

# Community Open Meeting

WRI Hall, Comrie – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010, 7.30 pm

## MINUTE OF MEETING

**CDT Directors present:** Cathy Tilbrook (Chair), Peter McRitchie, Chris Palmer

**CDT Staff present:** Fran Loots, Will Reid, Isla Valenti, Andy Heming

### Welcome

Cathy Tilbrook, volunteer CDT Board Member and Chair of the meeting, thanked everyone for attending. Cathy introduced Fran Loots, CDT staff member, to give an update on the carbon challenge project.

### Carbon Challenge project

Fran thanked all the local residents who had completed a questionnaire, which provides a baseline for establishing Comrie's carbon footprint. She then provided a local context on carbon tonnage by explaining that the area of volume of the White Church equals 6 tonnes of carbon – the UK average per year (according to most sources) is 11 tonnes of carbon. According to a specially developed software model, Comrie's Carbon and Ecological footprint is higher than the national average. Fran explained that this was common in rural areas, but also related to the numbers of large, older houses in our community and to wealthier communities. Fran went on to explain that it is estimated that 14.6 White Churches (87.6 tonnes) will be saved once the carbon actions are implemented.

The ecological footprint, which looks at the natural resources it takes each year to sustain a lifestyle (measured in hectares), meant on average, each person living in Comrie would require half of the Cultybraggan site per year to live by current standards. So, as suggested by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), we are using up at least twice as many resources on the planet now as we can replace.

An update was also given on the first phase of the street by street insulation project as 889 tonnes of carbon have been saved to date in Comrie from the insulation measures installed on the homes that have taken part. Phase two of this project is underway with leaflets being delivered to homes that did not take part in phase one encouraging them to have the optimum level of insulation in their homes. This will help people to cut their energy bills as well as their carbon footprint. Answering a few specific questions from the floor, Fran also informed the meeting that renewable energy for homes will be featured in a future open meeting next year.

Cathy Tilbrook thanked Fran for her informative update and introduced Kirsty Davidson from Steer, Davies, Gleave who are conducting a Travel Plan survey on behalf of the Trust to ascertain the travel needs for our community. 123 survey results have been received via online and verbal surveys which were complemented

by an interactive community event held in July to gain further information from the community.

Kirsty gave a presentation on the main themes that have emerged from the information gathered to date. The meeting were then given the full list of themes and asked to prioritise them indicating which should go ahead, which should not proceed and one theme that should be top priority. Once this part of the exercise was complete the top ten themes (along with approximate implementation costs against each theme) were given to each group who then prioritised them into which of these ten should go ahead if a hypothetical figure of £45K were available to implement them. Each group then fed back their list from which Steer, Davies, Gleave will then finalise the prioritised list to discuss further with local transport companies and Perth & Kinross Council later this week. The two top ideas were an off-road route to Crieff/Cultybraggan and bus links to Stirling/Dunblane. Two further surveys will also be carried out to ensure the younger generation within our community have their say by carrying out a school bus survey with children attending secondary education in Crieff as well as a “hands up” survey with Comrie Primary School. Kirsty thanked the meeting for taking part in the prioritisation exercise and asked Cathy to draw the winner of the £100 hamper which was won by Dawn Albert.

### **Next Meeting**

Cathy closed the meeting by thanking everyone who had attended, to Fran for her informative update and to Steer, Davies, Gleave for attending and making the meeting an enjoyable interactive event. She confirmed the arrangements for the next meeting of the Trust which will take place on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010** at 7.30 p.m. in the WRI Hall.

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