

To: GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

On: 7 NOVEMBER 2016

Report by:

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

**GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB-GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2016**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the meeting of the Greener Communities sub-group which took place on 22 September 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.

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 22 SEPTEMBER 2016
ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE,
10 FALCON CRESCENT, PAISLEY**

IN ATTENDANCE

Iain Cunningham, Engage Renfrewshire; John Wilby, Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities; William Pollock, Environmental Training Team; Véronique Obike-Preud'homme, Erskine Community Park Group; Susan Boath, Maria Corrigan, Jean Brown, all Renfrewshire Council

APOLOGIES

Scott Duncan, LEAP; Angela Smith, Royal Horticultural Society; Steven Thomson, Sharon Marklow, Steve Edwards, Allison Scott, Mark Faichney, Ken Gray, Kate Cuthbert all Renfrewshire Council

1.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MC confirmed she still awaited contacted details re the dog agility group	ST
2.	FEEDBACK FROM GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD (29-08-16) A summary of the last Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board meeting was submitted. IC confirmed that good feedback had been received on the presentations delivered by Renfrew Development Trust and Kilbarchan Community council on their Stalled Spaces projects	Noted
3.	MEMBER UPDATES It was noted that due to lack of attendance at the group that the membership be extended. All members to send JB contact details for appropriate community groups so they can be invited to attend the meetings. JB to send information on the group and an invitation to these representatives as well as to all community council representatives, to join the group.	All JB



	<p>FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>SB, Assistant Manager Funding and Development, Renfrewshire Council, provided information on LEADER funding which offers funding for rural projects in Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. 50% grant funding is available for projects, to a maximum of £125K</p> <p>SB confirmed she had held a training session with community council representatives last year, providing information on funding opportunities. She has also met with head teachers of Renfrewshire's secondary schools and a few had identified areas of land where they want to carry out outdoor projects. SB confirmed she would be happy to deliver similar training to a future meeting of the group.</p>	
	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING TEAM</p> <p>WP confirmed that work on the two Stalled Spaces projects had been delayed due to the weather but the necessary equipment had been purchased. He confirmed that he would ensure that an event was held as soon as the projects had been completed, perhaps linking to a Halloween theme.</p> <p>ETT continue to be involved with the settlement of the Syrian refugees and have been in contact with Mary Russell school to involve the pupils in some of ETT's projects.</p>	
	<p>TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>MC confirmed that the application for Purple Flag status for Paisley town Centre is due to be submitted on 14th October 2016.</p> <p>A report on a Responsible Dog Strategy is being submitted to Board for approval in November – this involves promoting responsible dog ownership and control and not just the issues relating to dog fouling. Work is underway to engage community partners to become involved, such as housing associations.</p> <p>A Town Centre Litter Strategy is being developed through funding from Keep Scotland Beautiful. This involves communication activities and issues have been identified with night time litter. A litter bin trial is being carried out on one bin in Causeyside Street in Paisley with the bin being monitored for usage with changing signage e.g. fines if you don't use the bin; donations to charities if you do. The outcome of this trial will be reported back to the group.</p>	



	<p>ERSKINE COMMUNITY PARK GROUP</p> <p>VO-B confirmed that work had been carried out to cut down trees in the piece of land in Erskine between the sports centre and the river – she will share a further update on other activities with the group.</p> <p>IC confirmed he is to meet with Heather Clisset from Erskine. IC and VO-B confirmed they would find out how links could be made with the active community groups in Erskine which have similar priorities.</p>	VO-B
		IC/VO-B
	<p>WEST END GROWING GROUNDS ASSOCIATION/PAISLEY WEST AND CENTRAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p> <p>JW confirmed that a celebration event had been held relating to the Stalled Spaces projects in the West End. This event was attended by around 30 people and provided an opportunity for local people to share what they would like to see happening in their community in the future. As part of the Stalled Spaces funding a small marquee was purchased and this will be made available to the community to hold events on the Stalled Spaces site. WEGGA was successful in obtaining funding of £1,000 from the Flightpath fund, for the purchase of a polytunnel for the Sutherland Street site.</p> <p>JW confirmed that 2 applications for the additional Stalled Spaces funding had been submitted – one for the second phase of the project at Brown Street and another for development of a site at Carbrook Street. A representative from A&DS had already visited the Carbrook Street site.</p> <p>JW advised that a litter pick was planned on 27 September, organised by Connect Church and they are seeking volunteers to help.</p>	
4	<p>STALLED SPACES</p> <p>It was noted that the presentations delivered by Renfrew Development Trust and Kilbarchan Community Council had been extremely well received at the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board meeting in August.</p> <p>It was noted that all funds had been distributed from the first cycle of the Stalled Spaces Programme with final projects due for completion over the next few weeks.</p> <p>IC confirmed that A&DS has advised that further funding of around £10K has been made available for Renfrewshire projects – this will be administered by A&DS on the receipt of applications approved by the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board with initial applications requiring to be submitted in early October. Interest in additional funding has already come from Kilbarchan Community Council; West End Growing Grounds Association (2 projects); Paisley First; and LEAP. IC to keep in touch with groups to ensure applications are submitted on time.</p>	



5	<p>ACTION PLAN</p> <p>Any updates for the action plan to be forwarded directly to JB for updating. JB confirmed she would update the action plan based on the contributions from today's meeting.</p> <p>IC confirmed he would forward the Eadha newsletter which has relevant information for the action plan.</p>	<p>ALL/JB</p> <p>IC</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 next quarterly Greener Renfrewshire Newsletter will be published by mid-October - all members are asked to send contributions for the Newsletter and the Renfrewshire 2023 website to JB for publishing.</p> <p>It was agreed that information relating to the litter toolkit be included on the next newsletter.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JB</p>
8.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>MC confirmed she will share details of a contact at NG Homes with the group, in relation to the good community work they are carrying out.</p> <p>It was noted that good work was being carried out in the community Neighbourhood Challenge with some pictures already published on the 2023 website. It was agreed that their organiser be invited to join the group.</p> <p>IC confirmed he had met with representatives from Education to encourage the roll out of the Young Reporters scheme in schools to tie in with the number of Eco projects which are currently underway.</p> <p>VO-B noted that at a recent community clear up event in Erskine that trees were being cut back which seemed healthy and wondered who could be contacted for advice on this. Michael Fowles' details were passed on as being the most appropriate contact within the Council on this matter.</p> <p>It was noted that if community clean-ups come across Japanese knotweed then specialist advice should be sought.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>JB</p>
9.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday 19 January 2017 at 10am in the offices of Engage Renfrewshire</p>	<p>JB</p>