

Venue: Ayr Committee Room, County Buildings
Date & Time: 10am Wednesday 28th October 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Forum standing members

Stuart Lindsay	Ailsa Horizons Ltd
Brian Shaw	Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Dave Holtom	Barrhill Community Interest Company
Michael Hitchon	Kyle & Carrick Civic Society
Lynn Sproat	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Yvonne Irvine	SEPA
Dorothy Simpson	SNH
Cllr Peter Convery (Chair)	South Ayrshire Council Sustainability & the Environment Portfolio
Ken Gibb	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Cllr John McDowall	South Ayrshire Council Chair, Development & Environment Scrutiny Panel
Graham Peterkin	South Ayrshire Council (Director, Development & Environment)
Laura McCulloch	South Ayrshire Council (Children & Community)
Gordon Lauder	South Ayrshire Council (Environmental Health)
Emma Cassidy	South Ayrshire Council (Regeneration & Housing)
Sarah Gilmour	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Neil Rose	South Ayrshire Council (Transportation)
Annabel Beattie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)

Also present:

Cllr Helen Moonie	South Ayrshire Council
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Apologies:

Norma Duncan	Ayr Fair Trade
Jim Whiston	Ayrshire Housing
Ian Williams	Business Environment Partnership
Julie Hoggarth	BTCV Scotland
Liz Marquis	Energy Agency
Eleanor Pate	Energy Agency
Ruth Sutherland	Energy Saving Scotland advice centre
Morag Moore	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
David Rackham	SAC Auchencruive
Richard Carr	SAYLSA
Cllr Mairi Low	South Ayrshire Council Development & Environment Scrutiny Panel
Fiona Ross	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Andrew Marnie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Cllr Mike Peddie	South Ayrshire Council (Development & Environment Scrutiny Panel)
Sarah Longair	Stagecoach
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>	
1a	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair introduced and welcomed Laura McCulloch, Youth Strategy Officer, Emma Cassidy, Housing Policy Officer and Neil Rose, Transportation Strategy Officer.</p>	
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting were approved and adopted.</p>	
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>Item 3: KG noted that Economic Development have provided Ayr Fair Trade with a shop in Ayr High Street for Christmas again this year</p>	
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Approval of Sustainability Forum Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>KG noted a few amendments to the TOR: that the position of Chair or Vice-Chair would be held for a period of 2 years, and that the Director of Development & Environment had been added to the standing membership. Cllr C asked if the Forum had any questions or comments, and if the Forum agreed with the Terms of Reference. All agreed.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Election of Chair and Vice-Chair</u></p> <p>KG assumed the chair for this item. Two nominations had been received: Cllr Convery as Chair, and Liz Marquis as Vice-Chair. KG asked if any other nominations were to be submitted for either Chair or Vice-Chair. None were submitted. KG asked the Forum if they preferred a secret or an open vote for both. The Forum agreed on an open vote. The Forum approved Cllr Convery as Chair, and Liz Marquis as Vice-Chair. Cllr Convery then resumed the Chair. (LS joined the Forum at this point).</p>	
6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Final SOA Action Plan</u></p> <p>KG outlined the details of the finalised action plan to the Forum. Actions were substantially complete, but some additional base and target data still remain outstanding. Cllr C asked Forum members requiring further information on the information provided to contact AB. LS: the position regarding the NHS Sustainability Strategy will be clarified in November. Data in the SOA action plan regarding NHS and sustainable transport may not come to fruition until next year. Cllr C noted that not all partners can operate to the same timescale as the SOA. KG: the CP Board has approved a traffic light system to help illustrate the achievement of outcomes. Further work is to be undertaken on how lower level actions are being monitored and reported – Peter Linton, the Council’s Performance & Change Management Manager and Valerie Stewart, Community Planning Co-ordinator are currently working on this. There is some concern regarding how adequately a traffic light system will demonstrate level of progress on process indicators. KG understood that the model had been developed in consultation with partners, as well as other local authorities. MH: could there be a red & amber together as a true traffic light system to denote an action progressing towards targets.</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Annual Report 2009</u></p> <p>KG detailed the report and added that much of the past year had been devoted to developing the SOA. KG thanked the Forum for their commitment to developing the SOA.</p> <p><u>Climate change:</u> Much of the climate change work was being delivered through the Councils carbon management plan as detailed, and the Councils commitment to Scotland’s Climate Change Declaration. KG asked AB to circulate a copy of the climate change Declaration progress report which has been submitted by the Council to the Sustainable Scotland Network. KG noted that the Council was keen to support the Barrhill Community Interest Company and looked forward to hearing how that developed.</p>	AB

Sustainable Design & Construction: The new wind turbine at Dundonald Primary, and the new Girvan hospital were discussed – both are well received, with no adverse comments made. The Girvan Hospital has been assessed and awarded a very good rating under the BREEAM assessment scheme.

Biodiversity: a lot of work has been done with the Ayrshire Rivers Trust regarding invasive weeds. Inter-service relationships with the Council are improving. DS: SNH is drawing up local authority guidance in particular regarding European protected species (such as bats, otters). SNH is trying to withdraw from wider individual countryside casework particularly in relation to planning, and hope to focus on guidance and delivery of SOA, and a more strategic involvement. Cllr C recommended thought be given to making the Annual Report more comprehensive to enable browsers to see the interaction between partners and agencies.

MH: new legislation may put an inventory of historic gardens and landscapes at risk. It is important that this is taken into account by local planners.

DS: Scottish Government are recommending consultation with Historic Scotland.

Cllr Moonie: asked whether there were other societies locally, besides the Kyle & Carrick Civic Society, and asked whether the Forum could make a contribution to those societies in the development of the local plan.

Cllr Moonie left the meeting.

BS: ART are happy to deliver a briefing to local authority departments, for example planning. Cllr Convery agreed that this would be beneficial.

YI: SEPA office at Miller Road had no greenery when SEPA moved in. Now there exists a garden space. Perhaps the Forum could promote this as an example of what can be done to encourage biodiversity within an urban environment.

Sustainable Travel: KG asked if there was any evidence within the Council's car sharing scheme of interpartner car sharing. AB confirmed that with only 23 Council employees registering for the car sharing scheme, it was too early to tell.

Cllr C invited NR to inform the Forum on park and ride proposals. NR detailed the proposal for a park & ride at the Dutch House roundabout, aimed at people commuting to and from Glasgow by bus. It is hoped that the scheme is up & running by 2010. GP queried the scale, and the potential for future expansion.

NR: approximately 400 car spaces, with a managed car park and overnight parking for HGVs. Future expansion is currently limited by land issues. Stagecoach is investigating creating bus spaces for commute to Ayr town centre.

KG asked whether there had been any dialogue with Stagecoach regarding the Biobus.

KG concluded with a resume of the themes and partnership development which had taken place, and publicity and awareness raising events.

It was suggested that it would be useful if Forum members fed back comments on the format of this report and how it can be improved in the future. A report is expected to be given to the CP board on the 25th November and any additional information prior to that will be welcomed. GP queried why an annual report be produced now, and what period does the report refer to? KG: the report covers the past 12 months, and was produced to inform this planning meeting, and there is an expectation for a report to be submitted to the CP board meeting.

GP: as this is the 1st annual meeting, it is important to detail how much of the information contained within the report is used, and what happens next. As raising awareness is a fundamental element, how can the data in the report be used to raise awareness? KG: the Forum is invited to approve the report. Also the report can be presented to the CP Board – Valerie Stewart will be consulted

	<p>about the options and how attention might be drawn to the report. KG: it is hoped that the Forum partners and CP Board partners take away the report and use it within their own organisations. LS queried whether the data gathered could be used to support initiatives, eg in drawing down funding towards cycle pathways.</p> <p>Cllr C: Dissemination of information in a proper way is critical and will help partners to lead by example. Suggested speaking to the Council's Communications department to determine the best way to raise awareness.</p> <p>DH: the object of a document such as this is that others can use it. Barrhill CIC used most of their Climate Challenge Fund money to draw down match funding to expand the project. For information, Dumfries & Galloway has confirmed that it will support the project. KG made a formal request for Forum partners to forward any comments/actions on the report, to himself by 18th November.</p> <p>MH: perhaps the publications that partners have produced over the past year should be listed? All to submit to AB.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
8	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Timetable of meetings for 2010</u></p> <p>GP queried if the proposed dates were designed to feed into the CP board? KG confirmed the need to align the Forum meeting dates with the CP board meeting dates, and also the Community Planning Implementation Group. KG asked if the Forum was happy with the proposed dates?</p> <p>Cllr C reminded the Forum re item 5 of the Terms of Reference that a substitute was acceptable if one partner found that they could not attend a meeting.</p> <p>GP queried whether all the meetings should be held in the County Buildings. Cllr C suggested that this might be the easiest for all partners to get to, however invited the Forum partners to comment on whether they might like to host.</p> <p>YI: SEPA in Miller Road does not have enough space. DH commented that Ayr was accessible by public transport and particularly handy for the train. KG noted that arrangements could be made to transport groups of people to a venue, if needed. SL pointed out the proximity of Girvan railway station.</p> <p>AB: if the Energy Agency were to offer use of space at Auchincruive, then perhaps partners would consider car sharing to any meeting there.</p> <p>KG suggested keeping the scheduled dates, but leaving the venue undetermined at present.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
9	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AOB</u></p> <p>KG detailed a consultation on the Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Scotland (deadline is the 5th Jan 2010). The Forum is not empowered to respond to consultations as a group but perhaps it can share opinions.</p> <p>The 1st progress report to the UK Parliament by the Commission on Climate Change. The full document is large, as is the executive summary. AB to circulate the link to the Forum.</p> <p>Cllr C detailed a report prepared for the UK Government on the links between climate change, diet and health. AB to circulate the report to the Forum.</p> <p>SL: some progress has been made with the feasibility study funded by the Climate Challenge Fund for a 3 MW wind turbine by Grangestone. Planners are awaiting a screening opinion. The turbine is intended to be placed in a field near Grant's the distillers. DH noted that 3MW is slightly larger than the turbines being installed at Barrhill. SL confirmed that work is ongoing with consultants regarding a connection to the grid. KG confirmed that the outcome of the forthcoming planning workgroups would be incorporated into a business plan, and brought to the Forum at a future date.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p>
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Wednesday 16th December at 2pm in the County Buildings, Ayr</p>	