



Open Community Meeting

WRI, Nurses Lane, Comrie

Monday 05 October 2009, 7.30pm

MINUTE OF MEETING

In attendance :

CDT Directors: Cathy Tilbrook (Chair), Eunice Cartwright, Fran Loots, David Robertson.

CDT staff: Isla Valenti, Emma Margrett

Welcome

A warm welcome to those present was extended by the Chair on this dark evening and commenced with introducing the main theme of the evening “Comrie's Zero Waste Fortnight” and the panel – John Thomson : Campaigns Officer from Waste Aware Scotland, Ana de Miguel : Waste Minimisation Officer from Perth & Kinross Council and Sue Terras : Real Nappy Network Perth & Kinross Council.

Emma Margrett, CDT Carbon Challenge Officer explained to the meeting how the idea for “Comrie's Zero Waste Fortnight” began with Perth & Kinross Council (P&KC) approaching CDT with their idea and how CDT was delighted to work with them on this campaign as it fitted very well with the other work CDT are involved with. Emma invited the meeting to submit their comments on the The Scottish Government Zero Waste Plan Consultation for Scotland which outlines how we can all play our part in reducing the amount of waste we produce, reuse valuable resources and increase recycling levels to help Scotland become a Zero Waste Society. The Plan can be accessed via the Scottish Government website or in the CDT office within the Waste Plan booklets – deadline for comments to be submitted to the Scottish Government is 13th November 2009.

John Thomson, Waste Aware Scotland gave the meeting an outline on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle within Perth & Kinross. He confirmed that 98% of Scotland now had access to recycling facilities and that the “Comrie Zero Waste Fortnight” campaign was to increase awareness and reduce green bin usage within our community – Comrie being the first in Scotland to do this thus being used as a case study. The 30% reduction target set for 2008 has been achieved and John explained that all indications are that we are on target for the 40% reduction target set for 2010. It is appreciated that it will get more difficult as time goes on with the target for 2025 being a 70% reduction in waste as there are some materials that you cannot or it is difficult to recycle. An overview of the fortnight of events can be viewed on the P&KC website (www.pkc.gov.uk/recycle), you can also pledge your support and sign up for the campaign on the website or in person at the CDT office.

The two week event will run from Thursday 12th November to Thursday 26th November 2009, a full list of the programme of events within the fortnight will be available in the CDT office, on the Comrie website and emailed to all CDT members in the near future when it is

finalised. The fortnight will feature various themes such as Reduce Reuse Recycle, 'Stop the Drop' Junk mail campaign, Love Food Hate Waste, Zero Waste Fashion Show, Real Nappy Network, Nappuccino, Composting, Refurbished bike sale, reusing shopping bags prize draw and a Litter pick up.

Sue Terras, from the P&KC Real Nappy Network spoke to the group of her work with the real nappy campaign highlighting the advantages of them and dispelled a few myths as they are easy to use, do not require soaking and boil washing, easy to fasten and come in all sorts of fancy colours and designs. Real Nappy Trial Kits can be hired from Perth & Kinross Council at any time however Sue confirmed that the normal £15.00 hire cost would be dropped for anyone in Comrie hiring a kit within the Zero Waste Fortnight. Anyone with a child of up to 2½ years old and keen to try this out should either contact Sue at P&KC or pop into the CDT office. Sue will be attending one of the future meetings of the toddler group in the village to talk about her campaign. *(Did you know that 8 million nappies go to landfill per day in the UK – that is a mountain the size of Ben Nevis. If ever there was an incentive we think this is it !)*.

Ana de Miguel, Perth & Kinross Council spoke to the meeting on how the council plan to measure the success of the two week campaign. It depends on how many people sign up to the campaign and also the actual reduction in tonnage of the waste collected from Comrie's green bins over the course of the two weeks. There are currently two lorries collecting in Comrie. P&KC will weigh the total amount of residential waste collected from householders' green bins prior to the start of the Zero waste Fortnight and once again after the fortnight is over. The difference in tonnage will give an indication of the success of the scheme. P&KC will divide the total tonnage from each weighing exercise by the number of bins to give a household average. The Blue bins will also be monitored and weighed in the same way and it is hoped that this tonnage will increase with more households separating their waste and placing more in the blue bins (first measurement will be taken on 19th November with the second measurement being taken on 03 December). There will be no measurement of the brown bins due to the time of year and seasonal variation. Ana informed the meeting that P&KC pay £62.00 for each tonne that goes to landfill from the green bin collection (this cost is made up of landfill tax and the gate fee from the landfill site) and they have pledged to give Comrie £62.00 per tonne for each tonne saved within the fortnight. The money raised from this will be given to the Outdoor Classroom project at Comrie Primary School and the Comrie Skatepark group.

Cathy Tilbrook expressed her delight at this money raising prospect and encouraged everyone to get involved to show that Comrie can reduce their waste and raise money at the same time for two good causes within the village.

John Thomson asked the meeting to inform P&KC of any items they were left with and couldn't recycle or reuse as this information is vital to them to ensure facilities and options are put in place for the people of Perth & Kinross. John spoke of the work they will be doing with Comrie Primary School to raise awareness and educate pupils on this subject in a fun and informative way. John encouraged everyone to have a look at the website and feel free to contact him or any of his colleagues with questions.

Questions from the floor:

Will the use of the recycling facilities at Laggan Park be monitored during the two week campaign. It was confirmed that this would be monitored and again it is hoped that there will be an increase in usage within the two weeks and beyond. Ana de Miguel confirmed that she hopes to have cardboard bins placed at Laggan Park before the two week campaign begins

and that P&KC will speak to local businesses within Comrie to let them know how they can be involved in the events.

Can white goods only be taken to a recycling centre. It was confirmed that if they are broken they should be taken to Crieff Recycling Centre or the Salvation Army in Perth will refurbish working items.

Why can't we recycle window envelopes – it was confirmed that unfortunately at present these cannot be recycled however we are all encouraged to try to reuse them, where possible.

Why can't we recycle certain plastic pots and trays – unfortunately at present there are certain plastic packaging trays and pots that cannot be recycled (yoghurt, mince, strawberry punnets). This is due to them either being made of composite materials and/or a lack of market for the materials to be sold into. However the meeting was encouraged to either buy these items with less packaging is possible and come up with creative ideas as to how to use the packaging for another use (e.g. yoghurt pots for planting seeds/seedlings).

The three guest speakers were thanked and Cathy Tilbrook spoke to the meeting asking if everyone had received their copy of the latest Comrie Bulletin that was hand delivered to all households by the very kind efforts of the delivery distribution group. Cathy also checked that everyone who is a CDT member received their pack for the CDT AGM within the last couple of days and should anyone not have received their pack to please contact the CDT office. Anyone interested in standing for CDT Board member should submit their intention to the CDT office by Friday 9th October 2009. The CDT AGM will take place on Monday the 19th of October 2009 at 7.30pm in the White Church.

The next Community Open Meeting will take place on Monday 02 November in the White Church. This event will be dedicated to the progress and future phases of Cultybraggan. There will also be a drop in session up at Cultybraggan on Saturday 31st October where you will be able to have a look around and ask any questions of the CDT Board and Cultybraggan Working Group – more details of this will follow shortly.

Close of meeting : 8.30pm

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Office hours – 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday