

Venue: Girvan Committee Room, County Buildings  
Date & Time: 2pm Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 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
Ms Sarah Longair	Stagecoach
Mrs Annabel Beattie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Dev.)
Mr Stuart Lindsay	Horizons
Mr John Collie	SNH
Mrs Liz Marquis	Energy Agency

### Apologies:

Mr Andrew Marnie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Dev.)
Mrs Eleanor Pate	Energy Agency
Mrs. Yvonne Irvine	SEPA
Mr Roddy MacDonald	South Ayrshire Council (PPP Team)
Mrs Fiona Ross	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Dev.)
Mr Tommy Loudon	FWAG
Mr Brian Shaw	Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Mr Michael Hitchon	Kyle & Carrick Civic Society

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> Apologies given as previous.	Noted
2	<b><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></b> Minutes of previous meeting approved and adopted.	Noted
3	<b><u>Matters arising</u></b> KG advised the Forum that the Carbon Management Programme was approved by the Leadership panel of the 29 <sup>th</sup> April.	
4	<b><u>Community Planning Partnership Review</u></b> KG offered the paper to the Forum, for information and comment. The paper summarised the implications of the report for the CPP Board, on the thematic groups and missed opportunities for integration with the various thematic groups. KG drew the Forum's attention to the priorities for the Single Outcome Agreement, relating to Sustainable Development. Cllr McD: how will we manage to service eight area based fora? KG: it is recognised that resources are a major issue. It is suggested a pilot should be set up, for both a rural and urban ward. Cllr Convery queried how to go about selecting an urban, and a rural ward. KG advised that this was a matter still to be debated. SL suggested that Girvan Horizons may have piloted this approach – they have a group made up of all Community Councils in the area. A strategy is to be published in May, and could be a model to work on. KG confirmed that a discussion would take place with Chris Doyle, Corporate Research & Intelligence Officer. The report is expected to be given CP Board approval in early May.	

	<p>Cllr Convery: it's important to ensure that CPP review does not conflict with Community Council aims. KG: this has already been discussed and one example of potential issue is that multi-member wards within rural areas may cover a number of Community Councils. Cllr McD queried how an area based forum would fit in to the existing structure. SL: suggested that Carrick Community Council's has managed to bring together representatives as equal partners. There is a concern that bringing in the Community Planning themes for the Forum to address might be too much. Cllr McD pointed out that there is already a fairly sophisticated level of involvement in communities in place, therefore the CPP review may upset the balance and reduce the community goodwill. KG: at present there is no effective dialogue between CPP and the community, and there has to be interaction. Cllr Convery asked Cllr McD is he was interested in piloting his area. Cllr McD indicated some interest.</p> <p>KG: the next Sustainability Forum may be able to report back on how this particular aspect has progressed.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Scotland's Climate Change Declaration: update</u></b></p> <p>KG advised that with the new Scottish Government administration, the declaration had to be re-signed. The new CCD is identical to the old one however it has been re-signed with a view to extending the Single Outcome Agreement to CPP partners, (although initially it was for Local Authorities). KG is seeking information from Local Authorities in Scotland to see how this is working and is still awaiting further detail however he intends to widen the remit to include the CPP. This will be taken forward in a future Sustainability Forum.</p>	
6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Energy Saving Scotland advice centre</u></b></p> <p>LM: the Energy Agency is now contracted to the Energy Savings Trust, and the brief has been widened to include sustainable transport, and probably waste. With 6 new staff, the aim is to impact on Ayrshire, and Dumfries &amp; Galloway.</p> <p>The Sustainable Energy Fair will take place this year on the 27<sup>th</sup> September, at Auchincruive, and is directed at the public and SME market. LM is hoping that SPT will become involved, and asked the Sustainability Forum to advise her if any member would like a stand at the Fair – there is a lot of space available. The aim is to promote the renewable side, and also a range of companies, to stimulate the market and provide information to the public.</p> <p>KG added that the Forum will be contributing but there is no need to be constrained by a stand. Sustainable Development is happy to disseminate information on any Forum member's behalf.</p> <p>KG suggested that LM might like to contact Greener Scotland.</p> <p>KG asked Sarah Longair if the Biobus could be booked for the day.</p> <p>SL: confirmed that was possible. Also, Stagecoach have extended the pilot period for a further 6 months and are also looking further into the Biobus concept. LM suggested that the bus could bring groups of people from Ayr to Auchincruive, in a shuttle arrangement.</p> <p>Cllr Convery noted the controversy surrounding biofuels and the impact on crop growth on valuable land usually used for food crops. SL confirmed that the Biobus runs on a mixture of tallow (as a by-product from the animal rendering industry), and used cooking oil, so was therefore much more sustainable.</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability Forum programme for 2008</u></b></p> <p>KG outlined the paper in circulation. Regarding the Climate Change Declaration, KG is awaiting a template from the Scottish Climate Change Partnership which will enable a report to be generated on what Sustainable Development have been achieving, as a means of advising people, and also giving them the opportunity to join in the debate.</p> <p>AB to discuss with Roddy MacDonald of PPP the possibility of reporting to the Forum on the outcome of the PPP exercise.</p> <p>KG advised that the current method of ad-hoc reporting should be made into a more formal set up, possibly involving presentation to groups. The Forum will give a presentation to the Community Plan Partnership at their conference on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, on the Forum's successes and aims.</p>	

	<p>KG hopes the Forum might put forward suggestions and comments on how to take forward the agenda, noting that the aims tend to be hidden behind the climate change agenda.</p> <p>Discussion ensued about peak oil, and possible park &amp; ride schemes.</p> <p>Cllr McD queried whether there was potential for a bus season ticket salary sacrifice scheme. Sarah Longair confirmed that Stagecoach were in discussion with AB about this at present, for South Ayrshire Council employees. Stagecoach has this scheme with Royal Bank of Scotland, and are about to launch it nationally.</p> <p>KG asked the Forum if they were happy for a programme of events to be worked up.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <p>AB advised the Forum of the latest issue of the Environment Banner.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008, Girvan Committee Room, County Buildings, 2pm</p>	