



South Ayrshire Sustainability Forum Minutes

Venue: Girvan Committee Room, County Buildings
 Date & Time: 2pm Wednesday 26th May 2010

Present:

Stuart Lindsay	Ailsa Horizons Ltd
Nigel Wallace	Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit
Ruth Sutherland	Energy Saving Scotland advice centre
Michael Hitchon	Kyle & Carrick Civic Society
Andrew Elliot	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Lynn Sproat	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Dorothy Simpson	SNH
Richard Carr	SAYLSA
Yvonne Irvine	SEPA
Cllr Peter Convery (Chair)	South Ayrshire Council Sustainability & the Environment Portfolio
Graham Peterkin	South Ayrshire Council (Director, Development & Environment)
Neil Rose	South Ayrshire Council (Transportation)
Fiona Ross	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Valerie Stewart	South Ayrshire Council (Community Planning)
Annabel Beattie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Chris Doyle	South Ayrshire Council (Policy Performance and Communication)
John MacDonald	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Apologies:

Norma Duncan	Ayr Fair Trade
Dave Holtom	Barrhill Community Interest Company
Julie Hoggarth	BTCV Scotland
Ian Williams	Business Environment Partnership
Liz Marquis (Vice-Chair)	Energy Agency
Eleanor Pate	Energy Agency
David Rackham	SAC Auchincruive
Cllr John McDowall	South Ayrshire Council Chair, Development & Environment Scrutiny Panel
Emma Cassidy	South Ayrshire Council (Regeneration & Housing)
David Clark	South Ayrshire council (Planning and Development)
Fiona McConnell	South Ayrshire Council (Waste Management)
Andrew Marnie	South Ayrshire Council (Energy Management)
Gordon Lauder	South Ayrshire council (Environmental Health)

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING

Item	Action	Partner
3	Investigate recycling sandstone	FR/AM
4	Item on the climate change report to be put on the next agenda	AB
5	Circulate draft SOA narrative for Forum comment prior to 23 rd July	AB
6	Circulate Biosphere weblink to Forum	AB
6	Secure individual CP partners' letters of support for the Biosphere	VS
7	Forum partners to notify FR of any CSGN projects	ALL
8	Discuss South Ayrshire Council officer presence on SAYLSA steering group	Cllr C/AB

Item	Minute	Action
1	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies as recorded above.	
2	<u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> Minutes of previous meeting were approved and adopted.	
3	<u>Matters arising</u> MH asked if any progress had been made after his query about recycling sandstone rather than demolition. AB: this has been passed to FR and AM to	FR/AM

	take forward under Sustainable Design & Construction.	
4	<p><u>Presentation: the Potential Impact of Climate Change on South Ayrshire up to 2050</u></p> <p>Before delivering the presentation, Chris Doyle added a caveat that the report was a personal interpretation of data and trends, and was not an absolute prediction of the future. CD recommended that partners took some time to read the document, and noted that questions would be welcomed.</p> <p>A number of questions arose regarding renewables, cloud cover, tree felling, which the UKCIP 09 software does not take into account.</p> <p>The Forum agreed that the document contained excellent information which should be promoted and disseminated to CP partners to stimulate debate. CD is not aware of other Local Authorities who have produced similar reports for their regions although Highlands produced a Local Climate Impact Profile report which provided an understanding of weather events in the Highland region in the recent past. FR suggested a working group of partners including SEPA and SNH to determine actions arising from use of the report data. Cllr C asked for an item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting on the 1st September, to allow time for partners to reflect on the report, and discuss further.</p>	AB
5	<p><u>Single Outcome Agreement – end of year report</u></p> <p>VS thanked all partners for providing year end SOA data – a large amount of data has been sent to the CP Board. The next step is to prepare some narrative for the annual report which would provide a more detailed story to support the figures. The deadline for VS to receive narrative is the 23rd July. Some of the targets have not been met: CD illustrated the difficulties in relation to the SO16a high level indicator (Carbon footprint for South Ayrshire, tonnes per head of population) whereby the organisation providing the carbon footprint data can only provide the data every 10 years. An alternative source is suggested which should demonstrate a trend. GP asked if a target is recommended. CD & VS recommended that a continuous improvement target be adopted with a year on year decrease to 2012. AB asked if the Forum partners would find it useful to see a draft report, prior to the 23rd July. All agreed.</p>	AB
6	<p><u>Biosphere and Dark Skies Update</u></p> <p>NW outlined the Biosphere Conference held in New Galloway on 20th May which helped understanding of how South Ayrshire businesses and communities could benefit from the Biosphere. Next steps are: to seek community support; engage with stakeholders and continue to update the website. Meetings are to take place with Scottish Government, and a funding application must be prepared for UNESCO. In the meantime it has been suggested that the Biosphere project be given interim status. GP asked if the zones of the Biosphere were set ie two of the three Ayrshires, and Dumfries & Galloway? NW: Biospheres come in three zones and build on core areas that already exist. The buffer zone is the Galloway forest park. The zone area extends to south of Ayr, to Cumnock, and down to the Nith Valley – it is a biogeographic entity. AB to circulate the website. MH: asked if this could be a good time to consult with communities? NW: the committee has written to all community Councils and distributed approx 44,000 leaflets. The Dark Skies project is progressing and hopefully both will complement each other. Cllr C explained the relatively unique nature of the dark skies, (given that only two areas were designated outwith America) and noted the importance for Ailsa Horizons Ltd, which oversees some fragile, difficult to sustain communities.</p> <p>GP asked if there was anything more that South Ayrshire Council or the Sustainability Forum could do to ensure a successful outcome, and was there a</p>	AB

	<p>mechanism for the next steps to be taken? NW: perhaps, as some work will need to be done to secure interim status. Cllr C detailed a forthcoming meeting with the Council's Economic Development team, which aims to review actions required to take the project forward. FR noted that much of the steering group was made up of Council officers, and queried if there was any scope to get letters of support from communities and businesses. NW confirmed.</p> <p>SL: the Carrick Community Council forum submitted a Leader funding application some time ago, which involved getting communities' buy-in. The application was rejected however the Forum may be persuaded to submit another application. Cllr C: the key will be in the meeting arranged with Roseanna Cunningham in September. Nothing should stop the promotion of Dark Skies just now. VS asked if a letter of support from all the Community Planning partners would be useful. NW agreed and suggested that individual letters from partners would be better. FR: Event Scotland has a small amount of money for projects that promote tourism in an area. RC: SAYLSA have got through to the last round of the Tourism Innovation Fund, which would link to the Biosphere. SL referred to the recent Carrick Tourism Strategy, which seeks funding to develop an action plan for tourism development – this would also link into the Biosphere.</p>	VS
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Central Scotland Green Network update</u></p> <p>FR distributed a document summarising the background and actions surrounding the CSGN, and drew the Forum's attention to the draft vision and workplan currently out for consultation which the Forum is welcome to comment on. Also published is a prospectus outlining why the Green Network is important and what the goals are. It is a long term project covering 19 Local Authorities, and all of Ayrshire. DS: Fiona Stewart and Fiona Stirling at SNH will facilitate in the Ayrshire region. FR: thanks to SNH there is funding for integrated modelling for fragmented habitats. The CSGN will bring many benefits, not just to landscape and biodiversity eg communities, access, health, active travel. The CSGN should be included in all three Ayrshire's development plans as they come online. FR asked to be kept aware of any partners' projects concepts or ideas, and reminded the Forum of the forthcoming consultation events. AB asked the Forum if there was scope to make one of the Forum meetings towards the end of this year into a CSGN and Biodiversity themed meeting. The Forum agreed.</p>	ALL AB
8	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>VS reminded the Forum of the forthcoming Fast Chat event on the 14th June, and asked for volunteers to attend. DS noted that SNH would attend. FR volunteered.</p> <p>RC thanked the Forum for supporting SAYLSA's Climate Challenge Fund bid. A steering group has to be formed, and RS asked whether an officer from South Ayrshire Council would sit on the group. Cllr C confirmed that this would be discussed.</p> <p>MH distributed leaflets for "The Organist Entertains" events at Ayr Town Hall.</p>	Cllr C/AB
9	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Wednesday 1st September 2010, at 2pm in the Ayr Committee Room, County Buildings, Ayr</p>	