

Venue: Girvan Committee Room, County Buildings
Date & Time: 2pm Wednesday 24th June 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Forum members

Cllr Peter Convery (Chair)	South Ayrshire Council Sustainability & the Environment Portfolio
Ken Gibb	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Valerie Stewart	South Ayrshire Council (Chief Executive's)
Norma Duncan	Ayr Fairtrade
David Holtom	Barrhill Development Association
Cllr John McDowall	Chair, Development & the Environment Scrutiny Panel
Ruth Sutherland	Energy Saving Scotland advice centre
Lynn Sproat	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Richard Carr	SAYLSA
Yvonne Irvine	SEPA
Annabel Beattie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Fiona Ross	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Sarah Gilmour	SPT
Sarah Longair	Stagecoach

Apologies:

Stuart Brabbs/ Brian Shaw	Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Eleanor Pate	Energy Agency
Liz Marquis	Energy Agency
Stuart Lindsay	Horizons
Andrew Marnie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Cllr Mairi Low	South Ayrshire Council Development & the Environment Scrutiny Panel
Clare Strain	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Item	Minute	Action
1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies as recorded above.</p>	
1b	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Agenda</u></p> <p>The Chair took the introduction to items 6 and 7 at the beginning of the meeting due to the CP Coordinator requiring to leave the meeting early for another engagement. This was to allow her to comment and advise prior to full consideration of the items by the Forum after she left. The minutes for the items therefore remain in the original agenda order.</p>	
1c	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Richard Carr, Chair of Stranraer to Ayr Line Support Association (SAYLSA) to the meeting</p>	
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting approved and adopted.</p>	
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NHS Ayrshire & Arran: Sustainable Development Strategy</u></p> <p>KG detailed the overview of the recently published Sustainable Development Strategy for NHS Scotland which seemed to build on existing Health Board sustainability actions with the intent of aligning the NHS Community Plan with sustainability. There is therefore potential to identify local actions which contribute to the SOA and highlight the health service work that the Forum can link up with. LS: the green code mentioned in the strategy has not been implemented across the board, only in certain sites, eg Ailsa Hospital. KG expressed a hope that Morag Moore of the NHS might give a more detailed presentation to the next Forum on AAHB's approach to implementing the Strategy.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fair Trade</u></p> <p>FR updated the Forum on fair trade (FT) in South Ayrshire Council: eg funding banners to promote Ayr as an FT town; working on an advertorial to be issued at the end of this year to coincide with the FT Christmas shop. There is scope to develop purchasing however this should not disadvantage local suppliers. Also road signage on approach to Ayr is being considered, to identify Ayr as an FT town. The Council should assist the partnership in its reapplication for FT status. Cllr Convery: has Education continued to take a corporate role in FT? FR: not sure whether there was a replacement FT champion yet. Cllr Convery: how sustainable is FT fruit and veg from thousands of miles away? ND: the FT partnership is aware of the complexities of this argument. For products such as honey, this is imported due to demand outstripping home-grown supply. FT however considers that the greater good lies in giving farmers and co-operatives a fair price for their produce. YI: is it possible to have a plaque for organisations that support FT, to display in their reception areas? KG: this is something that should be flagged up with the CPP and their procurement sections. Cllr Convery: should the SOA reflect FT actions? KG: Strategic Objective 14 a would capture this. RS: schools' energy lessons could be altered to incorporate an FT element. SL: Stagecoach is looking at its own green agenda, and is prepared to look at alternatives. DH: could FT do something in the smaller villages? ND: some schools have been visited. FR: Scottish Government aims to be the first FT nation and has a target for local authorities registering as having FT status. KG: does the Forum recommend that FT be included as an action to take to the CP implementation group. Agreed.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">KG</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KG</p>

6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Community Plan Partnership Update</u></p> <p>KG: 5 Sustainability Forum improvement issues arose from the CP Implementation Group. VS: should the Forum become a partnership? This would mean a set Forum membership, and standardising governance of all CP theme groups would be helpful. May be disadvantages in being prescriptive about membership as require a wide and flexible involvement with many varied groups. KG asked VS if she was happy to lead this forward. It was noted that lack of resources was an issue at a thematic level.</p> <p>Issue 1: Partnership Board KG: regarding the lack of board level representation of environmental interests, which organisation might fill this role? After discussion the Forum agreed that SEPA was most appropriate body, and YI volunteered to investigate if it would be acceptable for the Forum to proceed with a nomination to the Board.</p> <p>Issue 2: Structure & Governance Theme groups with issues relevant to the Forum could be approached and their partners invited along to the Forum. FR: would the two new theme groups (Economic Development & Transport and Alcohol & Drugs) benefit from that? AB: would there be any merit in an awareness raising exercise of forwarding Forum minutes to the theme groups? Agreed that it was desirable that at least one member of each theme group, preferably with a joint interest, should be identified as a link with the other groups. RC expressed a willingness to be involved with the Transport group. KG to progress with VS</p> <p>Issue 3: Performance Mgmt & Risk KG stated that the Forum was unable to develop this at present, awaiting corporate guidance from the CP Board, on how partners will be accountable for actions. RC: how do partners address issues outwith their control, eg issues surrounding allocation of rail resources. Also, as Transport Scotland is not represented at the Forum, how do agencies input and become involved. A discussion followed regarding representation through consultations and also Cosla.</p> <p>Issue 4: Community Engagement. This is a partnership wide issue and will be picked up by VS.</p> <p>Issue 5: Resources RC asked of other community organisations could assist in the delivery of the Forum's aims? Cllr McD suggested that a review of the Action Plan would help point up where resources were available or required.</p>	<p>VS</p> <p>YI</p> <p>KG</p> <p>VS</p>
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SOA Action Plan</u></p> <p>ND: the SOA process, theme groups and structures are still unclear. Several Forum partners agreed. VS: an item will be put on the next Forum agenda to explain the CPP and its relationship to the SOA process. VS and Cllr Convery both suggested that, now that the CPP and SOA have moved on and changed, this would be an opportunity to refresh the Forum.</p> <p>LS expressed concerns about the relationship between thematic groups, and partnerships, citing the possible duplication of effort in attending meetings for groups and partnerships which may have common interests eg the Economic Development and Transportation theme group – the transportation element would conflict with the sustainable travel objective of the Forum. Cllr Convery and VS: a fundamental review needs to take place to avoid duplication. KG: the implementation group should help address this to some extent.</p> <p>RC: are SOA actions now set or is there any leeway for change. VS: the high level actions are now set but there is some leeway for subsidiary actions, until the next CP Board meeting on the 19th August.</p> <p>VS: the Scottish Government has formally lettered SAC to finalise the SOA, and adoption will take some place in July. Actions from the SOA would be put before the next CP Board in August.</p> <p>VS: formal feedback on the CP conference will be issued, probably early July.</p> <p>AB: there were certain difficulties with the action data arising from the Action</p>	<p>VS</p> <p>KG/VS</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>VS</p>

	<p>Plan workgroup – not all of it could be applicable to South Ayrshire alone. KG asked SL could operate a Biobus in South Ayrshire. SL: the enquiry would need to come from the local authority. KG:perhaps the Energy Agency could become involved? RS: a discussion should take place with Liz Marquis.</p> <p>RC: can an action be added at this stage? Could joint ticketing between Stagecoach and First Scotrail be encouraged. SL agreed to speak to RC separately about this. KG reminded the Forum that any additions should be submitted before the 19th August.</p> <p>LS suggested that the wording regarding cycle parking action should be reworded.</p> <p>RC noted that there were no actions relating to road freight transportation.</p> <p>RS: some data is missing in local outcome 14a which could be completed by the Energy Agency. AB requested that it be sent to her in the first instance.</p>	<p>KG RS/LM</p> <p>SL AB</p> <p>KG RS</p>
8	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>DH: additional funding will be received from Dumfries & Galloway Leader group for thermal insulation however this is not for South Ayrshire villages.</p> <p>KG: noted the links sent out regarding Scotland’s climate change delivery plan, the UKCIP09 climate predictions, and also the consultation on Preparing for a Changing Climate. AB asked the Forum to note the potential of the public engagement strategy (a late amendment to the Scottish Climate Change bill).</p>	<p>All to note</p>
9	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Wednesday 26th August 2009 at 2pm in the Girvan Committee Room, County Buildings</p>	<p>All to note</p>