



To: GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

On: 29 AUGUST 2016

Report by:

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

**GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB-GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29 JUNE 2016**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the meeting of the Greener Communities sub-group which took place on 29 June 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. The Greener Housing and the Carbon Management and Waste Reduction groups have since been merged due to the cross cutting priorities and a single group under the priority of Carbon Management has now been formed.

- 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.

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Appendix 1

**RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING
PARTNERSHIP MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF
GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD
GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB-GROUP
HELD ON 29 JUNE 2016
ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE,
10 FALCON CRESCENT, PAISLEY**

IN ATTENDANCE

Iain Cunningham, Engage Renfrewshire; John Wilby, Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities; William Pollock and Lizze Asnol, Environmental Training Team; Véronique Obike-Preud'homme, Erskine Community Park Group; Maria Corrigan, Kirsty Wright, Steve Edwards, Steven Thomson, Kam Kaur, Craig McIntyre, Jean Brown, all Renfrewshire Council

APOLOGIES

Scott Duncan, LEAP; Angela Smith, Royal Horticultural Society; Stephanie Wilson, Kibble; Sharon Marklow, Andy Summers, Mark Faichney, all Renfrewshire Council

1.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Greener Communities sub-group held on 21 April 2016.</p> <p>JW confirmed that the 7th Paisley Scout Group have volunteered to work with the Friends of Maxwellton Park Group. JW confirmed he will promote the Young Reporters scheme with this group.</p>	Agreed
2.	<p>FEEDBACK FROM GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD (23-05-16)</p> <p>A summary of the last Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board meeting was submitted.</p> <p>IC confirmed that he had been in talks with SWECO, who had invited applications from Social Enterprise Companies across Renfrewshire to provide support. The group which has been chosen is 'We're Here', a local befrienders group.</p> <p>It was noted that membership for the Carbon Management sub-group is sought – any interested parties to contact JB.</p>	Noted



3.	MEMBER UPDATES Steven Thomson, Paisley 2021 ST provided a summary of the work of the Paisley 2021 team. He provided details of the Paisley 2021 Culture Events and Heritage Fund and confirmed he would be happy to meet with groups to help them in their applications for funding. He confirmed the team are also happy to facilitate the development of partnerships with community groups. ST advised there are a number of consultation events planned for cultural activities but none relating to greener /growing activities. It was noted that the Greener Communities sub-group could assist in any such events. The Paisley 2021 team have received a number of suggestions to improve the environment including: planting of rose beds across Renfrewshire; reintroduction of the Paisley Pinks.	
	Renfrewshire Council, Strategy & Place Section SE confirmed that work on the Main Issues Report for the next Local Development Plan is continuing. As part of this, public consultation events for the proposed Paisley South Community Growth Area were held in June with more than 60 people attending. Work is ongoing to integrate the public consultation responses to the draft Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy. A review of the Core Paths Plan is also underway and will involve a community consultation stage in due course. Baseline studies on the South West Johnstone Integrated Green Infrastructure Project are nearing completion. These will inform Council about the feasibility of an application to the EU Integrated Green Infrastructure Fund (which is being managed by Scottish Natural Heritage) for advance sustainable flood control works. It was agreed at the April meeting of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group that preliminary proposals for a Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan should be presented to the next LBAP Steering Group meeting in July 2016. A site meeting was held on 28 th June with prospective growers from south west Johnstone, who are interested in developing part of the former St Cuthbert's School playing fields as an allotment gardens site.	



	<p>Paisley West End Community Council</p> <p>JW confirmed that a formal letter had been submitted to Renfrewshire Council to take over a site at Carbrook Street. The community council ideally want to take ownership of the site to improve the funding opportunities available to them. It was noted that the Renfrew Garden of Dreams project was an example of this type of community project.</p> <p>JW advised that the community council supported a proposal to apply murals at gable ends and underpasses in the West End of Paisley</p>	
	<p>Maria Corrigan, Town Centre Manager, Renfrewshire Council</p> <p>MC confirmed that a 12 week pilot project was being carried out in the Ferguslie area as part of the Building Safer Greener Communities programme. It was noted that engagement from the community was quite poor and lessons are to be learned from this prior to the programme being rolled out to the next hotspot location.</p> <p>MC also advised that work is progressing on the Purple Flag application for Paisley town centre. This is a partnership approach with Paisley First BID and looks to demonstrate that Paisley town centre is a safe, diverse and creative place and should help boost the night time economy. It was noted that wall murals are planned as part of the application, which is due for submission in October 2016.</p> <p>MC confirmed that funding of £6,500 had been awarded by Zero Waste Scotland for a litter communication campaign. The campaign will target on specific issues e.g. fast food litter, plastic bottles and can be focused at key locations.</p> <p>The Responsible Dog Ownership Strategy has now been approved by the Environment Policy Board. MC confirmed she would welcome volunteers from any community groups to help drive forward this campaign. ST suggested a local dog agility group may be willing to help and will pass MC their contact details.</p>	ST
	<p>Erskin Community Park Group</p> <p>VO-B confirmed that the group are looking to take over a piece of land in Erskine between the sports centre and the river to create a community park. There have been a number of issues including: the ownership of the land; issues with water and drainage.</p> <p>VO-B confirmed that an application for funding is being submitted to the Paisley 2021 Culture and Heritage fund. ST confirmed that it is better to include as much detail as possible with these funding applications, together with supporting documentation.</p>	



4	<p>STALLED SPACES</p> <p>KW confirmed that an additional £335 of funding had been issued to the Kilbarchan Community Council project.</p> <p>A&DS have confirmed that it is likely that we will be successful in obtaining further funding to expand the Stalled Spaces programme although this will have to be match funded. KW confirmed that an application is being submitted to the Paisley 2021 Culture & Heritage Fund for £20,000 which could be the match funding required. Full application for this funding to be submitted by 1 August 2016.</p> <p>JW confirmed that the site at Brown Street is being maintained regularly. The site at Underwood Lane, for the proposed community garden, is being maintained. A joint celebration event is planned for 9 September 2016, being organised by ROAR.</p> <p>Representatives from Renfrew Development Trust and Kilbarchan Community Council are to attend the next Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board to deliver presentations on the success of their projects.</p>	
	<p>LEAP</p> <p>IC confirmed that LEAP are working in partnership with an after-school group to take over the old janitor's house at East Fulton Primary School. Funding has been awarded by BA and BAA and this will help transform the house into an eco friendly facility.</p> <p>LEAP are working with young people on their ReMode project, which involves refashioning 2nd hand clothing. More information is available at https://www.facebook.com/remodeyouth/</p> <p>Work continues with the business switch service which helps Renfrewshire Charities, Social Enterprises and businesses save money on their energy bills. Any revenue from this service is used for environmental work within communities. http://www.myleapproject.org/business.</p>	
	<p>Community Funding</p> <p>KK, Community Development Officer confirmed that she and 2 of her colleagues research funding opportunities for community groups and social enterprises across Renfrewshire. KK and Kate McDonald, New Funding Officer, spend one day per month working with Engage Renfrewshire. Community groups can contact the team for advice on applying for funding</p>	



5	ACTION PLAN JB advised that updates on any of the actions be passed to her to keep the action plan current. ST confirmed that he may be able to help drive forward the creation of the database. JB to arrange meeting. VO-B suggested that community councils may be able to provide details of groups within their communities which deliver greener action. JB to liaise with the Community Council Liaison Officer.	ALL JB JB
6	PERFORMANCE SCORECARD All group members were asked to consider the targets on the scorecard and pass any comments to JB.	ALL
7	GREENER NEWSLETTER JB confirmed that the 3 rd quarterly Greener Renfrewshire Newsletter will be published by mid-July - all members are asked to send contributions for the Newsletter and the Renfrewshire 2023 website to JB for publishing. JB confirmed that 230 people have now signed up to receive the newsletter and encouraged all members to ask their friends and colleagues to register.	ALL ALL
8.	AOCB IC confirmed that the Friends of Thomas Shanks Park group are looking to acquire the lease of the site of the old McMaster House. The group plans to create a community garden space and have already completed their asset transfer business plan.	Noted
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday 22 September 2016 at 10am in the offices of Engage Renfrewshire	JB