



Councillor Bill McIntosh

Chair of the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

I like a new challenge, and being Chair of the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership, is one that I will relish.

This 'Bitesize' focuses on transport and the environment and what we are doing in South Ayrshire to promote biodiversity, sustainable living and reduce our carbon footprint.

It contains ideas and contacts to help you get more involved and encourage us all to be more environmentally friendly.

Trading Fairly

Troon is now officially a FairtradeTown. Troon Fairtrade Initiative has been set up to offer help to any business wanting to get involved. Call Joe Daly on **01292 312326** to find out more.

Ayr achieved Fairtrade Town status in 2007 and launched its special Christmas Fairtrade shop in Ayr in 2008 and again last year. Profits from the venture resulted in £4,500 being sent to Traidcraft.

The Partnership has been working with schools and communities to spread the Fairtrade message of supporting sustainable cultivation and production. Check out the stall at the local farmer's market for Fairtrade products or log onto **www.ayrfairtrade.org.uk**



Car Share to Work

Travelling the Green Way

The Council and its partners are reducing carbon emissions – Strathclyde Police is reducing fuel consumption by ensuring that vehicle tyre pressures are correct, the NHS is donating its used cooking oil to Stagecoach to run a bio bus, the Council currently lies 2nd out of 32 local authorities in Scotland for its waste recycling rates. These are just a few examples of what agencies are doing. A Carbon Management Group has been set up within the Council to ensure that strict carbon emission targets are being met. Briefings are scheduled for 2010/2011 to raise awareness of biodiversity, waste and carbon management, sustainable design and construction, planning and built heritage to professionals such as architects, planners, housing associations and other partners. Employees are encouraged to walk, cycle, car share or take public transport to their work and business appointments, as an alternative to driving so that we all do our bit.



SPT– Lean and Green

A new lean green Mobile Travel Centre was launched by SPT in Maybole recently. The diesel hybrid electric vehicle offers 33% reductions in fuel and CO2 emissions. SPT member for South Ayrshire, Councillor Bill Grant, said: "I'm proud to welcome this exciting initiative to South Ayrshire. SPT is leading the way for hybrid bus technology and has worked hard to ensure the vehicle is as green as possible, with high-speed broadband internet access to provide online timetables."

The Mobile Travel Centre is one of SPT's most popular initiatives, regularly visiting Maybole and Girvan. It provides information on trains, buses, long-distance coach trips, ferries and short-stay breaks. Log on to **www.spt.co.uk** for mobile travel centre timetable.



Avoiding the Winter Blues

We have just experienced one of the coldest winters ever. The Energy Agency and Energy Saving Scotland teams have been working hard to help people save money, save energy and reduce carbon emissions through a whole range of grants and interest free loans. From individuals seeking cheaper tariffs and grants for insulation and heating systems to larger community projects, your energy champions are there to help. Call them on **0800 512012** for free advice or log on to **www.energyagency.org.uk**

A Forum for a Sustainable Future

Councillor Peter Convery, Chair of the Partnership's Sustainability Forum, is committed to ensuring South Ayrshire does all it can to protect and improve the environment.

Speaking to 'Bitesize', Councillor Convery said: "We do not have ownership of planet earth, we are simply custodians. If we take that responsibility seriously, we have to collectively live in a more sustainable way. The environmental clock is ticking. As a global society we must respect the planet's diminishing resources and biodiversity. Failure to act will condemn future generations to catastrophic shortages of food, water and energy. If we all make small changes to the way we live, it will have a big impact globally."

Earth Hour – Saturday 27 March 2010 at 8.30pm

What will Big Ben, Sydney Opera House, the Empire State Building, the Pyramids and the Eiffel Tower have in common at 8.30pm on 27 March 2010? They will all be switching off their lights for 'Earth Hour' and you can join them and millions of other homes around the world by switching off yours to raise awareness of climate change, energy management and carbon reduction. Log on to **www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour**

..News Bites....News Bites..

Small Businesses can Make Savings

Businesses that make little changes can make big savings and help the environment. The Envirowise Small Business Support Programme, funded by Scottish Government, helps companies to reduce waste, packaging, raw materials and water use, putting sustainable use of resources at the heart of business practice. Log on to **www.envirowise.gov.uk** for information or e-mail **smallbusiness@envirowise.gov.uk**



Batwalk

Tired of staying in and watching TV? Want something different to do with your children for free? Go along to a Bat evening at Rozelle Estate in Ayr at 9.15 pm on 21 May 2010, where you will see and learn more about these fascinating creatures.

National Spring Clean 2010

April is National Spring Clean month. Organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful, this annual campaign encourages volunteers of all ages in our communities to take part in litter picks and clean ups.

Log onto **www.keeptscotlandtidy.org** and click on the campaign section to find out how you can run your own event. Free Clean Up Kits will be provided by Keep Scotland Beautiful and South Ayrshire Council will uplift and dispose of your waste.

To reserve a Batwalk place or for more information on National Spring Clean 2010 contact:
fiona.ross@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
or call **01292 616673**

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Telephone : 01292 612134 www.south-ayrshire.org.uk

