



To: **GREENER RENFREWSHIRE BOARD**

On: **3 JUNE 2015**

Report by:
Greener Communities Sub-Group

GREENER COMMUNITIES UPDATE ON PROGRESS

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report records progress made so far in delivering actions endorsed by the March Greener Thematic Board meeting and the details of the first Greener Communities sub-group meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Greener Thematic Board notes the update on progress of the Greener Communities Sub-Group.

3. Sub-Group Meeting

- 3.1 After the last Greener Board meeting, the members of the Greener Communities Sub-Group were finalised and a meeting was organised. The inaugural meeting was held on 23 April at Engage Renfrewshire. Members included representatives from the Forum for Empowering Communities, Engage Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire Council, Environmental Training Team, The Forestry Commission and Sustrans.
- 3.2 It was decided that the meetings would have a core membership, with others invited to join for particular meetings if felt appropriate. The meetings would be used to share information, ideas and knowledge as well as discussing initiatives any group is working on in relation to the Greener Renfrewshire agenda. Proposed dates for meetings up until September 2016 were submitted to the group and agreed.



- 3.3 It was agreed at the meeting that members of each organisation would recruit new signups for the Greener Pledge by gathering their name and email address in order to reach the target of 500 signups by the end of 2015/16. The total currently stands at 100 signups. Furthermore, with regards to the newsletter that will be distributed to those who have signed the pledge, it was agreed it would be produced quarterly to coordinate with the Local Area Committee (LAC) meetings, where it can also be distributed.
- 3.4 The Greener Communities action plan and scorecard will form agenda points for the next meeting, where each group representative can give an update, if relevant, to what they are doing towards achieving that action.
- 3.5 The next sub-group meeting will be held on Thursday 16 July, 10am at Engage Renfrewshire.

4. Stalled Spaces

- 4.1 The Stalled Spaces initiative is making progress, the application form and scoring matrix for applicants has been agreed. Promotion of the fund is being held at Engage Renfrewshire on 12th May 2-4pm and 14th May 6-8pm where there will be presentations by Architecture + Design Scotland. The Greener Communities Sub Group will be used to support community groups' applications before they are produced at the Greener Thematic Board.

5. Greener Audit

- 5.1 An audit of community groups has been undertaken to find out who they are, what they do and what they are planning to do in the future. This was sent to community groups with an engage membership whose main purpose was greener activity, only 6 of the 26 groups contacted replied. The growing grounds forum was also sent the questionnaire but only 1 replied. We will continue to circulate the audit to try to encourage responses.
- 5.2 An audit was sent to the 97 education establishments in Renfrewshire and there have been responses from 79 of them. These include High Schools, Primary Schools, ASN Schools and Pre 5 centres. They were asked if they were involved in clean ups (litter reduction), recycling and waste minimisation, growing and care taking or school grounds, teaching and learning about biodiversity, energy reduction and monitoring and sustainable transport.



APPENDIX 1

RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB GROUP HELD ON 23rd APRIL, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

John Wilby, Forum for Empowering Communities and Greener Communities Lead; Iain Cunningham, Engage Renfrewshire; Maria Corrigan and April Shaw, both Renfrewshire Council; Ian Williams, Environmental Training Team; Derek Shannan, The Forestry Commission; Joseph Waclawski, Sustrans.

APOLOGIES

Sharon Marklow, Mark Faichney, Kirsty Wright and Sofija Tkacenko, all Renfrewshire Council; Scott Duncan, LEAP.

1.	<p>INTRODUCTION OF NEW SUB GROUP</p> <p>I Cunningham explained that he and J Wilby were tasked with setting up the Greener Communities Sub Group by the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board to assist with developing and achieving targets.</p> <p><u>DECIDED:</u></p> <p>(a) The meetings will be to network, share information, and discuss any initiatives any groups may be working on.</p> <p>(b) There will be a core group of members and others may join for particular meetings if felt appropriate.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
2.	<p>TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS</p> <p>Proposed dates for the Communities Sub Group were given to the group. These were arranged for 3-4 weeks before reports must be submitted for the Greener Thematic Board to allow for gathering of information and collating into an update for the Board.</p> <p><u>DECIDED:</u> Timetable for meetings was suitable and meetings will be kept to 10am.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
3.	<p>THE GREENER PLEDGE AND NEWSLETTER</p> <p>The Greener Pledge was explained as simply signing up to committing to supporting Greener Renfrewshire activity. All that is needed to sign up is a name, email address and company/group. Those who have signed the pledge will receive a newsletter highlighting Greener activity within the Renfrewshire area. 500 signatures is the target for the 2015/16 period.</p>	



	<p><u>DECIDED:</u></p> <p>(a) The newsletter will be distributed quarterly to coordinate with the Local Area Committee (LACs) meetings.</p> <p>(b) The timetable of LACs to be sourced from David Low</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>A Shaw</p>
4.	<p>FORESTRY COMMISSION INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Derek Shannan gave an introduction and update about the work the Forestry Commission is doing including;</p> <p>Work and maintenance on areas such as Bluebell Woods Boden Boo, Howood and Windyhill;</p> <p>Work with Forest Schools where children are given tools and learn to use them sensibly;</p> <p>Work with Phoenix Futures, a group of 16-25 year olds who are looking to gain skills and experience through greener activity;</p> <p>The Forestry Commission and Youth Services are working with the youth on preventative and antisocial behaviour issues linked to forestry/greener activity. Land management consultation will be help on Saturday 20 June in Johnstone outside Auchenloadment Primary School.</p> <p>Major partners include the Council and the Police.</p> <p><u>DECIDED:</u></p> <p>(a) Forestry Commission leaflets to be sent to group to distribute to their members/network.</p> <p>(b) Wendy Grubb, Linwood & Johnstone and Stuart McCartney, Erskine from Education Youth Services may be invited as guest speakers in relation to the Forestry Commission update.</p>	<p>D Shannan</p> <p>I Cunningham</p>
5.	<p>ACTION PLAN AND SCORECARD</p> <p>The action plan was discussed and Scorecard explained. By regular updates from groups, the action plan can be filled out therefore the scorecard can be updated which will show revised numbers towards meeting targets.</p> <p><u>DECIDED:</u> The action plan will form agenda points which can be discussed at each meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p>



6.	<p>STALLED SPACES</p> <p>The Stalled Spaces is making progress – the application form and scoring matrix for applicants has been agreed. Promotion of the fund is being held at Engage Renfrewshire on 12th May 2-4pm and 14th May 6-8pm where there will be presentations by Architecture + Design Scotland.</p> <p><u>DECIDED:</u> The Greener Communities Sub Group will be used to support community groups on their applications before they are produced at the Greener Thematic Board.</p>	Agreed
7.	<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p><u>DECIDED:</u> The next Greener Communities Sub Group meeting will be held on Thursday 16 July 2015, 10am at Engage Renfrewshire.</p>	Agreed