



Open Community Meeting

White Church, Comrie

Monday 07 December 2009, 7.30pm

MINUTE OF MEETING

CDT Directors: Alan Caldwell, Ian Findlay, Eunice Cartwright, Fran Loots, David Robertson, Felicity Snowsill, Blair Urquhart, Jim Buchanan (Vice Chair), Velma Plummer, William Levack. CDT staff: Isla Valenti, Emma Margrett

Welcome

A very warm welcome was extended to those who attended this Community Open Meeting.

Jim Buchanan, volunteer CDT Board member and Vice Chair, started the meeting off with an outline of what the meeting was going to cover, the next phase of the Comrie Carbon Challenge and how best to progress the various ideas on how Comrie can mirror the Scottish Government's carbon reduction target of 42% by 2020 at a local level. Copies of the latest Comrie Bulletin, the Comrie Delivery Plan were available to everyone on each table.

Emma Margrett, CDT Carbon Challenge Officer, spoke to the meeting on how and when the Trust had applied to The Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund and the recent success in being awarded a further £176,072 to further progress projects for Cultybraggan and the village. This recent award from the Climate Challenge Fund was announced on 03.12.2009 – the grant will allow the Trust to employ two new staff members (Delivery Plan Manager and Assistant) for a period of 15 months, six Delivery Plan Advisors (to be recruited in February – March to start in April 2010), £10K for a sustainable transport feasibility study, community learning events and a communications strategy. The CDT bid to the Climate Challenge Fund mirrors the national delivery plan set out by the Government which is split into five themes: Electricity, Heat, Transport, Waste and Rural Land Use. Comrie's ambitious plans also take into account a sixth theme of Behavioural & Attitudinal Change. The Comrie Delivery Plan will develop ideas on how to achieve the Scottish Government targets of 42% reduction by 2020 (80% reduction by 2050) at a local level to be carried out within our community. The Rural Land Use theme cannot be funded under the Climate Challenge Fund due to certain criteria that the Fund lays out in the guidance notes, however, the Trust wishes to mirror, in its entirety, the national Delivery Plan, therefore Rural Land Use is included in the bid (although not funded by) and will be taken forward by volunteers / Board Members on a Rural Land Use Working Group and any other funding as and when opportunities arise.

Emma invited questions from the floor which were:

Q. The six new Delivery Plan Advisor roles, who will get these jobs.

A. The six existing Energy Awareness Advisor posts will be coming to an end as of 31st March 2011 and thereafter the six new posts will be re-advertised / recruited in the same manner as before and will be open to everyone.

Q. Renewables – I hope it is not wind turbines.

A. Wind turbines are unlikely to be an option in Comrie as we are in a “wind hole” - in other words, there is very little wind in Comrie.

Q. Do we know what the new housing regulations are going to stipulate in terms of insulation, double glazing etc and will there be any recognition to get them in line with the Climate Change Bill ?

A. CDT are not aware of what the next amendment of housing regulation stipulations will be like and will only know this as and when they are implemented by the local authority.

Q. What is an Eco Hub?

A. Generic term for Eco technologies.

Q. Is there a timeline for the projects listed – is it within the 15 months of the two new posts

A. Feasibility studies will be carried out within the funding period for the posts (until March 31st 2011) within which time the Delivery Plan Manager will take forward the findings from the feasibility study. The implementation of the findings of the studies, which is likely to include infrastructure works, will be ongoing post March 31st 2011. One of the roles of the Delivery Plan Manager is to access capital investment / further funding to take forward the recommendations as laid out in the feasibility studies.

Q. Disappointing numbers have turned out this evening – how can the CDT get more people from the community to contribute with this ?

A. We do hope the energy created by the projects within this delivery plan will energise the community to become more involved. The communications strategy money with the latest grant funding will allow CDT to heighten the communications between them and the community.

John King, one of the current CDT Energy Awareness Advisors (EAA), spoke to the meeting about the course he had attended earlier today as part of his EAA training on using Thermal Imaging Cameras – he said it was very enlightening and would demonstrate the heat loss in our homes at first hand within our community. CDT will be submitting a press release in the near future that will feature this and will be asking for homes in the community where the camera can be used.

Jim Buchanan explained to the meeting that everyone was to break into groups within their tables to discuss the various aspects of the Comrie Delivery Plan. After discussion one person from each table stood up to present the findings from their table discussions.

- Publicise progress in an easy to understand format, tangible evidence e.g. smart meters for longer periods to rent, make the Comrie Delivery Plan easier to understand, offer to Comrie businesses to become involved in the feasibility studies, have CDT take on an assistance role with Comrie businesses asking them in what areas they require support to aid the delivery plan, get young people involved, bulk buy energy efficient bulbs, create a link between the Community Council and the CDT on areas such as the local plan, bus and public transport links (liftshare), encourage reduction of energy, micro renewables – make this area simpler to understand for the wider community (less jargon).
- Visible improvement in communication, CDT should pick one topic that everyone could relate to and would demonstrate and tie in with carbon reduction – bring people together. Help buy the garage site to make into a village square.
- Renewable energy – no one source is the answer, would need to be made up of different sources (small scale hydro, biomass, hemp, solar. Social Enterprise running

the Co Co Bus to provide peak time journeys from Comrie to Dunblane train station. Off road route to Cultybraggan from the village. High quality office hub (wifi/video conferencing) for people to rent as and when required to increase home working and cut down commuting. One nissen hut to be made over to demonstrate an example of zero carbon. More focus on building design/training for architects. Bulk buy renewables energy packs within village e.g. bulk buying of solar panel installations for those interested to get the keenest price possible from the installer.

- Programme for full community insulation, full community to get involved in reducing power usage. Invite companies to come to Cultybraggan to do demonstrations. Despite quality of communications coming from CDT there is still a lack of participation from the community to come along and join in with meetings.
- Local food, community orchard, sale of allotments produce, do more communications.

Eunice Cartwright gave thanks to the team of volunteer delivery people who kindly hand deliver the Comrie Bulletin on behalf of CDT. The CDT Board also wish to add their thanks to the people who delivery the Comrie Bulletin and without them could not distribute the Bulletin to each household in the village.

Emma Margrett read out a couple of questions received by a member of the Trust:

1. In order to carry out a feasibility study and deliver a communication strategy you will need a baseline of how much carbon Comrie emits now – so the first stage of this delivery plan should be to determine this baseline e.g. Transport – how many people in Comrie drive to Glasgow/Perth etc. / What cc of car do they drive / Do they drive alone ?. Create a baseline of transport data for the village. Only then will you be able to deliver a strategy for reduction. This baseline data should be carried out for each category : electricity, Heat, transport, Land use, waste and behaviour/Attitude and form the base of the delivery plan. Otherwise you cannot determine any % reduction. Please confirm that a baseline study will happen.
2. Introducing 2 new salaries into Comrie to carry out this project directly increases consumption. Why can't this project be carried out by existing staff ?

Emma Margrett replied to this:

1. Since April 2009, the Energy Audit and Insulation Programme has been running with a view to not only installing insulation but to establish an energy baseline (over 400 households have completed Home Energy Check Questionnaires). The second phase of establishing this baseline will start in January in the form of follow-up visits within the community. The visits will initially start with those householders that have had their insulation installed through the scheme, move on to those householders that have completed their HECs and then finally the rest of the community. Each household will be interviewed by an Energy Awareness Advisor using the REAP Petite carbon / ecological footprint tool. This tool is widely used within the UK and has been developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute based at the University of York. This process will establish a baseline by the end of March 2010. The percentage reductions stated in the Comrie Delivery Plan will be established using this baseline. Therefore in answer to the question, CDT can confirm that a baseline study is already underway and will be completed by March 31st 2010.
2. The introduction of two new salaries to Comrie will not necessarily directly increase consumption and in the case of the two existing staff, the uptake of a local job (rather than covering the whole of the East of Scotland / commuting to Stirling on a daily basis) actually reduced their carbon / ecological footprint drastically. If both new salaries are local to Comrie, the rate of consumption will not alter and could actually be reduced as in the case of the two existing staff. If the two new posts are external

to the village this means a boost to the local economy if the new recruits are willing to move to Comrie / spend in the village. Both new members of staff will use the REAP Petite tool on joining the CDT to ascertain their carbon / ecological footprint.

The existing staff, Carbon Challenge Officer and Carbon Challenge Support Worker are at capacity with the projects that they currently work on, as are the members of the Cultybraggan Working Group. To enable the next phase of development at Cultybraggan, dedicated members of staff are required. The two existing staff will focus primarily on community engagement projects within the village and the two new staff will focus on infrastructure projects at Cultybraggan. At present it is physically impossible in terms of time for existing members of staff, Board and volunteers to take on any more work.

A vote of thanks from the floor to the immense effort of the volunteer board members of CDT for all the work that has gone into the Climate Challenge Fund bid and congratulations to everyone involved on the award of the £176,072.

Jim Buchanan asked the meeting to take the five sticky red dots at each seat and stick people the dots against the projects they think are a priority. They can put all their dots against one project or spread them out. The rest of the community will be asked to come into the CDT office to express their opinion regarding the potential plans for Cultybraggan and the village – this will be expressed via an e-bulletin and a notice in the office window.

The next Community Open Meeting will take place on Monday 01 February 2010 in the WRI Hall. The main theme of this event will follow shortly.

Close of meeting : 9.30pm

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Office hours – 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday