

ANGUS RURAL AND ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26 JANUARY
2PM, COUNTY BUILDINGS, MARKET STREET, FORFAR

Present:

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

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, converted into global hectares.

Updates on carbon and ecological footprints are freely available from the Sustainable Scotland Network 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 predict the expected carbon and ecological footprints resulting from particular policy decisions. This allows agencies to select the most appropriate option, considering the potential 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, AF suggested that 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 use the available data for monitoring the “above the Waterline” measures. Further discussion will take place at next AREP meeting regarding the potential use of REAP software.

ALL

3 **Single Outcome Agreement**

AM provided updates on the indicators, measures and actions from the SOA for 2008-09. Partners agreed to look at these in their own time.

Partners considered Paper 1 which provided a summary of the proposed content of the Angus SOA 2009-12, focusing on National Outcomes 10, 12 and 14. Partners agreed to forward any final comments on the wording and content of the indicators/measures to LH as soon as possible. LH and AM are to investigate any remaining concerns, make any required changes and send them out for further consultation as soon as possible thereafter.

ALL

LH and
AM

Partners discussed the process that was now required to be followed in order to have an agreed draft SOA in place for submission by the end of February. Thereafter partners agreed responsible agencies and departments to take forward particular indicators and measures. These partners agreed to provide baseline data and a suggested target by February 13, through email to LH. Partners were also asked to consider the most appropriate reporting mechanisms for providing updates on progress to AREP.

ALL

4 **Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minute was agreed as a true record of the November 2008 meeting.

4.1 **Chair and Reporting Arrangements**

BS reiterated that he is an Acting Chair of this group and requested that this issue be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Partners agreed.

LH

5 **Local Community Planning in rural Angus**

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

LH

6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 **Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework**

LH informed the group that a contractor should be appointed next week.

LH

6.2 **Information Sharing Exercise**

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

LH

6.3 **Birds of Prey**

Partners considered Paper 3 which summarised issues around the persecution of Birds of Prey in Angus. PG pointed out that SNH are currently involved in Operation Countryside in West Perthshire which focuses on areas where Birds of Prey have not been found for some time. Due to pro-active work, birds are now in these areas. SNH

and partners, including Tayside Police are now considering introducing a similar programme in Angus. PG will update the group as to progress.

PG

6.4 Survey of Rural Facilities

Partners considered Paper 4 which provided background information on the RUFIS project which was last conducted in 2004 by the now defunct Angus Rural Partnership. LH informed the group that Angus Council's I.T service was now willing to provide updates on the availability of these facilities through GIS. GIS can provide information on a number of facilities, therefore partners were asked to complete a sheet highlighting which facilities they would like to receive updates on and return the sheet to LH.

ALL

MS suggested that the Forestry Commission's SIFT Programme could provide further information on this issue. LH to check with Hamish Thomson.

LH

7

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the group will be Monday 23 March 2009, at County Buildings, Market Street, Forfar. The meeting will start at 10.30am, with lunch provided.

LH