

## North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

### Environment Partnership

Minute of Meeting held on 10 September 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  
Councillor Margie Currie, North Ayrshire Council  
Kate Whittaker, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)  
Marlene McMillan, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
Louise Kirk, NA Outdoor Access Forum (for Rob Loney)  
Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager, North Ayrshire Council  
Liz Marquis, Energy Agency  
Graeme Walker, Scottish Natural Heritage  
Mairi Cunningham, Quality Improvement Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Alex Kirk, Manager (Design & Maintenance), North Ayrshire Council

#### Also in Attendance

Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Lesley Jeffery, Community Planning Assistant, North Ayrshire Council (Minute)  
Audrey Hillis, Community Learning and Development, North Ayrshire Council

#### Apologies

Iain Hossack, Policy Officer (Environment), North Ayrshire Council  
Richard Henry, Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Carol McGinnes, Environmental Partnership Manager, SEPA  
Alex Anderson, Economic Development, North Ayrshire Council  
Kevin McMunn, Environmental Services, North Ayrshire Council  
Yvonne Hunter, Cleansing Controller, 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 – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**

The minute was accepted.

## 2.1 Matters Arising

### a. Central Scotland Green Network

Sandra Bale updated the group on the progress: the Ayrshire Joint Planning Steering group has agreed to explore the potential of forming a regional green network partnership within Ayrshire to support the Central Scotland Green Network Partnership Board in the co-ordination and implementation of the CSGN National Development. John Esslemont of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team is the liaison officer with the CSGN Board on our collective behalf and has to develop this remit as part of the Business Plan for the team.

### b. Roadside Ditches

Louise Kirk provided an update on behalf of Rob Loney of NAOAF. She confirmed that a letter is being prepared which will be sent to Angus Bodie, Head of Infrastructure & Design in the first instance.

### c. Big on the Beach

Councillor Margie Currie wished it noted that the recent Big on the Beach was an excellent and free event for children and the organisation of the event had been excellent.

### d. Decision Tree

Due to work commitments, this meeting has not yet taken place but Cameron Sharp agreed to call Councillor Barr and try to set a date.

**Action: Cameron Sharp**

### e. Details of Nudist Beach

Cameron Sharp confirmed that this is now being progressed by Jim Leckie of Education and Skills.

## 3. Irvine Bay Regeneration – Presentation by Marion Francis

Marion Francis gave presentation on the work of Irvine Bay and afterwards answered the following questions.

Regarding the proposals for the coastal park, Councillor Barr asked if anything had been learned from the discussions with Fife Council. Marion replied that the project needs serious resourcing and commitment from all partners, but that Fife Council started earlier (2002) than North Ayrshire and that the financial situation was very different then. Also, Fife may have better assets than North Ayrshire (five blue star beaches and St Andrew's), but it could be done.

The group was very interested in the beach hut which had been designed by Scott Mitchell of St Matthew's Academy for the Big on the Beach event. Marion confirmed that it could be replicated in other materials and used as a shelter in a number of different areas. Cameron Sharp was particularly interested in its

design as an alternative to a wigwam for the camping site which is being progressed at Eglinton Park.

Marion confirmed that additional carparking is being considered in the toilet block / aquarium area of Irvine Beachpark.

Marion responded to concerns about the current financial situation and said that the community engagement events, like Big on the Beach which had been a great success are not costly. A lot of their work is in partnership with the private sector although there are some projects, like the industrial centre in Stevenston which Irvine Bay is building in order to kickstart the economy in this area.

Louise Kirk took this opportunity to remind the group that Ayrshire Leader funding is available for rural projects and is offering up to 90% of costs to generate projects in the area.

#### **4. Partner Activity Reports**

##### North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum – Louise Kirk

Louise presented the report from the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum and gave an update on progress. NCN Feasibility study is ongoing and information was given to the Arran Banner and also on Navigate.

Further funding applications have been submitted to Sustrans Scotland and the Sustrans funded projects will have a public consultation In October / November 2010. Path improvements projects are also being investigated by BTCV Scotland and Healthy North Ayrshire as part of Green Gym programme. The Forum is also investigating training and development opportunities as a result of the Sus It Out Plus report. Louise confirmed that the training would be cascaded from the NAOAF to train others.

#### **5. Bio Blitz Update**

Iain Hossack was unable to attend today's meeting and this item is to be deferred to the next meeting.

**Action: Lesley Jeffery / Iain Hossack**

#### **6. Single Outcome Agreement Q1 Progress Report**

Morna Rae presented the Q1 report and said that there were no issues regarding the content of the report.

#### **7. Report from CoSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group**

Councillor Margie Currie presented an update from the meeting of the above group which took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

She said that there is a constraint on projects due to the spending review, Council budgets and a lack of Scottish Government funding.

The Zero Recycling Campaign which ended in May was successful and a further campaign will start in November.

Carbon Metric Tonnage measurements are being changed. What was 33% using the old system will now be 27%.

The land use strategy is due by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and a joint CoSLA / SOLACE response is to be done. This strategy is updated every five years. Councillor Currie to forward the information to Jack McConnachie although the consultation period may have ended.

**Action: Councillor Margie Currie**

Only three councils have so far signed up to Plugged in Places which supplies electric vehicle plug stations. Submissions are due by 28<sup>th</sup> October but in the current climate local authorities are unlikely to provide funding.

Councillor Currie gave the climate change information to Jennifer Steadman. A copy of the note of the meeting will be distributed with the minute.

**Action: Lesley Jeffery**

## **8. Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Support Scheme**

Sandra Bale presented the report for information. Transport Scotland are offering gap funding to CPPs to help purchase low carbon vehicles. North Ayrshire's share of the funding is £105,000. The information was forwarded to CPP members asking if they were interested in this funding. The Council's Head of Environment and Related Services had indicated he would be able to take up the allocation. It is estimated that the funding would be enough for the difference in costs between a large, medium and small vehicle and a charging station installed in the council's transport garage which would be available to partners as well.

Kate Whittaker stated that SPT will offer advice on community transport if required.

**Post Meeting Note:** The funding is available for hybrid vehicles in some cases.

## **9. Home Insulation Scheme**

Jennifer gave details of a current bid to the Scottish Government's Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS) to provide energy efficient measures to help take people out of fuel poverty. If successful she will provide an update at the next meeting.

The bid, supported by Councillor Tom Barr, is for the loft / cavity wall insulation of 4,500 properties in Stevenston which has the most fuel poor people.

The project will follow similar schemes run by other local authority areas of SOLAS engineers visiting homes after an initial letter is sent to the households in the area. Generally, it is only free to those on low incomes however, UHIS will pay the contribution which is to be made by those householders considered able to pay. Liz Marquis added that it has been shown that geographically zoning is more effective than targeting specific properties.

Louise Kirk suggested that the Healthy Futures which is a health and wellbeing improvement programme in Stevenston is working with the same group and can pass contact details. It was also suggested that Communications could offer assistance and Jennifer confirmed they had already agreed to assist if the bid is successful.

Liz Marquis warned that private companies often target the areas which UHIS are working in and Jennifer should ensure that the team providing the work will be SOLAS North Ayrshire.

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

Louise Kirk reiterated the information about the Ayrshire Leader funding. She confirmed that she had already spoken with Richard Henry who deals with the landfill tax grants.

## **11. CPP Update**

### Community Planning Week report

Morna Rae distributed copies of the Community Planning Week report for information. She added that next year it is hoped to tie in with events which are already planned and asked partners to email her if they have any events planned.

**Action: ALL**

### Northern Ireland Visit

40 Councillors from Northern Ireland are visiting North Ayrshire on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October to find out more about how Community Planning Partnerships work and will be visiting some CPP projects including Eglinton Park where they will learn about the Future Jobs Fund posts. It is also possible that some representatives from Eglinton growers may be able to attend.

## **12. AOCB**

### **Cameron Sharp**

#### Worksheets

Cameron distributed copies of worksheets he has developed for use in schools. There are six levels of these and he hopes to roll out to other departments to use as a teaching aid.

Cameron to confirm if he can attend a workshop for parents on 23<sup>rd</sup> October to discuss the worksheets.

**Action: Cameron Sharp**

#### Rare Species

Cameron also told the group about the rare species find of gooseberry gall and a Sorbus Pseudofennica, related to the Sorbus Arranensis which has been found in Speirs School in Beith and there is now a seed bank to grow more of these trees.

### Purchase of VW Golf

Cameron informed the group that the recent article in the Irvine Times about the vehicle purchased for Eglinton Park had been incorrect and that it was a good purchase for the park.

### **Home Energy Fair**

Liz Marquis advised there is a Home Energy Fair taking place on Saturday at Auchencruive with a bio-fuel shuttle bus from Ayr Station. She added that utility companies will now pay a feed in tariff to people who supply the national grid and there are five solar companies attending the event. Furthermore, heat pumps and generators may be available next year.

### **Ayrshire and Arran Update**

Marlene McMillan provided some information about what NHS Ayrshire and Arran were doing in relation to outdoor access.

Louise Kirk advised that the information supplied by Marlene is to form part of a report she is completing for the Council's Chief Executive on the links between the Outdoor Access Forum and Health and once completed she will bring to this group.

NHS and NAC have funded a programme for staff on Nordic Walking including the training and purchase of poles. Street nurses will also carry out assessments at the beginning, midway and end of the programme.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010.