



To: GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

On: 23 MAY 2016

Report by:

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

**GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB-GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 21 APRIL 2016**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the meeting of the Greener Communities sub-group which took place on 21 April 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 21 APRIL 2016
ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE,
10 FALCON CRESCENT, PAISLEY**

IN ATTENDANCE

Iain Cunningham (Chair), Engage Renfrewshire; John Wilby, Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities; Julie Robson, Maria Corrigan, Kirsty Wright, Steve Edwards Jean Brown, all Renfrewshire Council

APOLOGIES

Derek Shannan, Forestry Commission; Peter Livingstone, Eadha Enterprises; Joe Wacławski, Sustrans; Scott Duncan, LEAP; Ian Williams, Environmental Training Team; Angela Smith, Royal Horticultural Society; Stephanie Wilson, Kibble; Mary McLuskey, Keep Scotland Beautiful; Sharon Marklow, Andy Summers, 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 11 th February 2016. No issues	Agreed
2.	FEEDBACK FROM GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD (01-04-16) A summary of the last Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board meeting was submitted and noted.	



3.	<p>MEMBER UPDATES</p> <p>Steve Edwards, Strategy & Place Team, Renfrewshire Council</p> <p>The Main Issues Report for the next Local Development Plan will be submitted to Board for approval on 23rd August and will go out for consultation for 12 weeks thereafter.</p> <p>The public consultation for the Draft Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy has passed the final submissions date. 64 comments were received from members of the public, community groups, access interest groups and public agencies. These are now being logged and reviewed with a view towards revising the Consultative Draft as required, so that the updated version can be submitted to Board on 23rd August.</p> <p>Renfrewshire Council has received a 75% grant (£22,500) from the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund, supporting a feasibility study into the creation of a new strategic access route linking the National Cycle Network at Linwood with the Erskine Bridge via the planned community woodland park beside the new settlement at Dargavel (the former Royal Ordnance Factory site at Bishopton). Regular liaison continues with BAE (owners of the former ROF Bishopton site) and the local community over reclamation and regeneration of this extensive area.</p> <p>The Council is preparing a substantial bid to the EU Integrated Green Infrastructure Fund (which is being managed by Scottish Natural Heritage) for advance sustainable flood control works in the South Johnstone Community Growth Area which will allow the redevelopment of a number of vacant sites and the creation of a green network of open spaces, paths and wildlife corridors.</p> <p>The Council Meeting of 3rd March 2016 agreed to allocate £7.5m towards the delivery of a Performance Centre for Sport in Ferguslie Park, in partnership with the University of the West of Scotland and St Mirren FC. Initially, consultants have been appointed to assess the feasibility of the project by developing an outline design concept and costing this whilst consulting with local residents, community groups and stakeholders.</p> <p>The review of the 2004 Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde has started with an evaluation of the perceived success rate of this important reference document. This review and possible ways forward will be discussed with the two local authority partners and also with the voluntary sector conservation groups at the next LBAP Steering Group meeting. This meeting will be held on 26th April at 5.30pm in the RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve Centre.</p> <p>Another key piece of biodiversity conservation work has also started: the review of the 106 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) which are recognised by Renfrewshire Council as being of at least local significance for biodiversity. This is a substantial piece of work and will be completed in-house. Therefore the review will be phased, with the hope that local voluntary sector organisations will help with the collection of field data, etc.</p>	
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	<p>Steve Edwards, Strategy & Place Team, Renfrewshire Council (cont')</p> <p>The latest phase of the Biomass Renfrewshire Project has concluded with consultants submitting their reports investigating the feasibility of using timber from Renfrewshire Council's own woodlands as a contributor to a sustainable supply of wood chip fuel for an increasing number of biomass boilers being installed in our area.</p> <p>One reason why the Placemaking Team was interested in biomass fuel harvesting had been to investigate the socio-economic and ecological cases for bringing Renfrewshire Council's 53 woodland sites (covering 350ha) into active management. Whilst the Biomass Renfrewshire consultant's report indicated that the high cost of harvesting timber from the Council's (mainly small and awkwardly located) woodlands would tend to make wood fuel production unfeasible as an economic option, there is a need to bring more of these woods into active management. Therefore the work programme includes staff time to start writing Woodland Management Plans for a selection of these sites. The Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) format template will be used for these plans to maximise the potential eligibility for future WIAT Woodland Improvement Grants and WIAT Sustainable Management of Forests grants under the current Forestry Grants Scheme. Initial emphasis will be placed on woodlands in Erskine.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum will be held on Tuesday 17th May at 10.00 a.m. in Renfrewshire House. Two interesting project proposals in Erskine have been presented to the Forum recently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the regeneration of an overgrown 18th Century walled garden at Park Mains as a community memorial garden; • painting bird migration themed murals on the graffiti covered piers of the Erskine Bridge as a community arts project. 	
<p>.</p>	<p>Julie Robson, Community Service Team, Renfrewshire Council</p> <p>Julie confirmed that her team would be keen to link with the team behind the creation of Erskine Memorial Garden to provide the labour and suggested that a sub-group of Erskine Community Council be created to enable funding to be sought without the need to create a separate constituted group.</p> <p>Julie also confirmed that her teams are looking to take on bigger projects to have more visibility in the community and have already established good working relationships with community groups in the West End of Paisley. She also advised that the teams can create benches and raised beds for community groups for just the cost of the timber – they can deliver and transport when necessary.</p> <p>Julie confirmed that there are plans to change the way in which the teams operate to encourage them to take ownership of their own areas and this has proven to be successful so far.</p> <p>Julie advised that the team which covers Paisley town centre is working</p>	<p>SE</p>



	<p>closely with the Paisley 2021 team. MC confirmed that there are good opportunities to work in conjunction with the new Wednesday town centre team and also with ETT.</p> <p>It was noted that the Community Service team are keen to clear up the site at the Oakshaw church Yard, linking with the Paisley 2021 team. SE confirmed he has they and will arrange for the teams to gain access to the site.</p> <p>It was also noted that the community service teams carry out weekly litter pick – these are to be registered with KSB.</p> <p>A meeting is to be set up with JR/SE/MC top determine which sites could be within the scope of the work of the community safety team</p>	<p>SE</p> <p>JR/SE</p> <p>JR/SE/MC</p>
	<p>Maria Corrigan, Town Centre Manager, Renfrewshire Council</p> <p>Maria confirmed that a new tasking group for the Building Safer Greener Communities initiatives had held their first meeting. This initiative will address the crime and grime agenda in identified hotspot locations across Renfrewshire. This will involve a multi-agency approach with Police, Fire etc. Phase 1 of the project will involve carrying out enforcement of antisocial behaviour and identifying areas for clean ups and environmental improvements. Phase 2 of the project will be engaging with the community to ensure the improvements are maintained over the long term.</p> <p>Maria confirmed there is a target to address 6/8 hotspots over the coming year and that the main issue will be long term sustainability of the projects. There may be the risk of raising unrealistic expectations within communities.</p>	



4	<p>STALLED SPACES</p> <p>All funding has now been issued (except for around £400). KW advised that A&DS have confirmed it is quite likely that further funds may be available for more projects, although it is not clear if the council will be in a position to match-fund any offer of funding.</p> <p>KW provided an update on what stage the projects are at present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Loud 'n' Proud has been completed and was deemed a success. A presentation on this was delivered at the last Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board. • The Kilbarchan project is wee underway and photographs are to be provided for the Renfrewshre 2023 website. • The Renfrew Development Trust project is almost completed and a video of the project is due to be shown at the Greener Renfrewshire thematic board on 23rd May 2016. • The two projects for ETT are not yet completed with guidance awaited from Renfrewshire Council on the appropriate planting for the sites. • JW confirmed that the celebration event for the two projects at the West End will be held when the projects are completed. <p>KW advised that groups should advise if they require signage and she can request the required number from A&DS.</p> <p>IC advised that he had been approached about the potential of converting a vacant/derelict site in Carbrook Street, Paisley into a growing space. The Council's asset team has been approached to determine if approval would be granted, prior to the setting up of a constituted group.</p>	
5	<p>ACTION PLAN</p> <p>A revised action plan was tabled at the meeting. This is to be shared with all group members who are to provide updates on how their own organisations are contributing to the priorities identified.</p> <p>It was agreed that representatives from Friends of....groups be invited to the next meeting of the sub-group to focus on their needs and how the Greener Communities sub-group can help.</p>	<p>JB/ALL</p> <p>JB</p>
6	<p>PERFORMANCE SCORECARD</p> <p>All group members were asked to consider the targets on the scorecard and pass any comments to JB.</p>	<p>ALL</p>



7	<p>GREENER NEWSLETTER</p> <p>JB confirmed that the second Greener Renfrewshire Newsletter will be published before the end of April and will continue to be published quarterly. All members are asked to send contributions for the Newsletter and the Renfrewshire 2023 website to JB for publishing.</p> <p>SE confirmed that two new posts have been created within Development & Housing Services in Renfrewshire Council: Kate MacDonald; New Funding Officer and Kam Kaur, Community Development Officer – they may have useful contributions for the 2023 website.</p> <p>All members to encourage people within their own organisations to sign up to receive the Greener Newsletter through the Renfrewshire 2023 website.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
8.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>It was noted that funding opportunities are available from the Tesco Bag Fund and Jewson Building Better Communities Fund with opportunities for community groups to apply for grants. JB to publish details on the 2023 website.</p> <p>It was noted that Bridge of Weir Community Council were investigating the potential development of a pathway between Bridge of Weir and Houston. Both Bridge of Weir and Houston Community Councils have been in touch with Kate Cuthbert, Renfrewshire Council's Access officer, to enquire about the possibility of funding.</p>	<p>JB</p>
9.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday 29th June 2016 at 10am in the offices of Engage Renfrewshire</p>	<p>JB</p>