Climate Change Working Group
(a sub-group of Argyll and Bute's CPP Management Committee)
Thursday 16th December 2021, 10:00 – 11:30

Attending:
Stan Philips, Operations Manager, NatureScot (Chair)
Angela Anderson, H&L ACPG representative and Plastic Free Helensburgh
Anna Beswick, Sniffer
Laura Corbe, OLI ACPG representative and Oban Community Council
Theresa Correia, Scottish Enterprise
Charles Dixon-Spain, Vice-Chair. B&C APCG representative
Bill Dundas, ScotGov
Becky Hothersall, Community Development Officer (OLI), Argyll and Bute Council
Jamie Joyce, Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust
Ross McLaughlin, Head of Commercial Services, Argyll and Bute Council (from Item 3)
Cathleen Russell, Chair of ColGlen Community Council and Director of Scottish Rural Action

Apologies received:
Lucinda Gray, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Willie Lynch, Chair of B&C ACPG

1. Welcome and apologies
Stan welcomed the group and introduced Anna Beswick, Business Manager for Sniffer. He thanked Anna for joining the meeting at short notice. Anna explained that Sniffer is a consultancy specialising in complex environmental programmes and is currently helping various partnerships to deliver climate action plans. One significant focus is the Adaptation Scotland programme, working with various regions and islands in Scotland to progress climate resilience collectively, including the Climate Ready Clyde project.

2. Minutes of Last meeting
The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as an accurate record. The group agreed to check the action grid at the end of the current meeting.

3. Update on Mitigation and Adaptation next steps – Stan
Stan had recently met with Anna/Sniffer to discuss ideas and the possibility to bring in people who are at later stages of undertaking comparable projects. Anna added that she is to get to know and understand us as a group and to hear what's happening in Argyll and Bute (A&B). She felt it would be interesting to have input from others across Highlands and Islands as we think about how to take work forward. Anna can facilitate with contacts, case studies and attendees of our meetings in the new year. Theresa mentioned that she has responsibility across the highlands as well as A&B but has not seen a lot of action plans so find it helpful to see how others are doing. Angela noted that we have lots of unique needs in A&B and agreed it will be really valuable to learn from regions with similar challenges.

There are lots of reports of the need to act but uncertainty about opportunities/routes forward.

Anna mentioned two Sniffer initiatives that have done lots of work on developing their evidence: one in Highland (with comparably disparate populations) and one in Loch Ken (Dumfries and Galloway) exploring how climate change work fits within its Community Development remit. Anna can suggest examples and we can see what would be useful. She will enquire to see if we can get someone for the 20th Jan.

Angela suggested the next step would be to show Sniffer what's happening in A&B. Anna said that can be part of initial activities to do in the planning process to formalise this knowledge – great to get on with but not a barrier to sharing.

A discussion followed about the scope for mapping (e.g. Jamie's ECOnnect map) to help keep people informed of activity and progress. Transport was raised as being a significant part of A&B's carbon footprint. Stan suggested the group's main work in relations to transport will be engagement. The group discussed a lack of public data on electric car charging points. Charles shared that ZapMap is well resourced and updated. It could by signposted from the group's resources and to encourage further action from the Council.

Stan summarised that Jamie's maps are the best current source of collated info on climate change action in A&B.

Stan noted an undoubted need for funding. Anna agreed the group would be likely to need an officer to pull together the info and identify funding streams. Lots of Adaptation Scotland work is helping partnerships build the business case for change and economics – what want to deliver, and costs/benefits. There are various delivery models from one single funding source to multiple partners contributing to a pot. Cost is not insurmountable but needs realistic scoping of deliverable work with resourcing scoped. This helps to maintain momentum.

Ross arrived and explained his role and remit to Anna.

Angela reminded the group of the need and opportunity to report progress from the group to the March Area Community Planning Groups.

Action: Stan to liaise with Anna about colleagues to attend the group in January/February.

4. Engagement Update – Alison/Becky/Ross

Becky reported that Nicola Reaney has set up a Basecamp group. Becky has populated it with documents shared at the October meeting plus information on relevant funds. She encouraged group members to add to the draft logic model to help clarify what the group is looking to achieve and to inform an engagement plan. She emphasised that all ideas were welcome regardless of perceived level of expertise.

Becky also encouraged input regarding what funding opportunities would be useful.

Ross reported that Alison has spoken to Rona but due to competing priorities arising from the emergence of the Omicron Covid19 variant, they have not managed to get

a diary date yet. It was agreed that this action would be rolled over to the next meeting.

Action: all to review materials on Basecamp and comment on the logic model.

5. Membership

Stan has been struggling to get Transport Scotland or SEPA involved in the group. Angela suggested that Scottish Water could be a valuable partner: they are very innovative and have done lots of work on micro-hydro schemes and on vulnerability. Ross agree they will be an important partner in progressing area-wide work. Ross also noted they have capacity issues at times with their network. He has a contact in Scottish Water Horizons whom he can invite.

Stan noted that the Community Planning Partnership does not include private sector orgs and wondered what policies there are regarding their involvement in CPP sub-groups such as this. **Action – Becky** to check**.** Anna indicated that Sniffer has contacts with all the agencies but has found they need to understand the vision or plans of groups such as this one to see where they can justify getting involved. The next stages of work will provide leverage to get them involved and Sniffer can share examples of how that has played out in other groups' work. This will be useful even if they can't actually be involved in the partnership work.

Cathleen has been looking into the National Planning Framework 4 (led by MSP Kevin Stuart) in her role within Scottish Rural Action and reported that the group's work will have lots of links with this. Theresa noted that it will also be strongly aligned with spatial plans. She shared a link and offered to find out the timeline for submission of final Regional Spatial Strategies.

Actions: Stan – will have a look at this. **Theresa** to report back on timeline for RSS.

Young MSPs – Stan has spoken to Ann Kennovin (Dunoon CLD Youth Worker). Of the three new Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, two cited climate change as their main interests. Stan suggested making introductions and inviting them to join the group. **Actions: Cathleen** offered to approach the MYSP based in Dunoon. **Stan** to ask David Rennie if he can approach the one based in Bute.

6. AOB

a) Argyll Rally

Willie had submitted an email request for the group to table a motion demanding that Argyll and Bute Council refuse permission for the Argyll Rally. Stan reported that in response to a similar request at the December Community Planning Partnership Management Committee, Pippa Milne surmised that it is not our role to place demands on partners through the CPP process. As this group is a subset of the CPP, should the same approach be taken? Laura asked if a softer approach (e.g. asking for emissions to be offset) could offer a compromise. Charles acts as community liaison with the Rally and reported that the community is very split on the issue. He didn't feel it is for this group to deal with; Cathleen agreed. Ross highlighted the issue of organisations' sovereignty around subjects such as licencing. Individuals in the group are free to make representations but such campaigning is not necessarily within the group's remit.

Action: Stan to inform Willie that the group did not consider it appropriate to take this action forward.

b) Upcoming changes to agricultural policy and funding

Bill reported that the UK has now withdrawn from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. After an interim programme of stability and simplicity until 2023, successor policies are under development to be in place by 2024-5. The recently announced National Test Programme will provide up to £50m investment over the next three years to reduce emissions from agriculture. One track will work with a focus group of farmers and crofters (including from A&B) to understand how sustainable agriculture can be supported such that it determines the level of support provided. A second track is putting in place livestock data and performance systems to address greenhouse gas emissions from farming. Results from both tracks will inform development of a system to reward farmers both for producing food and for improving biodiversity and emissions. The group discussed whether its work might be eligible for funding under this programme. Bill thought it might, and would keep the group informed.

A wide-ranging discussion about carbon credits followed. Currently, credits offer financial only rewards to farmers with damaged peatland under restoration. Ross noted that the credits offer significant opportunities for transformation and benefit for A&B. He is often asked about them but finds it difficult to fully understand the totality and monitoring of the issue. The group would benefit from an awareness of how the market operates and how food producers' own offsetting needs should be balanced against potential gain from selling credits. Laura agreed that carbon credits may be the strongest card A&B holds and knowledge of how they are working would be valuable. Bill is not directly involved but will be able to come back with updates; once pilot farms are recruited to the NTP, they may also be able to talk to the group about what practical actions they are taking in this sphere.

Anna explained that at a national level, the Climate Finance group in Adaptation Scotland is looking at carbon credits and lots of related finance options. It will be publishing information in the new year, which Anna can share if of interest. She noted that a saltmarsh code is also being developed.

Stan is on the stakeholder group for a big piece of work on how carbon credits can be used to create community benefit and felt there is scope to learn a lot from it. The Woodland Carbon Code up and running but a comparable Peatland code is not yet in place. 75% of peatlands are currently emitting carbon so the Peatland Restoration Fund is paying farmers to return to sequestering condition, but as this doesn't generate any income until land is restored and sold, immediate benefits to farmers are unclear. Bill has recently been researching the various financial models available to farmers and offered to share a useful presentation within the Basecamp files (not for wider sharing).

Action: Bill to upload file to Basecamp.

c) Mapping

Jamie recapped his ECOconnect mapping project. He would like to see the social and economic side of natural capital brought into the same online space as project mapping. This could be an effective live working documents as well as a resource. It could be offered using the free GreenMap resource. A fuller regional map would be too much information for one person to maintain. If each area audited/monitored their own area (within the CPP), results could be collated on one site Are there other ways to do it, such as through a Trust already active in A&B, as a pilot? Stan suggested that ACT seems the ideal lead but recognised that it does not have enough staff. Cathleen suggested the Community Councils, which could then feed into the CPP. Angela felt they would need a good framework to follow as the 86 CCs are all very different and some are moribund. Jamie offered to share information on Basecamp including some green mapping Dunoon Area Alliance has done. Jamie confirmed that once collected, data could be collated into a single map that he would manage. He could deliver this within a few weeks. Angela expressed interest in acting as a pilot project. Becky noted its potential utility as an engagement tool.

Actions: Jamie to share information on Basecamp. **Angela and Jamie** to discuss a Helensburgh pilot.

d) Climate Change funding / page updated

Becky reported that David Rennie has updated the funding search on the A&B Council climate change web page. He has received some interest from groups keen to include links and will update information as he receives it.

David also highlighted the new British Science Association's Highlands and Islands Climate Change Community Grant (closing end January 2022). Becky noted that she had posted this on Basecamp. It is a small grant scheme of up to £4500 supporting community groups in the Highlands and Islands to work with a researcher to run a project on a local climate change issue. Becky has good contacts with researchers and the scheme organisers so is happy to advise.

e) Action grid

As the meeting was over-running, Becky offered to upload the action grid (below) to Basecamp and asked people to comment on progress of actions against their names.

7. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 20th January, 10:00-11:30

CPP CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP ACTION GRID – at 16th December 2021

	Complete		In Progress		Outstanding	***Please highlight actions as per traffic light system to show progress***

Date Set	Action	Who	Required by Date
10/9/21	It was agreed that the CPP MC should be approached for funding. Stan to table a paper with that request to the next CPP MC.	Stan	15 September 21
10/9/21	New mission statement to be drafted.	Charles / Cathleen	21 October 21
28/10/21	Alison to share engagement toolkit with the group	Alison	18 November 21
28/10/21	Becky to share the information that she finds from looking at that SG COP 26 engagement strategy.	Becky	18 November 21
28/10/21	All group members to send David details of any other sites that you would like to see highlighting a link to the council Climate Webpages	All	18 November 21
28/10/21	David to do a search to see what funding is available for the group and advise Stan of results. Ask Governance to add the website link to regular Community Council communications.	David	18 November 21
18/11/21	Becky to circulate logic model with minutes for input.	Becky	19 November 21
18/11/21	Alison, Ross to meet with Rona.	Alison/Ross	16 December 21
18/11/21	Alison, Ross, Becky to meet and feed back	Alison/Ross/Becky	16 December 21
18/11/21	Becky to enquire about setting up a Basecamp group and report back.	Becky	16 December 21
18/11/21	Ross and Stan to approach Sniffer.	Ross/Stan	16 December 21
18/11/21	Becky to circulate Ross's slides with minutes.	Becky	16 December 21
16/12/21	Liaise with Anna Beswick (Sniffer) to invite appropriate parties to attend Jan/Feb meetings	Stan	23rd December 21
16/12/21	Review materials on Basecamp and comment on the logic model	All	20th January 22
16/12/21	Check policies relating to private sector organisation involvement in CPP groups	Becky	20th January 22

16/12/21	Look into links with National Planning Framework 4 deliverables for Argyll and Bute/ timeline for Rural Spatial Strategies	Stan/Theresa	20th January 22
16/12/21	Approach new Members of Scottish Youth Parliament about joining group	Cathleen/Stan (via David Rennie)	20th January 22
16/12/21	Inform Willie of discussion outcome re: Argyll Rally	Stan	20th January 22
16/12/21	Upload resources to Basecamp (presentation on carbon credits – Bill; Green Mapping example from Dunoon Area Alliance – Jamie)	Bill/Jamie	20th January 22
16/12/21	Liaise on pilot Green Map input for Helensburgh area	Jamie/Angela	20th January 22