

Strathard Strategic Partnership
Draft Notes of the Inception Meeting held on Monday, 26 March 2018
in the Aberfoyle Business Hub

Present:

1. Andy Malcolm (Strathard Community Trust)
2. Billy Ronald (Board Member, LLTNPA)
3. Colin Smith (Strathard Community Council)
4. Fiona Jackson (Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority)
5. John Hair (Forest Enterprise Scotland)
6. Katinka Dalglish (Strathard Community Trust)
7. Louis Bond (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency)
8. Nicola Colquhoun (LLTNPA)
9. Peter Sunderland (Aberfoyle Traders Association)
10. Simon Jones (LLTNPA)
11. Steve MacDonald (Stirling Council)
12. Stewart Carruth (Stirling Council)
13. Susan Brooks (LLTNPA - Chair)
14. Trevor Geraghty (Strathard Community Council)

Apologies: Paul Roberts (Scottish Natural Heritage)

1) Welcome

The Chair, Susan Brooks from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) welcomed everyone to the meeting in the new Aberfoyle Business Hub.

2) Background

- a) As way of introduction Susan Brooks explained that following engagement with the Strathard community in relation to both the Strathard Initiative ecosystems services project and the launch of Strathard's Community Action Plan (CAP), the Strathard Community Trust (SCT) and Community Council (CC) had identified the need to improve communication and coordinate service delivery among all stakeholders. The purpose of this inception meeting was to discuss the potential of developing a multi-agency forum to respond to this need.

3) Purpose of Strathard Strategic Partnership

- a) There was agreement that a multi-agency forum would be a sensible approach to facilitate mutual understanding and coordinate joint working.
- b) A general discussion followed with issues raised including:
 - i) It would be helpful to develop further discussion and understanding about the Local Development Plan (LDP) and how it can support both local and national aspirations, especially in relation to housing and tourism developments.
 - ii) The SCT aims to refine the priorities in the CAP and requests public sector support to deliver CAP aspirations and develop capacity to develop community-led projects.

- iii) To capitalise on the interconnectedness between the natural environment and related landscape-scale interventions and delivering economic and social benefits.
- iv) The relevance and interdependence between Stirling city and the surrounding rural area/settlements.

4) Susan Brooks agreed to follow up on planning related matters direct with Community Council Planning Representative.

Partner Updates on Priorities

- a) Each Partner highlighted the priorities for the coming year, including the SCT and CC. This information would form the focus of work of the Strathard Strategic Partnership (SSP) if it decides to meet regularly in the future.
- b) Stewart Carruth (Chief Executive, Stirling Council) observed the positive energy and activity taking place in the area and welcomed continued joint working and engagement in the future.
- c) It was suggested that in some instances public sector partners, rather than community groups, are better placed to influence the policies and operations of other agencies, examples include Scottish Water, private haulage contractors, British Telecom (broadband), and the community would welcome such interventions.
- d) There was agreement that better communication and information exchange would improve understanding and manage everyone's expectations.

Action: Stewart Carruth agreed to approach Scottish Water, Scottish Power and other energy networks over specific issues raised by the CC

5) Strathard Strategic Partnership – a Good Idea?

- a) It was agreed that the formation of a SSP is a good idea in order to enhance:
 - i) Joint communication and understanding of needs, plans and developments (minutes of meetings can be made public).
 - ii) Alignment with the Strathard CAP
 - iii) Joint coordination of service delivery
 - iv) Engagement with and involvement/participation of the wider community
 - v) Accountability of all stakeholders.
- b) It was suggested that other stakeholders could be invited to SSP meetings as appropriate, e.g. Scottish Water, Scottish Power, Landowners.
- c) It was suggested the SSP could meet initially every 3 months with early actions to agree the Terms of Reference and membership of the SSP, map the barriers to joint working and develop a focussed/timed joint plan to coordinate developments and services to respond to the needs of the Strathard area, resources permitting.

Action: LLTNPA agreed to draft the minutes from this meeting and draft the Terms of Reference, and facilitate meetings during the first six months of its existence.

6) Date and Time of Next Meeting

- a) Next meeting will be on **Monday, 18 June 2018 at 7.30-9.30 pm in Strathard Business Hub.**