

## North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

### Environment Partnership

Minute of Meeting held on 29 October 2010



#### Attendance

Councillor Tom Barr (**Chair**), North Ayrshire Council  
Sandra Bale, Policy and Performance Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Hugh McGhee, Environmental Health Officer, North Ayrshire Council (For Kevin McMunn)  
Jack McConnachie, Roads, North Ayrshire Council  
Jennifer Steadman, Energy Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Kate Whittaker, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)  
Iain Hossack, Policy Officer (Environment), North Ayrshire Council  
Richard Henry, Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager, North Ayrshire Council  
Yvonne Hunter, Cleansing Controller, North Ayrshire Council  
Liz Marquis, Energy Agency  
Mairi Cunningham, Quality Improvement Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Alex Kirk, Manager (Design & Maintenance), North Ayrshire Council  
Irene Sinclair, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (for Marlene McMillan)

#### Also in Attendance

Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Lesley Jeffery, Community Planning Assistant, North Ayrshire Council (Minute)

#### Apologies

Councillor Margie Currie, North Ayrshire Council  
Marlene McMillan, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
Graeme Walker, Scottish Natural Heritage  
Carol McGinnes, Environmental Partnership Manager, SEPA  
Alex Anderson, Economic Development, North Ayrshire Council  
Kevin McMunn, Environmental Services, North Ayrshire Council  
Damien Griffith, Housing, North Ayrshire Council

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

#### **2. Minute of Previous Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

The minute was accepted.

## 2.1 Matters Arising

### a. CoSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group

The full note from the meeting is attached for information.

### b. Central Scotland Green Network

Richard Henry reported that the URC had awarded £20,000 for a study on further greening of industrial areas and that there is new supplementary planning guidance on greening concepts as part of the Local Development Plan

### c. Home Insulation Scheme

Jennifer Steadman was pleased to announce that the UHIS bid had been successful and that £190,000 had been awarded. The scheme was launched in Ardeer on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October.

### d. Decision Tree

Cameron Sharp and Councillor Barr still to meet.

**Action: Cameron Sharp/Councillor Tom Barr**

## 3. Outcomes Modelling – Amanda Coulthard

Amanda Coulthard, Assistant Director, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, on behalf of the CPP Management Group is meeting with all thematic groups. She explained that three priorities were identified by the CPP Management Group on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and there is a need to evidence what is currently happening in these areas across all partners, including the voluntary sector.

The three priorities are Tackling Health Inequalities; tackling worklessness and tackling community safety. Amanda further explained that a report is to be submitted to the CPP Board in December to allow time to feed into partner budgets, etc, but in the short term the Environment Partnership needs to map current areas of activity and see if any areas of duplication can be highlighted and evidence value for money.

Amanda added that although regeneration is not an individual priority it is a theme which runs through all three priorities. A report was submitted to the SMT on 27<sup>th</sup> October which provides more detail and which may be forwarded to the group thereafter.

**Action: Lesley Jeffery**

Cameron Sharp suggested that Amanda speak to the senior ranger at Eglinton Park. Rob Loney, Outdoor Access Forum added that the forum are doing a lot of work and has been trying to tap into NHS for some time.

Irene Sinclair said that NHS is running an Employability and Health training course with a pilot session on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. It aims to make people more

employable and provide training and asked if anyone in the group who works with the unemployed would like to attend.

**Action: ALL**

It was also suggested that the cycle schemes run by Health and the council could be joined.

Amanda said that Lesley would forward the Outcomes Triangles to the group and asked the group to map detail of current activity within their service area even if done by another agency, the level of funding and end date (if applicable) and where it fits into the triangle (and it can fit into more than one). This information is to be forwarded to Lesley Jeffery ([ljeffery@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ljeffery@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)) by 12<sup>th</sup> November please.

**Action: ALL**

Amanda added that North Ayrshire is more committed to partnership than East and South Ayrshire with East Ayrshire still committed to the remaining four years of their Community Plan.

Councillor Barr reiterated that these would be our priorities for the next couple of years and there is a need to be a review for the future.

**Action: ALL / Lesley Jeffery**

#### **4. Bio Blitz Presentation**

Iain Hossack provided an excellent presentation on the recent Bioblitz event which tied in with the Big on the Beach event which was a little late in the year for the Bioblitz event but past experience has shown that a Bioblitz event on its own is not well supported by the public.

Iain gave details of the poster competition which attracted 300 entries. It is hoped that by asking young people what they want we can use this to stimulate the economy by linking to North Ayrshire.

Iain said that he was disappointed with the engagement on the Experts Day with very little local turnout and it was difficult to get partners involved although one partner would consider doing their own event next year!

In conclusion, Iain noted that:

- It is better to link with other events
- We need to encourage greater objectivity and partnership working
- Soft data is better than hard
- 300 entries to the competition was excellent and these are currently being assessed by the Child Psychology team at Edinburgh University to see if there is any reason why 62% of the entries contained flowers or butterflies.
- There is a framework set for next year.

Cameron Sharp agreed that there were issues with the involvement of different organisations but there has been excellent feedback on the event so far. Iain

confirmed there is funding to hold another event next year and Cameron suggested that he agree a date early which can then be inserted into Education Department leaflets.

#### **Action: Iain Hossack / Cameron Sharp**

The presentation described Bioblitz: an assessment of three aspects of ongoing Local Biodiversity Action Plan delivery for our coast, particularly related to a live aspiration to develop a coastal park in the Irvine Bay Area. Bioblitz ran from the 1st-6th August and aligned with another event called "Big on the Beach". Because of this alignment, Bioblitz enjoyed significant improvement in attendance and participation by the general public, compared to previous similar events elsewhere in Scotland. Bioblitz addressed three LBAP issues: (a) hard data (direct recording of species); (b) soft data (consultation with experts and the public); and (c) objective participation by LBAP groups and others. Taking each in turn:

(a) The hard data is still being compiled and may yet take a bit of time. However initial results suggest that although we have many important species, the sites that were assessed did not indicate this area is special or unique in terms of biodiversity.

(b) The soft data gathering focussed on (i) gathering expert opinion, prior to the event, on the priority sites to visit; and (ii) gathering public opinion by means of a competition on what biodiversity means to them. For the former, Bioblitz quickly identified the key strategic areas for biodiversity within the coastal park area. For the latter, over 300 responses were gathered which suggest 62% of respondents (age 2-14 years of age) recognise butterflies and flowers as their prime biodiversity species. This result should assist social and economic considerations for the coastal park but first the results are to undergo critical review from a leading research group in child psychology; this should assist improvements to this form of data collation next year.

(c) Although bioblitz expert numbers were roughly the same compared to other Bioblitz events elsewhere in Scotland, the support from local recording groups was disappointing. It is recognised that there are very few local recorders on the ground, established through "soft data" consultations. Nevertheless there was recorded turbulence from an organisation of significance in the local area. This turbulence extended to pressure on other groups not to engage with the process; possible motives including being the desire to implement something similar next year. Such action was demonstrated as destabilising and diluting; because of this, the prime objective to forward biodiversity is significantly reduced. IH highlighted that such behaviour is scientifically recognised as ubiquitous and that perhaps the cause of such behaviour relates to reward systems that generally recognise individualism and not groups or partnerships. IH took the opportunity to re-emphasise "National Standards for Community Engagement" ([http://www.scdc.org.uk/uploads/standards\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.scdc.org.uk/uploads/standards_booklet.pdf)), a document that North Ayrshire's community planning team already use to introduce and forward community planning process: .

In summary, over 15000 people attended this year's Bioblitz. The intention is for a similar bioblitz event next year. IH is inviting all interested parties to join in, more fully, towards the objective centre to forward biodiversity-data recording.

## **5. Partner Report Updates**

### **North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum**

Rob Loney highlighted that work is ongoing on the NCN Feasibility Study and the options for the route were examined by consultants and partners at a meeting on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010. They are also developing a local signage scheme starting in West Kilbride. As stated earlier, the Forum believes that better links with Health would help OAF to contribute to the delivery of the SOA.

### **NHS Ayrshire and Arran**

Irene Sinclair presented the report of activity being undertaken in relation to outdoor access by NHS Ayrshire and Arran for the group.

Also, she provided an update on the Green Gym by Joanne Balmer as follows:

The green gym continues to be developed and there is a service level agreement with BTCV. Green gyms will continue at Bridgend in Kilbirnie and at Eglinton Park, One will start in August 2011 in Ardeer. Training for leaders is being developed and West Kilbride Community Council and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at Auchendarvie Academy are being supported to take out Green Gym licences. There have also been discussions with North Ayrshire Council about using the cycle network. Irene confirmed that the groups will continue to be supported until leaders can be identified and trained and partners can then withdraw.

Cameron Sharp said that there had been some stumbles with the Green Gym at Eglinton but since BTCV have become involved things are improving. Cameron has also heard concerns about volunteers being identified to take over the green gyms but groups like Friends of Eglinton as well as the assistance of BTCV will help and Irene assured Cameron that groups will be supported until they no longer need support.

Sandra Bale highlighted the Street Nurse programme which used Trading Standards in Irvine as one of their bases. She said this had been a good partnership as it brought people into Trading Standards and helped them with consumer rights issues as well.

It was also suggested that NHS and the Council work together in promoting use of cycles in secondary school age children as cycle usage declines during this period. Irene agreed to check with the travel / sustainable travel person within NHS and arrange a meeting with Jack McConnachie.

**Action: Irene Sinclair**

Irene also agreed to contact the person responsible for the bike scheme as the Council have a similar scheme and there could be scope for joint promotions. Jennifer Steadman will also discuss separately with Irene about the Travel Plan Working Group.

**Action: Jennifer Steadman / Irene Sinclair**

Irene confirmed that lifestyle advisers are not the same of street nurses. They are part of a pilot where everyone in regeneration areas was offered a Keep Well appointment and the lifestyle advisers offer advice on weight loss, referrals to exercise programmes and vouchers to weight losing programmes. Irene also confirmed that the health promotion shop is at Ailsa Hospital.

Councillor Barr thanked Irene for her report.

## **6. CPP Update**

Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer highlighted a couple of the issues which were discussed at the recent Board meeting; members of the Compact Reference Group had attended to express their concern about the lack of

consultation during the budget process and also to provide an update on the Third Sector Interface which is progressing well and will be completed by March 2011 and thereafter a member of the Third Sector Interface will be on the CPP Board.

Following the SIMD, a response was submitted to the Scottish Government and to MPs and MSPs to seek their support for additional intervention. Council officers have now met with civil servants to discuss the priority issues of worklessness and health improvement in the area and Elma Murray, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council, has written to Peter Housden, Permanent Secretary, Scottish Government stating that North Ayrshire would wish to be considered for any government initiatives in respect of the two priority issues.

Morna also highlighted the recent successful trip by some community workers and councillors from Northern Ireland which had been organised by George Thorley of SOLACE. The visitors reported that they had enjoyed the experience and particularly enjoyed seeing the projects which were visited (Eglinton Park for Future Jobs Fund, Greenwood for Campus Cops, KA Leisure and Firefighters in Schools, Vineburgh Project, Healthy North Ayrshire and CEIS). Morna thanked those in this group who were involved in organising and facilitating these visits.

## **7. Projects Requesting Funding/Information (Standing Item)**

Richard Henry reported that 11 schemes were approved for a total of £130,000 at the last Executive Committee Meeting. Those successful schemes are:

- Garnock Valley Allotment Association: development of a new allotment garden area at Sersley Drive, Kilbirnie;
- St Columba Experience, Largs: provision of new toilet facilities to the B Listed Church and development of a piazza area for outdoor activities;
- Briidge Church, Vaults lane, Kilwinning: structural repairs and improvements to the Church Hall at Vaults Lane;
- Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development Enterprise (PRYDE), Kilwinning: refurbishment of the disused public house into a community hub;
- Easmor, Isle of Arran: further footpath works at Easmor beauty site near Kildonan;
- Irvine Victoria FC: perimeter fencing to the football park;
- Portencross Castle: provision of an environmental composting toilet;
- Ayrshire Rivers Trust: invasive weeds control project;
- Ardrossan Sea Cadets: hard landscaping works to Sea Cadets operational base at Harbour Road Ardrossan;
- Mure Church, Irvine: creation of a sensory garden within the Church grounds as a place of peace and for meditation;

In addition the following project is to receive LCF assistance if we have any excess funds left at the end of the year:

- RSPB: programme of conservation works to 18ha site at Bogside Flats, Irvine;

A further 3 projects were recommended to re-apply for LCF assistance next year as they were considered premature at this stage:

- Lochshore Community Association: feasibility study for a new community facility/clubhouse at Lochshore, Kilbirnie;
- St John's Church, Largs: extensive external and internal repair works to the B Listed Church;
- Kilwinning Community Sports Club: development of a new clubhouse and a full size all weather synthetic pitch;

Richard also confirmed that landfill funding can be used for community groups and halls as it is not a statutory service. It was also mentioned that there is a Scottish Executive Trust which backs community transfers which community groups can link into. Councillor Barr said there are issues with community halls and access to lottery funding and that we will need to wait until the review of community centres is completed.

## 8. AOCB

### **Cameron Sharp**

#### Roadside Verge Survey

Cameron will provide the final version of this report to the group for the next meeting.

**Action: Cameron Sharp**

#### Ardeer Quarry Nature Reserve

This will be completed in two weeks.

#### Carbon Management

Cameron was asked by Craig Hatton to try out the new electric van purchased by the Council. He encouraged others in the group to try the vehicles if invited. In his opinion dual fuel is a far better option as the van (Transit size) cost £60,000 with replacement batteries costing £25,000. The initial additional cost of this would be covered by Scottish Government funding.

Saltire Award

Councillor Barr announced that the Ranger Service and Roads Service had been awarded a Saltire Award for the Tournament Bridge at Eglinton Park.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The meeting closed at 11.15am.

