.

Councillor Currie thanked Louise for the work she has done regarding the bid for the off road cycle route between Brodick and Corrie.

9. CPP Update

Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer provided an update on CPP activity.

The first Community Planning Week meeting will take place on 2nd February with representative from all strategic partnerships. Morna will report back to the next meeting on progress.

Morna advised that there are still 2 places left on the Adaptive Leadership Training on 15 & 16 February and asked if any representatives from the Group would like to attend. It was agreed that Iain Hossack would attend and Louise Kirk agreed to ask members of the Outdoor Access Forum if they would like to send a representative.

10. Projects requesting funding/information

Cameron Sharp advised that the Country Parks have 6-8 placements in partnership with the Future Jobs Fund to look at restoration of the formal garden at tournament bridge, footpath and biodiversity project. Yvonne Hunter advised that they also have 2 placements for waste awareness officers with the Future Jobs Fund and 4 additional posts to look at fly tipping.

Richard advised that the landfill tax has funding remaining and he is has been contacting previous groups who have expressed an interest. He has had a number of replies and has prepared a list, which was table to the group. Members were also to look at the projects and contact Richard if they had any comments. Richard emphasised that some of these proposals might not be developed; they are just a list of ideas at present. Richard would report back if any of these have been funded, and subsequent bids for next year.

11. AOB

Councillor Barr suggested that the URC may want to come along to a future meeting sooner than 6 months to report on projects.

Iain Hossack advised that the National Ecosystem Assessment is being developed to look at ecosystems and the services they provide. The NEA aims to provide a high-level picture of the current status of the natural environment and developing trends, covering the UK's terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. The assessment will look back 60 years and forward 50 years, to 2060. The aim is for phase 1, Current Status and Trends, to report in the summer of 2010, with phase 2, Future Scenarios and Policy Options, to report in Spring 2011.

Cameron Sharp asked that, now there has been a change in senior management within the Council, could Grounds Maintenance be invited to join the group. Councillor Barr advised that this would be at the discretion of the new manager.

12. Date of Next meeting

This was agreed as Friday 12 March 2010 at 10am.