



To: **GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD**

On: **31 AUGUST 2015**

Report by:
Greener Communities Sub-Group

GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB-GROUP UPDATE ON PROGRESS

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report details the progress made by the Greener Communities sub-group in achieving the high level priorities of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board. The minute of the meeting of the sub group, which took place on 23rd July 2015, is attached as an appendix to this report.

2. Recommendations

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

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 earlier this year 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.
- 3.3 An action plan is in place for the Greener Communities sub group to help ensure the Greener Communities element of the priority outcomes and impact measures of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board are achieved.



4. Sub Group Meeting Summary

- 4.1 It was agreed that the Green Newsletter, which is to be issued to those who sign up to the Greener Pledge, will be created from the content on the Renfrewshire 2023 website. All community partners were asked to provide contributions for the website regarding any greener events or initiatives being carried out.
- 4.2 The Greener Communities Action Plan requires to be updated to ensure progress on the actions and changes to the responsibility are updated. It was agreed that the Greener Communities sub-group could have a significant role to play in ensuring there is a joined up approach to greener activities being carried out across Renfrewshire.
- 4.3 Representatives from LEAP, the Forestry Commission and Eadha Enterprises provided updates to the group on initiatives which they are currently working on and their plans for the future.
- 4.4 The next sub-group meeting is scheduled to be held on 24th September 2015.

5. Community Involvement/Engagement

- 6.1 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 and Sustrans. Invitations will be submitted to other community representatives when appropriate to the agenda.

Author: Jean Brown, Planning and Performance Officer, Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council. Tel: 0141 618 7586

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 23 JULY 2015
ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE,
10 FALCON CRESCENT, PAISLEY**

IN ATTENDANCE

Iain Cunningham (Chair), Engage Renfrewshire; John Wilby, Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities; Scott Duncan, LEAP; Derek Shannon, Forestry Commission; Peter Livingstone, Eadha Enterprises; Ian Williams, Environmental Training Team; Maria Corrigan, Sharon Marklow, Jean Brown, all Renfrewshire Council

APOLOGIES

Joe Wacławski, Sustrans; Mark Faichney, Kirsty Wright, both Renfrewshire Council

1.	<p>INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>I Cunningham welcomed all attendees and asked that they introduce themselves and explained the groups' purpose.</p> <p>DECIDED:</p> <p>It was agreed that the purpose and remit of the group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A forum to share information with community groups and community planning partners• To ensure there is a link with what's happening at ground level and the priorities of the Community Plan.• Encouraging local groups and organisations to sign up to the Greener Pledge, receive the quarterly Green Newsletter and have the opportunity to participate in the annual Community Planning events.	Agreed
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2	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Greener Communities sub-group held on 23rd April 2015.</p> <p>ISSUES: An update was requested on the progress of the Green Newsletter. JB confirmed that Alan Bradford of Renfrewshire Council's communications team is presently working on the development of the Renfrewshire 2023 website. All community planning partners are asked to submit contributions for the website relating to events/initiatives being carried out in their organisations. Alan will then create a newsletter based on these contributions. JB also advised that training is available for website authors . It was also noted that the Green Newsletter should not conflict with the newsletter which is currently issued by Steve Edwards in relation to Growing Grounds.</p> <p>DECIDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minute was approved by DS and seconded by IW.• Contributions for the Renfrewshire 2023 website to be submitted to alan.bradford@renfrewshire.gov.uk, together with details of any potential authors for the website.	Agreed All
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3.	<p>ACTION PLAN AND SCORECARD</p> <p>JB tabled a copy of the original action plan which had been prepared for the Greener Communities sub group. Following lengthy discussions it was noted that significant input was required to ensure the actions and relevant organisations which had been assigned responsibility to carry them out be updated. It was noted that a lot of co-ordination is required to ensure that any activities being carried out by community groups, Renfrewshire Council and the Community Planning Partners are co-ordinated and help achieve the priorities of the Renfrewshire Community Plan. It was agreed that the Greener Communities sub-group could have a significant role to play in ensuring there is a joined up approach to greener activities being carried out across Renfrewshire.</p> <p>JB also referred to the headline and supporting indicators relating to Greener Communities from the Greener Renfrewshire element of the Single Outcome Agreement and asked that all members of the group advise if they have any comments/ suggestions relating to the measures and targets being used.</p> <p>DECIDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of the sub group to notify IC/JW details of updates to ensure the action plan can be refreshed prior to the next meeting of the group. • JB to issue an updated Single Outcome Agreement report to the group and all members to notify any proposed changes to the Greener Communities performance measures or targets by end September, which can then be submitted to the next meeting of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board for approval. 	<p>Agreed</p> <p>All</p> <p>JB/All</p>
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4.	<p>MEMBER UPDATES</p> <p>Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP)</p> <p>SD provided an update on some of the work being carried out by LEAP. The organisation is funded through the Climate Challenge Fund, with guaranteed funding to March 2016. Some of the work carried out includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work in energy transport education. The LEAP car share club is an example of this. This is now a self sufficient project and is not reliant on any external funding but assistance is required to sustain the project through provision of locations and electric charging points for the cars.• Energy advice is provided to rural communities including the installation of external wall insulation. LEAP can only provide assistance for domestic properties but they have been approached by community groups looking for advice and assistance relating to energy efficiencies for commercial properties or for taking on void council properties, so there is a need which requires to be met.• The group is currently aiming to expand into adult education to offer workshops which would generate an income – e.g. boatbuilding. <p>Eadha Enterprises</p> <p>PL provided an update on the work of Eadha Enterprises. The social enterprise was founded in 2011 with initial funding from Oxfam but no core funding at present. It is a registered charity with one paid member of staff. Eadha Enterprises run a small aspen tree nursery in Lochwinnoch and works with local groups, such as Kibble, to provide Level 1 City & Guilds Horticulture qualifications. They have already delivered a number of woodland projects across Renfrewshire and beyond.</p> <p>Eadha Enterprises are looking for opportunities to deliver projects relating to woodlands, on their own or in partnership with other organisations. Proposals have been submitted in respect of a community woodland at the Linwood Moss landfill site and for woodland at the former ROF site in Bishopton.</p> <p>A key issue for the group at present is to obtain a key, designated site to base their operation, which must be at least ½ acre and have a water supply. It is hoped that the Council has a suitable vacant derelict site which could be used.</p>	
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	<p>Forestry Commission</p> <p>DS confirmed that there is currently a Land Management Plan Consultation ongoing until September – once finalised, the results will be published on the Renfrewshire 2023 website. This was previously known as a Forest Design Plan but the name has been changed to better reflect the management of the sites, especially those within the central belt and communities. (There are currently 6 sites across Renfrewshire).</p> <p>DS also confirmed he has contributed to the consultation relating to the new Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy. This will replace the strategy which was approved in 2004 and will reflect the changes in policy both at a government and local level since its implementation in 2004. Further consultation on the strategy will take place in September prior to submission to Board for approval.</p> <p>DECIDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information to be shared with the group relating to any assistance which could be offered to community groups to make their premises more energy efficient. SM to discuss availability of vacant derelict sites in Renfrewshire with PL. Opportunity to contribute to the Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy or to find out more information: corepaths.pt@renfrewshire.gov.uk 	<p>All</p> <p>SM/PL</p> <p>All</p>
5	<p>STALLED SPACES</p> <p>It was noted that no further applications had been received. A reminder email was issued to all organisations which had expressed an interest at the events held in May. It is understood that there are 2 applications which are likely to be received prior to the 10th August deadline.</p> <p>Discussions took place regarding the rejection of the one application which has been submitted to determine if the element of the application relating to capital equipment could be changed.</p> <p>DECIDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that further contact to be made to all the interested groups to encourage them to submit an application. Clarity to be sought from ADS to clarify the reasons for rejection of the first application. 	<p>IC/JW/ KW</p>



6	<p>AOCB</p> <p>DS advised that Renfrewshire Rural Watch has been launched. This involves partnership working with the Forestry Commission, Police Scotland, Elderslie Estates and Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>This has been set up to make rural Renfrewshire secure against illegal activity such as the theft of machinery, equipment, livestock, metal, illegal poaching and fly-tipping</p> <p>More information can be found on http://renfrewshireruralwatch.co.uk</p>	
7	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the group will be Thursday 24th September 2015 at 10am in the offices of Engage Renfrewshire</p>	