



To: GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

On: 01 APRIL 2016

Report by:

Oliver Reid, Lead Officer
Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council

**GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11 FEBRUARY 2016**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the meeting of the Greener Communities sub group which took place on 11 February 2016. The minute of the meeting is attached as an appendix to this report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of the appendix to this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 To ensure the main aims, objectives and priorities of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board are achieved, it was agreed to create sub groups to focus on the four workstreams of the Board: Greener Communities; Greener Transport; Greener Housing; and Carbon Management and Waste Reduction.

- 3.2 The Greener Communities sub-group was established in 2015 led by John Wilby of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities, assisted by Iain Cunningham of Engage Renfrewshire. The first meeting of the group was held in April 2015 when it was agreed that the purpose of the group was to network, share information, and discuss Greener initiatives being carried out by community groups across Renfrewshire.

4. Community Involvement/Engagement

- 4.1 The community groups which are represented at the Greener Communities sub-group are: Renfrewshire Council; Forum for Empowering Communities; Engage Renfrewshire; Environmental Training Team; The Forestry Commission; Royal Horticultural Society; Sustrans; LEAP; Eadha Enterprises; and Kibble. Invitations are submitted to other community representatives when appropriate to the agenda.

Author: Jean Brown, Planning and Performance Officer, Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council. Tel: 0141 618 7576

E-mail: jean.brown@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

**RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING
PARTNERSHIP MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF
GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD
GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB-GROUP
HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2016
ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE,
10 FALCON CRESCENT, PAISLEY**

IN ATTENDANCE

Iain Cunningham (Chair), Engage Renfrewshire; John Wilby, Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities; Ian Williams, Environmental Training Team; Angela Smith, Royal Horticultural Society; Stephanie Wilson, Kibble; Mary McLuskey, Keep Scotland Beautiful; Maria Corrigan, Kirsty Wright, Andy Summers, Steve Edwards Jean Brown, all Renfrewshire Council

APOLOGIES

Derek Shannan, Forestry Commission; Peter Livingstone, Eadha Enterprises; Joe Waclawski, SUSTRANS; Scott Duncan, LEAP; Sharon Marklow, Allison Scott, Mark Faichney, all Renfrewshire Council

1.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Greener Communities sub-group held on 17 th December 2015. No issues	Agreed
2.	FEEDBACK FROM GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD (01-02-16) A summary of the last Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board meeting was submitted and noted.	
3.	MEMBER UPDATES Steve Edwards SE confirmed that following staffing changes, work with the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum will continue, with the Local Green Network projects a priority area of work, subject to the availability of funding. He also confirmed that he is aiming to refresh the Local Biodiversity Action Plan from 2004 –this will be responsive to community needs and will be a smarter slimmed down version.	



3.	<p>KIBBLE</p> <p>SW confirmed she is employed as Zero Waste Co-ordinator, working with schools and community groups across Renfrewshire to promote waste reduction and recycling. This involves working with the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Place Our Families Project in Renfrew • Environmental Training Team • Families First Project • Developing a zero waste pack in conjunction with KSB for distribution in schools • Cooking classes under the Eat Better Feel Better banner <p>It was noted that a new project is being introduced to Renfrewshire where people are encouraged to make an extra meal and freeze and pass on to a homeless or disadvantaged person.</p> <p>It was noted that Kibble also run a scheme for repairing and recycling bikes – SW to find out more and advise at next meeting.</p>	SW
	<p>ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY</p> <p>AS advised that the RHS are working at bringing community groups together for growing and gardening projects. Although covering the West of Scotland, AS confirmed Renfrewshire is a priority as there is a lot of potential for improvement. A number of successful projects currently underway are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linwood High School working with Linwood Development Trust and together helping local primary schools. • Working with Communities First project with Grow in Glenburn and Barnardos – work is ongoing developing a site with a 'grow to eat' programme underway with ex young offenders from Polmont. • Promoting 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and 'Bloom' groups across Renfrewshire - funding now available for these projects • Creating links with the work being carried out by community groups and local businesses. • Providing education initiatives in schools, teaching pupils where their food comes from. • Providing training courses for school teachers (a chargeable service) with Renfrewshire having the best attended courses in Scotland. • Promoting the 'Adopt a Space' programme where community groups are encouraged to enhance the work being carried out by the council e.g. planting flowers in areas where the council currently maintain the grass. <p>AS advised that there is good work being carried out by the Good Shepherd Centre in Bishopton and they are keen to expand this work beyond their own premises. She also confirmed that they work in conjunction with the Saltire Award and Young Scot, enabling pupils to complete their community assistance requirements.</p>	



	<p>PAISLEY TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES</p> <p>MC advised the group that the registration process for the Purple Flag application is due to be completed by 30th June 2016. A working group is in place but more community involvement is required. MC to circulate information to encourage more volunteers. The Purple Flag area is yet to be determined but it is expected to be the B.I.D. area, the Observatory and finishing at Glasgow Road.</p> <p>MC confirmed that community volunteers are required to create a working group relating to dog fouling. There is a change in legislation from 1st April with all dogs now required to be microchipped and the FPN for dog fouling increased to £80. The priority of the group will be to encourage responsible dog ownership.</p> <p>MC advised that a new Police Scotland led group, Renfrewshire Rural Task Force, has been set up to develop partnership opportunities surrounding issues relating to rural crime such as: flytipping; theft of farm equipment; trade waste issues; theft or damage to livestock; and dog control issues. A day of action is planned for 30th March 2016, centring around a cycle route. Police/wardens will carry out patrols engaging with users on dog fouling issues, littering etc. Volunteers are required to enable wider community involvement, e.g tidying up a unsightly area, wild planting, Bee diverse etc. Volunteers should contact Cassie Glass of Police Scotland expressions of interest and specifically what you can do on the day.</p>	<p>MC</p>
	<p>SUSTRANS</p> <p>IC summarised an update provided by JW.</p> <p>There are around 40 volunteers in Renfrewshire carrying out a variety of work on cycle routes NCN 7 and 75 with a number of biodiversity workdays planned.</p> <p>A feasibility and research study is underway for these routes is underway and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing who and how many people use the routes • Capture what's missing for art, growing, sport and play • Engaging with staff at RAH <p>A video of route N7 has been produced highlighting the variety of wildlife which uses the area, after dark.</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING TEAM</p> <p>IW advised that the Environmental Training Team are continuing with their environmental work and have had experience of residents showing willingness to participate when they see a presence in their area, making improvements. He also advised that the better weather makes it easier to carry out partnership working with work currently ongoing with Capability Scotland.</p>	



	<p>ENGAGE</p> <p>IC confirmed that gardening training courses have been delivered at the Disability Resource Centre, in conjunction with the Environmental Trust, with another 4 planned throughout 2016/17.</p> <p>A meeting is planned in the next week with Tesco to look at ways to reduce their food waste – an update on this will be brought to the next group.</p> <p>IC confirmed that a community artist is carrying out work in school in Renfrew, picking litter from the playground and helping the pupils create art with it.</p> <p>KEEP SCOTLAND BEAUTIFUL</p> <p>MM from KSB delivered a presentation on the projects currently being delivered by the organisation and confirmed that KSB ensure they link to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the recently launched ‘Litter Pick Plus’ toolkit, supported by Zero Waste Scotland. When groups register online they can receive litter bags, tabards etc. to help with litter picks. • As part of Beautiful Scotland’s 50th anniversary, Bee Diverse seed kits and leaflets are being issued to all members to encourage planting which will attract bees. • A new National Award for Environmental Excellence has been launched, aimed at both public and private sector organisations. <p>MM also advised that a Young Reporters event is being held in March in Stirling and a new dedicated member of KSBs staff is leading on this. IC to find out more details.</p> <p>KSB also provide a dog fouling toolkit which community groups can use to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs.</p> <p>MM confirmed that 99% of services delivered to local community groups is free.</p> <p>Links to these key issues will be circulated to the group.</p>	<p>IC</p> <p>IC</p> <p>JB</p>
4.	<p>STALLED SPACES</p> <p>KW advised that 2 applications had been approved at the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board on 1st February 2016: Erskine Music & Media and the STAR Project. This brings the total funds allocated to just under the £20,000 budget. Architecture and Design Scotland have confirmed that there may be more funding available but this must be matched by the council.</p> <p>JW informed the group that he has asked interested parties to pool their resources in delivering the two Stalled Spaces funded projects in the West End, including the Community Service team.</p> <p>KW to provide a summary of all the funded projects to the group members.</p>	<p>KW</p>



5	<p>ACTION PLAN PROGRESS</p> <p>Baseline information exists which will make the action relating to the audit of community groups more straightforward to carry out. This should provide details of all community groups in Renfrewshire which carry out greener initiatives, together with their locations.</p> <p>IC to link with MM from KSB to progress the Young Reporters initiative.</p> <p>SE noted that there was a lack of biodiversity projects in the action plan and this should be addressed.</p> <p>AS stated that there should be an action to improve the process for community groups approaching the council for leases, funding, resources etc.with consideration given to what procedures the council has put in place in relation to the introduction of the new Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. A checklist of the steps which require to be taken should be drawn up.</p> <p>It was agreed that a separate meeting be set up with IC, JW, MC and JB to agree the strategic priorities of the action plan – this will be distributed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>IC</p> <p>JB</p>
6	<p>PERFORMANCE TARGETS</p> <p>All group members were asked to consider the targets on the scorecard and pass any comments to JB.</p>	ALL
7	<p>GREENER PLEDGE AND NEWSLETTER</p> <p>JB confirmed that the first Greener Renfrewshire Newsletter had been issued at the end of January. This will be published on a quarterly basis and all members are asked to send contributions for the Newsletter and the Renfrewshire 2023 website to JB for publishing. (JB to send a link to the website to all members).</p>	ALL
8.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>None.</p>	
9.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday 7th April 2016 at 10am in the offices of Engage Renfrewshire</p>	JB