

Venue: Girvan Committee Room, County Buildings
Date & Time: 2pm Wednesday 25th June 2008

MINUTES

Present:

Forum members

Cllr Peter Convery	South Ayrshire Council Sustainability & Environment Portfolio
Mr Ken Gibb	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Dev.)
Cllr John McDowall	Chair, Sustainability & Environment Scrutiny Panel
Mrs Fiona Ross	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Dev.)
Mr Stuart Lindsay	Horizons
Mr John Collie	SNH
Mrs Eleanor Pate	Energy Saving Scotland advice centre
Ms Laura Stevens	Energy Saving Scotland advice centre
Ms Valerie Stewart	South Ayrshire Council (Chief Executive's)
Mr Andrew Marnie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Dev.)
Mr David Holtom	Barrhill Development Association
Mrs Annabel Beattie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Dev.)

Apologies:

Ms Sarah Longair	Stagecoach
Mrs Liz Marquis	Energy Agency
Mr David Rackham	SAC Auchencruive
Mr Michael Hitchon	Kyle & Carrick Civic Society
Mr Ian Johnson	Ayshire Joint Structure Team

Presenting:

Alan Wilson	Carillion
Quentin Wilson	Carillion
Duncan Gunn	Mitie
Malcolm McMillan	Auchencruive student

Item	Minute	Action
1	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies given as previous.	Noted
2	<u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> Minutes of previous meeting approved and adopted.	Noted
3	<u>Matters arising</u> None.	
4	<u>Schools PPP Project</u> RMcD detailed the history to the PPP project. AM noted that the partners were keen to make the most of the construction project opportunity and be exemplars, to ensure that sustainability issues were incorporated right through the design and construction. Progress was made in several areas, and involved monthly meetings between PPP partners, FR and AM. A 102 point checklist was developed with the aim of using it as a catalyst for change. AW delivered the Carillion presentation, explaining Carillion's ethos, the signing of an Environmental Charter with Mitie, the concept of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method and the Waste & Resources Action Programme	

	<p>index, in relation to the PPP builds. QW noted that suppliers are now starting to understand that money could be made from recycling.</p> <p>Cllr C asked if the plasterboard used in the building had some recycled content. AW cited problems in breaking down the components, which meant that the plasterboard had no recycled content, however Carillion reduced wastage by ordering the boards pre-cut. FR noted that the layout of the PPP schools in terms of Biodiversity has vastly improved from the past when schools mainly had a strip of grass. However the newbuilds have incorporated green areas which have potential to be used as external classrooms. Cllr C asked if DG had ever used solar tiles. AW confirmed that solar panels had been installed in some construction projects.</p> <p>JC asked whether Carillion had taken steps to exceed the statutory requirements for some of the standards.</p> <p>FR noted that landscaping could merely have been a strip of grass, however there has been consultation with teachers, pupils and architects to establish design solutions to meet the BREEAM standard.</p> <p>Cllr C asked if any calculations had been made to give an idea how long a building would last?</p> <p>AW: the answer is complex, depending on building use, and what changes are made to the structure, however if maintenance was tied into the contract, it should last well. DG confirmed that with the lifecycle is a large part of school maintenance, the building should still be in good condition in 30 years time.</p> <p>Cllr C asked if the schools could be made into a community facility. RMcD detailed issues about the schools lets and confirmed that the Council would decide what charges should be made for lets in schools.</p> <p>KG asked what scope existed for dialogue between users of specific sites, and Carillion. DG: every school will work differently, however the contract is not inflexible – monthly meetings should take place.</p> <p>Cllr C asked FR if the Waste Awareness Team still did school visits. FR confirmed that they would if invited by the Head Teacher. DG confirmed that after liaison with the Head Teacher at Belmont Academy, it was agreed that the pupils would have a designated drop-off point for their segregated waste.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Climate Change Survey</u></p> <p>Malcolm McMillan reviewed the analysis of his Climate Change attitudes survey “AN INVESTIGATION INTO PUBLIC ATTITUDES, AWARENESS AND ACTIONS TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE”. MM drew some conclusions, that a large number of employees thought that they had a good knowledge of climate change, but on testing these claims MM found a gap between perceived, and actual knowledge, and that only a minority take action to mitigate their climate change impact. Many felt that the issue was too big for one person to make a difference on their own and that the Government should take the lead – MM used the term “psychological distancing” in this respect.</p> <p>Cllr McD asked MM what he thought of some individual’s assertions that climate change was natural. MM confirmed his opinion that climate change was happening, and whether natural or not, it would not go away. MM speculated that once the costs associated with living started to rise significantly, that would be the vehicle for making changes.</p> <p>DH asked MM how his council data would compare with the public’s perception of climate change? MM: DEFRA conduct a national survey every 4 years which include questions about climate change perception, however the dataset included less than 20 surveys from Ayrshire, with no-one from the Scottish Highlands. MM suggested this was not enough to compare South Ayrshire Council employees’ attitudes, with the public.</p> <p>AB asked if there was any evidence of extreme scepticism in the analysis. MM: yes.</p>	

6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Restructure of Community Planning Partnership</u></p> <p>VS: a meeting is scheduled week commencing 30th June to discuss the outcome of the Community Planning conference. There are plans to widen community representation on the CP Board. A Community Planning implementation group is to be developed, and there is an aim to have a CPP Single Outcome Agreement in place by April 2009.</p> <p>KG: one of the grey areas that the CP is to address are the Area Fora. VS confirmed this would be a large task which has to be well thought through – it may take up to a year to develop.</p> <p>Cllr C: the challenge is for the SOA to be developed for the CPPs, and the hope is that the Sustainability Forum will have a significant and key role to play in this.</p> <p>VS expressed uncertainty as to how much information is being fed back to the Sustainability Forum about what CPP partners are doing. There is a will for partners to join up and share good practice.</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Community Plan Partnership conference</u></p> <p>VS: There were 160 attendees at the conference. Evaluation sheets highlighted very positive comments. VS is working on a report of the conference.</p> <p>KG: the 10 attendees (plus an Audit Scotland observer) at the climate change workshop raised some issues. The attendees suggested that education, and incentives, with a stronger local message were important, as well as flooding, defences, and improving housing stock to cope with the impacts of climate change. It was suggested that an assessment be made of current buildings, and that a renewable energy target be set for South Ayrshire.</p> <p>FR: there is potential to look at new planning applications to record renewable projects.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about the importance of Ayrshire peat bogs in “fixing” CO2 and burning peat to generate electricity.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>Cllr C invited LS to inform the Forum of her new role within the ESSac, and also asked if the Energy Agency had noticed any increased business as a result of the energy costs rising. LS highlighted the targets that have to be met to give advice to businesses and the public. The annual plan is currently with the Energy Savings Trust. A mailshot to 7,000 addresses in Troon has generated a lot of queries.</p> <p>KG advised the Forum of another consultation document from the Scottish Government: Managing Scotland’s Climate Risk, which has a two stage lengthy consultation period.</p> <p>KG advised the Forum of the provision of allotments in the Fullarton Woods area of Troon. These are run by the Troon Allotment Society, who have 40 plots, plus an active waiting list.</p> <p>SL circulated a summary of Horizon’s initiatives to date, in light of the announcement of the provision of a Climate Challenge fund.</p> <p>Cllr C asked the ESSac how the Girvan domestic insulation initiative was progressing. EP confirmed that the completed application forms were still coming in. Cllr McD commented that the feedback from the Girvan community was positive, and the initiative had been very well received.</p> <p>AB circulated a draft updated Sustainability Forum leaflet to the Forum for feedback.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>KG informed that Forum that the meeting schedule may be reconfigured to be more in line with CPP meetings. It was agreed that meetings no longer needed to take place on Wednesday afternoons.</p> <p>The next meeting was originally due to be Wednesday 30th July, at 2pm, however this has now been changed to Tuesday 12th August at 2pm, in the Troon Committee Room, County Buildings.</p>	