

# ANGUS RURAL AND ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26 JANUARY  
2PM, COUNTY BUILDINGS

## Present:

Bill Strachan	<b>BS</b>	Senior Service Manager, Corporate Planning, Angus Council
George Chree	<b>GC</b>	Head of Planning and Transport, Angus Council
Lee Haxton	<b>LH</b>	Rural Community Planning Officer, ACPD
Phil Gaskell	<b>PG</b>	Area Manager, Scottish Natural Heritage
Mai Hearne	<b>MH</b>	Chief Officer, AAVO
Cllr Ian Mackintosh	<b>IM</b>	National Farmers Union (Scotland)
Mike Strachan	<b>MS</b>	Strategy Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland
Genna Dall	<b>GD</b>	Project Manager, Angus Community Health Partnership
Andrew Harper	<b>AH</b>	Head of Social and Economic Development, CNPA
Carol Littlewood	<b>CL</b>	Farm Conservation Advisor Angus FWAG
Catherine Lloyd	<b>CatL</b>	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator
Robert Conlon	<b>RC</b>	Head of Corporate Services, Tayside Police
Amie Fulton	<b>AF</b>	Sustainable Scotland Network

## Apologies:

Euan Hart – Scottish Agricultural College  
Eric Guthrie – TACTRAN  
Eric Lowson – Director of Infrastructure Services, Angus Council  
Kevin Murphy – Angus College

## ACTION

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

BS welcomed everyone to the meeting, with particular welcome extended to Robert Conlan who was attending his first meeting and Amie Fulton who was to provide a presentation to the group.

### 2 Presentation on Local Footprints

AF gave a presentation looking at the rationale behind local footprinting, how it can be monitored and how it can be used in the context of the Single Outcome Agreement. AF confirmed that food, housing, energy and travel are the largest contributors to carbon and ecological footprints. Based on the 2006 figures, Angus has a slightly greater carbon and ecological footprint than the Scottish average.

Carbon footprints measure the tonnes per capita of carbon dioxide which is produced through the production and consumption of goods by people in Angus. This also takes account of the carbon dioxide produced in other regions/countries when producing goods consumed in Angus.

Ecological footprints measure the area in global hectares per capita which people in Angus need to maintain their current lifestyles. This takes account of productive land and productive sea.

Updates on carbon and ecological footprints are freely available from the Stockholm Institute website. Due to the complex calculations and the variety of data sources used in these calculations, there is currently a two year lag in the figures; i.e. figures for 2009 will be available in 2011. Resource Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) Software can be purchased through the Sustainable Scotland Network and used to

measure the expected carbon and ecological footprints resulting from particular policy decisions. This allows agencies to select the option which produces the least significant carbon and ecological footprint.

AF suggested that, if the REAP software is purchased, it is best to focus on plans and policies which are currently under review or development. In addition, Planning and Transport policy often provides the most obvious starting point for this work.

Partners thanked AF for her very interesting presentation and agreed to discuss the implications of this in greater detail before making a final decision on using local footprinting in the Angus Single Outcome Agreement for 2009-12.

## **2 Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minute of the meeting of 11 September was accepted as an accurate record.

### **2.1 Actions for Delivery**

BS suggested that a key aim of AREP was to develop this document into an achievable and fundable Delivery Plan which could become an integral part of the Angus SOA. The group agreed that this matter could be dealt with in conjunction with discussions around the SOA. Partners agreed to provide any further comment on potential involvement from their individual agencies by the end of November. BS and LH will provide information on Angus Council action thus far and cross-refer this document with the other thematic groups.

ALL  
BS and  
LH

The group agreed to convene a special meeting to discuss the Delivery Plan and AREP's role in the SOA. This will take place on Monday 8 December at Angus House in Edzell. Lunch will be provided at 12pm, with the meeting to follow.

LH

### **2.2 Post Office Network Change Programme**

LH confirmed that Lunanhead Post Office is to close, Tannadice is to be added to the existing Outreach Service in Angus and there has been no further information regarding the proposed reintroduction of services to Friockheim.

### **2.3 Ragwort and Invasive Weeds**

The group discussed a paper which had been prepared by Stewart Roberts. This outlined the legal position regarding dealing with these weeds. This paper confirmed that the responsibility essentially lies with the landowner and it is only local authority responsibility if it concerns land owned by the authority.

It was suggested that Section 179 of the Town and Countryside Planning Act could provide a vehicle for enforcement by the Council. *Subsequent investigation discovered that Section 179 provides a general enforcement power and relates to the serving of Amenity notices on land or buildings which, because of the condition of land or the building, seriously affects the amenity of the area. This power is not specific to invasive weeds and has not been used in Angus, especially where other legislation, such as those outlined in the paper are in place.*

## **3 Chair and Reporting Arrangements**

BS explained that he was happy to act as an interim chair for meetings. However, it was suggested that in future this role could best be provided by another partner.

## **4 Local Community Planning in rural Angus**

The group agreed to refer this to the next meeting of AREP.

LH

## **5 Engagement with Private Sector**

The group discussed the potential for this, having regard to the information provided by NP and previously by PG. The group agreed to provide a brief summary of databases they held regarding rural businesses and land managers. This summary should particularly consider the nature of any database(s) and what it is used for and the numbers involved. Partners agreed to forward this summary to LH by the end of November.

**ALL**

## **6 Any Other Business**

### **6.1 Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework**

LH informed the group that the first stage of the tendering process was now underway, with Pre Qualification Questionnaires now being sent out to interested parties. The intention is to have the tendering exercise completed by January 2009 and the final report produced in February 2010.

**LH**

### **6.2 Woodfuel**

LH, PC and OW talked to a paper which had been produced suggesting that the AWFF should contain a section considering the potential for Woodfuel or Biomass development in the county. The group agreed that this would be worthwhile.

## **7 Next Meeting**

The group agreed to meet on Monday 8 December at 12pm in Angus House, Edzell to discuss the SOA and Delivery Plan for AREP.

**LH**