



Minutes

Venue: Maybole Room, County Buildings, Ayr
 Date & Time: 10am Wednesday 4th September 2013

Present:

Cllr John McDowall (Chair)	South Ayrshire Council
Liz Marquis (Vice-Chair)	Energy Agency
Cllr Peter Convery	South Ayrshire Council
Marion Young (Minutes)	South Ayrshire Council (Community Planning)
Ruth Sutherland	Home Energy Scotland/Energy Agency
Yvonne Russell	SEPA
Lesley Fisher	Ailsa Horizons/Sustainability Mirrored Theme Group
Callum Robertson	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Anne Blacklock	Zero Waste Scotland
Gordon Lauder	South Ayrshire Council (Environment, Health & Trading Standards)
Fiona Ross	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Valerie Stewart	South Ayrshire Council (Community Planning)
Neil Feggans	South Ayrshire Council (Planning Service)
John Esslemont	South Ayrshire Council (Planning Service)
Sarah Bowman	Ayrshire Green Network
Derek Manson	SNH
Felix Bredow	German Student/Energy Agency
Andrew Elliot	NHS

Apologies:

Claire Strain	SPT
Dr Mary McKenna	VASA (Sustainability Mirrored Theme Group)
Norma Duncan	Ayr Fair Trade Partnership
Siobhan Thomson	SNH
John Adair	SNH

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no matters arising. • Cllr McDowall advised the group that the new food waste collection in South Ayrshire is now active. 	

4	<p><u>The Biosphere – John Esslemont, Strategic Planner, South Ayrshire Council</u></p> <p>John Esslemont, Strategic Planner with SAC delivered a presentation on the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. Galloway and Southern Ayrshire was given global recognition by a decision taken by UNESCO on 12th July 2012 to designate the area as a UNESCO Biosphere. Currently the Galloway & Southern Ayrshie Biosphere is the first and only UNESCO Biosphere in Scotland and joins a Worldwide Network of “Biosphere Reserves”, one of 610 biospheres in 117 countries. The decision by UNESCO shines an international spotlight on the area to demonstrate excellence in sustainable development practice. John gave an overview of the background of how this was achieved; what work has been done in the past 12-18 months; and what the current activity is. The next phase is to continue the discussions with communities and stakeholders to raise awareness, develop understanding and build capacity and investment within the area. Questions were then raised by the group and John confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Fieldhouse from Dumfries & Galloway has taken over from Nigel Wallace who retired in March 2013, and was the previous Co-ordinator in the Biosphere Partnership. Alan Edgar, East Ayrshire Council, is the secretary to the Partnership Board. These functions were previously undertaken by the Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit. • The Biosphere area takes in 3 council areas, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway and 60 Community Councils. It covers 7% of Scotland’s land area. The extensive consultation which was undertaken in building support for the Biosphere with community groups, community councils and business interests was commended by the Scottish Government in their letter of support. The link made with the Business Community during the BOB (Building Opportunity in the Biosphere) was highlighted as being a particularly successful part of this project. • The Dark Skies Observatory at Craigenhill Estate, Dalmellington has created employment and encourages tourism in the area. <p>It was concluded that the added value of the Biosphere is significant and opportunities are huge. Community Groups and Businesses need to take it forward and work in partnership. There are good marketing opportunities for both these sectors.</p>	
5	<p><u>SOA Update – Valerie Stewart, Community Planning Co-ordinator</u></p> <p>Valerie advised the group that we now have a Single Outcome Agreement which has been approved by Scottish Government following a quality assurance process. An improvement plan has been agreed with a focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger focus on localism and planning for place • Strengthen our data sets • Prevention Plan – early intervention <p>A key piece of work for the Sustainability group is to consider the specific actions to take forward as part of the SOA and in relation to the projects identified in the CAG report and how these fit with the SOA logic models / outcome delivery plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Ayrshire has attractive built and natural environments appreciated by it’s citizens & visitors • Our impact on the environment is enhanced due to lower carbon emissions <p>Valerie asked the group for volunteers to form a short life sub-group to take this forward. A meeting date to be arranged as soon as possible</p>	Valerie Stewart
6	<p><u>Introduction to Planning and the Environment – Neil Feggans, Development Planning and Customers Team Leader, Planning Service</u></p> <p>Neil Feggans from Planning Services gave an introduction to Planning and the Environment highlighting what planning does, the legislative context and the policy context and how it impacts on the physical, economic, social and cultural environments. The 3 main strands of planning are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Plan (planning policy) • Development Management (planning applications & enforcement of planning 	

	<p>control)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental/other planning matters <p>Neil summarised what is involved in each strand.</p> <p>Cllr McDowall raised the question about the process to be followed should the Scottish Government’s Reporter, after examination, decide the South Ayrshire Local Development Plan should be modified and, in particular, whether the modification would be advertised again. Neil advised that the modified plan would have to be advertised, but was uncertain whether or not there would be a further opportunity for public comment. Neil will undertake to find out.</p> <p>Fiona Ross asked whether SAC were likely to develop Supplementary Planning Guidance for either biodiversity or Sustainable Design in Construction. Neil was unsure but advised Fiona that he would get back to her on this matter.</p>	<p>Neil Feggans</p> <p>Neil Feggans</p>
7	<p><u>SNH perspective on Planning and the Environment – Derek Manson, Planning Adviser, Scottish Natural Heritage</u></p> <p>Derek Manson, Planning Adviser with SNH delivered a presentation on the SNH perspective on Planning and the Environment giving an overview of what they do, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing advice to the Scottish Government and its agencies, local authorities, developers, land managers and others • Promote the wider benefits of protecting and enhancing nature and landscapes in the public interest • Targeting action to protect and enhance nature and landscapes, working in partnership with others • Recommend that the LDP provides a basis to fulfil the SPP requirements to protect and enhance the green network • Provide advice and comment on Strategic Environmental Assessments, at screening, scoping and environment report stage • Habitat Regulations Appraisal • Landscape Capacity Study 	
8	<p><u>Central Scotland Green Network – Sarah Bowman, Ayrshire Green Network Co-ordinator</u></p> <p>Sarah Bowman, Ayrshire Green Network Co-ordinator delivered a presentation on the Central Scotland Green Network highlighting what green networks are and how they provide opportunities for multi-functional benefits. The CSGN Vision is that ‘By 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people’s lives are enriched by its quality’. CSGN work in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Forestry Commission and the local Authorities. As a National Development within NPF2, local planning authorities are required to take account of the CSGN when preparing their local development plans and when making planning decisions.</p> <p>Two funding opportunities are available through the CSGN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSGN Development Fund • The CSGN Community Fund <p>The next key areas of focus are to examine opportunities for partnership working, implement strategies and to bring together agencies and organisations working to deliver CSGN activity in the Ayrshire Area.</p> <p>Sarah advised the group that the Community Fund will be launched in late Autumn but as yet no date has been set. The focus is likely to be on children & young people and details will be put on the website in due course.</p>	
9	<p><u>Biodiversity in South Ayrshire – Fiona Ross, Environmental Strategy Officer, Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>Fiona Ross, Environmental Strategy Officer gave an overview of what is happening in</p>	

	<p>South Ayrshire in terms of biodiversity in relation to South Ayrshire and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council works in partnership with Volunteers and Community Groups who provide help in delivering projects. The Community Groups are able to access funding that the Council cannot tap into. • Work with planners on issues relation to Biodiversity Fiona thanked planners for their growing recognition of biod issues within planning. • We have been working to provide training to certain groups of staff in relation to biodiversity:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non Native Invasive species – Grounds Maintenance, Golf, Waste & Roads Staff ○ Planning & Biodiversity – Planners ○ Bats & Development -In House Building Works Section • Working to develop closer links with the Biosphere partners. Also want to develop links with CSGN – looking at biodiversity on a regional scale. • Continuing to assist in the delivery of the Ayrshire LBAP, however there is no Co-ordinator for a Biodiversity Action Plan in Ayrshire and no funding to assist with delivering actions. • Have a close working relationship with Ayrshire Rivers Trust who is able to undertake cross boundary projects and who have good relationships with private landowners. • We work with other Council Services – highlighting that biodiversity should not be viewed as a burden, an additional task or an additional cost. Rather that it can be built in to services and that it can be cost neutral or even cost beneficial e.g. recreation of dunes – coastal management; less movement of sand; altered maintenance regimes reducing hrs; fuel. Biodiversity can be built in to nearly every service – Education, Housing, Tourism, Economic Development and Jobs etc. • Work with Neighbourhood Services to provide advice on green space, tree planting, wild flower meadows, maintenance. • By 2014 it will be a legal requirement for all Local Authorities to report on biodiversity. This should not be an additional report to submit but just added on as an addendum to possibly the SOA. This has still to be finalised. • Fiona thanked the Councillors for their continued support towards the work done on specific projects eg. Dune restoration; Water Vole Project. 	
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors Open day will be held this weekend and will include homes from the Green Home Network. Belleise Conservatory will also be opening their doors. • The Energy Agency now runs the contract for the Scottish Government CARES scheme. CARES offers free impartial advice, practical assistance and expertise to communities and rural businesses/farms in developing or part owning a commercial energy project. A voluntary register is held by Energy Saving trust on behalf of the Scottish Government. http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/%20scotland/Communities/Community-And-Renewable-Energy-Scheme/Scottish-Government-Register-of-Community-Benefits-from-Renewables The Energy Agency are updating the register for Ayrshire. The free register could prove useful when assessing the socio-economic potential of renewable energy in their area and comparisons with other areas during the scoping and application stage. Liz has requested Sustainability Partner Members to get in touch with her if they are able to assist with any of these tasks. 	All Partners
11	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting will be held on 4th December 2013. 	