

## North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

### Environment Partnership

#### Minutes of meeting held on 18 December 2009

##### **Attendance**

Alex Anderson, Economic Development Manager, Economic Development, North Ayrshire Council  
Hugh McGhee, Environmental Health Officer, North Ayrshire Council (For Kevin McMunn)  
Jack McConnachie, Transportation Manager, North Ayrshire Council  
Councillor Tom Barr (**Chair**), North Ayrshire Council  
Sandra Bale, Policy Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Pat Doherty, Public Transport Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)  
Tom Armstrong, North Ayrshire Council (For Cameron Sharp)  
Louise Kirk, Outdoor Access Forum (For Rob Loney)  
Bob Baillie, Advice Centre Manager, Energy Agency  
Jennifer Steadman, Energy Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Richard Henry, Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Mairi Cunningham, Quality Improvement Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Yvonne Hunter, Cleansing Controller, North Ayrshire Council  
Iain Hossack, Policy Officer (Environment), North Ayrshire Council  
Carol McGinnes, Environmental Partnership Manager, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

##### 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  
David Hammond, Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council ( For Item 3)  
Andy Dunn, Consumer Advice Co-ordinator, North Ayrshire Council (For Item 4)  
Warren McIntyre, Carbon Trust (For Item 5)

##### **Apologies**

Damien Griffith, Principal Officer Housing, North Ayrshire Council  
Jimmy Hyslop, Scottish Natural Heritage  
Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager, North Ayrshire Council  
Marlene McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
Liz Marquis, Director, Energy Agency  
Robert Loney, Representative, Outdoor Access Forum  
Kevin McMunn, Chief Environmental Health Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Councillor Margie Currie, North Ayrshire Council  
Alex Kirk, Manager (Design and Maintenance), North Ayrshire Council

#### **1. Welcome**

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

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Iain Hossack asked for a change to the minute with regard to Agenda Item 5 and specifically the last paragraph which should read that an SEA 'could' be carried out and 'could' be flagged to the CPP Board rather than should.

The minutes of the last meeting were then approved.

## **2.1 Matters Arising**

Matters arising from action checklist

Item 2.1 – Sandra Bale advised that the definition of green jobs have been sent by Andy Lee. The definition is from the Department of Work and Pensions. Sandra could circulate this to the group if required.

Item 2.1 – Sandra Bale advised that submissions for the SOA Action Plan have been received from the members of the Carbon Sub-Group.

Item 4- Louise Kirk advised that the Paths for All Study document has now been finalised and that she would circulate to the group.

All other items were complete or covered on the agenda.

## **3.0 Presentation on Local Development Plan**

The Group received a presentation from David Hammond, Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council on the Local Development Plan.

The presentation covered:-

- The background to the Local Development Plan
- The Local Development Plan process
- Setting clear objectives
- New uses for 'old' sites
- How much housing and where
- The future of our town centres
- Rural, coast and the Islands
- Providing infrastructure
- The consultation process and getting involved
- The Next steps

Councillor Barr asked how the sites identified for environmental potential were chosen and how the public can make their views known when this goes to consultation.

David advised that these sites are not confirmed allocations at this stages. They are areas which have been proposed for new development, but these will be subject to public consultation. The main issues report is just the start of the debate and it is an open door starting point for discussion, rather than going out for consultation with a blank canvas. This main issues report will go out to consultation with the public and stakeholders. This consultation will shape the next stage of the plan.

Jack McConnachie asked if there will be another forum for stakeholders (roads, health etc), to feed into.

David advised that when compiling the main issues report extensive consultation took place with various organisations to seek their views. The process will now go back to these stakeholders individually and at public forums to give them the opportunity to feed back their views.

Councillor Barr asked for some clarification on the Scotland Central Green Network.

David advised that this work is trying to connect the green networks that are there at the moment and make this more coherent. There is a lot of derelict land in North Ayrshire that will not be developed soon. Planting is proposed for some of these areas, but again this is the first stage of the process, and the public view will be sought.

Iain Hossack advised that in preparation for this consultation discussion had taken place with Scottish Natural Heritage. SNH advised that they are keen that links are made with the Scottish Central Green Network and proposed areas are the coastal national cycle route and the Garnock Valley.

Iain advised that discussions had also taken place with regard to planting aspen in previously industrial areas as it grows very quickly and their roots can absorb heavy metals, which could be recycled.

The Group thanked David for his presentation.

#### **4.0 Presentation by LEAF/Energy Agency**

The Group received a presentation from Andy Dunn, Consumer Advice Co-ordinator, North Ayrshire Council and Bob Baillie, Advice Centre Manager, Energy Agency on LEAF.

Bob Baillie gave a presentation on the Energy Agency. The presentation covered:

- Background and current activities
- Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre
- Services
- Partnership working and work with public bodies

There was some discussion on the difficulty of engaging with the community and voluntary sector in North Ayrshire. Also it was noted that although there may be funding available for community groups, they do not have the capacity to apply for this funding. It was noted that this seems to be a capacity issue, and that some work is being carried out by North Ayrshire Council to address this.

Bob stressed that anyone involved in an energy project should contact Bob.

The group thanked Bob for this presentation.

Andy Dunn gave a presentation on LEAF. The presentation covered:

- Announcement of increasing energy bills
- Scottish House Condition Survey findings
- Reducing energy use at home
- Fuel poverty
- North Ayrshire Local Energy Advice Forum and the work it does with a range of partners throughout north Ayrshire to provide advice and support
- Organised events
- The energy information pack
- Benefits to local consumers

Andy thanked Bob Baillie, Liz Marquis and Ruth Sutherland from the Energy Agency, Jennifer Steadman, Energy Officer, North Ayrshire Council and the libraries for all their support.

There was some discussion on gathering figures for uptake in different areas in North Ayrshire. Andy advised that they are working on better gathering of information.

There was some discussion on making people aware of the savings that can be made by shopping around for energy suppliers and managing their energy consumption at home.

The Group thanked Andy for his presentation.

## **5.0 Glasgow Climate Change Partnership**

The Group received the reports on Glasgow's Climate Change Partnership and report from Warren McIntyre, Carbon Trust.

Sandra advised that the Council's Chief Executive had suggested that the CPP might be interested in setting up something similar in North Ayrshire. Reports had been circulated at the last meeting, but the Group felt at last meeting that they needed more information and further details on the what the impact has been for Glasgow and what has been achieved. It had been agreed to invite Warren McIntyre along to this meeting to give the Group more information.

Warren advised that, as outlined within the report, the Glasgow City Council's Extended Corporate Management Team discussed the potential for the members of Glasgow's CPP to join with the Council in a Climate Change Partnership (GCCP) with the aim of reducing carbon emissions on a City wide basis. Partners officially signed up to this on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

The GCCP aims to bring together public, private and voluntary sector organisations with a shared recognition of the need to adapt to the challenges of climate change.

Warren advised that GCCP is still in its early stages and a meeting will take place in January to check their progress against their actions.

Warren advised that he would be happy to work with North Ayrshire CPP if they decided that they wanted to develop a Climate Change Partnership.

There was some discussion on how GCCP agreed their baseline information and also the boundary area of some partners.

Warren advised that GCCP's annual report would be ready in May 2010, and this should provide further information on this.

It was agreed to explore further setting up a Climate Change Partnership for North Ayrshire. These recommendations may need to be taken back to the CPP Board for their input, as some partners, e.g. Police and Fire, are not represented on this group.

Councillor Barr suggested that someone from North Ayrshire CPP attend the GCCP meeting in January and feedback to this group, with some form of recommendation being made to the Board in March 2010.

It was also agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

**ACTION: SANDRA**

Councillor Barr thanked Warren for coming along to the meeting today and invited him to attend a future meeting if required.

## **6.0 SOA Action Plan 2009/10 Quarter 2 Report**

The Group received the report by Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer on the SOA Action Plan 2009/10 Quarter 2 Report.

Morna advised that all actions were green with the exception of two actions at 10c, which were amber. Reasons for this are given in the report.

Sandra advised that an action under 1a with regard to park and ride should be amber instead of green.

The report was noted.

## **7.0 SOA Action Plan 2010/11 – Prioritising of Actions**

The Group received the report by Sandra Bale, Policy Officer on the SOA Action Plan 2010/11 and prioritising of actions.

Sandra advised that at last meeting it was noted that all strategic partnerships had been tasked with proposing draft actions for the SOA Action Plan 2010/11. Partners were asked to submit proposed actions by the end of this month. The report contained the actions that had been received to date.

Sandra also advised the group that the CPP Co-ordinator had suggested between 3 and 5 actions for each outcome.

After discussion the group noted that some actions would be removed, some would be retained and some would be reworded. Sandra would make the relevant changes.

**ACTION: SANDRA**

Information was still to be submitted from:

- Jack McConnachie and SPT for action 1a
- Yvonne Hunter for action 14a
- Clarification from SPT and Police on their carbon statements

**ACTION: PARTNERS**

These should be submitted to Sandra Bale. Sandra also agreed to seek clarification from the CPP Team on whether FNA projects should be contained within the action plan.

**ACTION: SANDRA**

## **8.0 COSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group**

The Group received the written report by Councillor Margie Currie, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

The report was noted in Councillor Currie's absence.

## **9.0 Sub-Group Report**

The Group received the report by Iain Hossack, Policy Officer, Environment, North Ayrshire Council on Ayrshire Biodiversity Group.

The report was noted.

## **10.0 Partners Activity Reports**

The Group receive the reports by:

Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager on Country Parks

The report was noted.

Marlene McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner, NHS Ayrshire and Arran on Health

The report was noted.

Rob Loney, Outdoor Access Forum on North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

Louise Kirk spoke to the report in Rob's absence.

Louise had been asked by the Outdoor Access Forum to highlight the need for more partnership working to ensure effective contribution to the delivery of the SOA, in particular better linkage is required between the Environment Partnership and Community Health Partnership.

The Forum also noted financial resources are required to draw down external funding resources, and the impact this will have on organisations.

The report was noted.

## **11.0 Community Planning Week 2010**

The Group receive the report by Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer on Community Planning Week 2010.

The report provided a summary of the events that had taken place in 2009 and the lessons learned, and noted the dates for 2010.

Morna asked partners to think of any ideas for events for 2010 and lead officers to take these forward. Lead officers should be identified by the end of January 2010.

Louise Kirk advised that the Outdoor Access Forum has scheduled a meeting for during CP week, so that they could feed into it.

Iain Hossack advised that Michele Gilmour, Communications, North Ayrshire had been very helpful with publicity for the 2009 event.

Andy Dunn advised that the Trading Standards officer at Bridgegate could be used for an event.

It was agreed that Morna would arrange a meeting with interested partners.

**ACTION: MORNA**

## **12.0 Projects requesting funding/information (standing item)**

Partners were asked to advise the group of any large projects seeking funding or other assistance.

Louise Kirk advised that there is an organisation on Arran who are seeking funding to carry out a feasibility study for off road cycle route between Brodick and Corrie. They are currently looking at a LEADER bid but are looking for public sector support. If the study concludes that an off road route is not feasible, then they would look at making the current road suitable.

This was noted.

## **13.0 AOB**

Richard Henry provided the following update:

### Town Centre Regeneration Fund

West Kilbride Community Initiative Ltd have been awarded £431,000 towards £1.6 m project to convert the Barony Church to create a contemporary crafts, exhibition, and activities centre which will provide accredited training and volunteering opportunities for local people. The project has also received a recent Big Lottery Fund award of £870,560 and the Council awarded the project £25,000 from Landfill Communities Fund back in September 2009.

### Recent Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted by the Council:

Ayrshire Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Wind Farm Development - locational guidance to direct wind farm development to appropriate locations and conversely identifying locations to be afforded significant protection from development taking account of a range of environmental and technical considerations e.g. historic environment, regional and local natural heritage designations, biodiversity, tourism and recreational interests, cycling and walking routes, communities, amenity considerations including noise and shadow flicker, aviation, and defence interests including radar systems, broadcasting installations etc

Supplementary Planning Guidance - Landscape capacity for Wind Farm Development within North Ayrshire. Council commissioned Carol Anderson Landscape Architect to carry out a landscape capacity study for wind farm development to help address pressure from developers for wind farm development particularly within the upland area of mainland North Ayrshire. The study considers landscape and visual capacity for wind farm development and covers the whole of the Council area including Arran and the Cumbraes. The guidance prepared will support the Ayrshire SPG for Wind farm development by providing an indication of the sensitivity of landscapes to various forms of wind farm development as well as potential impacts on views and visibility and cumulative landscape and visual effects.

***Both of these to be used in assessment of wind farm applications and policy formulation in new LDP***

Landfill Communities Fund

Council's allocation had been previously reported to this Group back in September 2009. It now appears that the Council may have additional funds available (up to £30,000) for spend in the current year and will welcome new bids for eligible environmental improvement works asap.

Iain Hossack advised that the environmental report for the local development plan will be on the Council's website for people to view.

**14.0 Date of Next meeting**

The Group noted the meeting dates for 2010 and agreed the first meeting as Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010.