

**RENFREWSHIRE FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP
THURSDAY 29 APRIL 2010
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Present:

Cllr Brian Lawson (chair)
Pauline Moss, RC Chief Exec's (minutes)
Joanne MacDonald, RC Chief Exec's
Paul Brennan, RC Chief Exec's
Aileen McMillan, RC Finance
David Elder, RC Environmental Services
Alison Clark, MEPC
Duncan Macintosh, Unison
Maureen Brough, PFTP
Derek Betts, RC Finance
Sister Maria McGuire, Reid Kerr

Cllr George Adam
John MacDowell, former Provost
Charlie Dolan, Trinity High School
Beth Adams, Trinity High School
Erin O'Neill, Trinity High School
Marianne McGuire, RC Education
Cllr Iain McMillan
Susan Duncan, UWS
Bob Turner, LIA
Liz Cotton, Rainbow Turtle

Apologies:

Richard Gibson, RC Planning
Amanda Moulson, RC Planning
Mary Alice Mansell, LIA
Lesley Scott Khan, LIA
Maureen Hill, Piazza Shopping Centre
Celia Mackie, Paisley Diocese
Sandra Stuart, RCHI
Jackie Milligan, RC Chief Exec's
Pauline Allan, RC Chief Exec's
Karen Campbell, Lochwinnoch Primary
Marie Davidson, RC Planning
John Littler, Bishopton Steering Group
Colin Cunningham, RC Social Work
Janet Menzies, RC Social Work
Cllr Eileen McCartin
Amin Mohammed, RC Housing
Mary Keane, Spateston Nursery

Doreen Polson, Paisley South LAC
Kim Ferry, RC Finance
Alan MacPherson, Rainbow Turtle
Cllr Audrey Doig
Irene Garrett, UWS
Cllr Derek Mackay
Cllr Iain Langlands
Cllr Marie McGurk
Paul Mullan, Scottish Parliament
Sandra Crichton, Johnstone
Jack Nellaney, Trinity High School
Maureen Pollock, Paisley South LAC
Graeme Clark, PACT
Provost Lawson
Jenna Johnstone, Erskine
Cllr Cathy McEwan
Cllr Kenny MacLaren

2. Matters arising

Duncan asked that we write to the Fairtrade Foundation to let them know what our response from the supermarkets was like during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Action – PM to arrange letter for Fairtrade Foundation

3. Publicity and marketing

a. Press coverage – Joanne gave an overview of recent press coverage which was excellent over Fairtrade Fortnight and outlined her plans for upcoming press releases. A reminder if anyone has any Fairtrade events coming up over the summer to please let Joanne know so she can include them in her press releases.

b. Fairtrade Guide to Renfrewshire – Joanne reminded the group that if anyone needs any more copies or thinks they might over the summer period, to please let us know in good time so we can arrange that.

4. Events

a. Summary of Fairtrade Fortnight 2010:

- Over 350 people completed 'I Swap' pledges.

- Fairtrade Tea Dance - around 200 people attended, we launched our latest edition of Fairtrade Guide and the Provost announced that now all tea dances in Paisley Town Hall will be swapping to use only Fairtrade tea and coffee.
- Renfrewshire's Fairtrade 'Roadshow' - Braehead Shopping Centre – it was really positive returning to Braehead again and seeing the huge expansion in the types of Fairtrade products available in every day shops since we last had a roadshow in Braehead back in 2008.
- Community Tea Party was held on the 27th of February bringing together key community organisations, volunteers, faith groups and other interested parties with a special visit from a Fairtrade olive oil producer from Palestine and the Scottish Fair Trade Forum.
- Visits to five local schools from a group of Fairtrade walnut farmers supported by Equal Exchange
- Information stand was displayed in Atrium for the full fortnight and a special Fairtrade stall run by Rainbow Turtle sold goods and was very popular.
- Council also had a stand in the exhibition at the COSLA Conference 2010, which took place during Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 which gave us a great opportunity to speak to other local authorities about supporting Fairtrade.
- In the lead up to and during Fairtrade Fortnight, all Council computers were set with screensavers promoting Fairtrade Fortnight and the Big Swap. Fairtrade banners were hung in Paisley town centre for the duration of the Fortnight and beyond.

b. World Fairtrade Day – another Fairtrade stall run by Rainbow Turtle will be in the Atrium on the 5th of May following the success of the one in March. This will be to raise awareness of World Fairtrade Day and will be promoted through the 'Renfo' site for employees and also around the building itself. To promote World Fairtrade Day across Renfrewshire Paul organised a poster competition for all the local schools and the winning poster by a Gryffe High School first year pupil has been printed and distributed around all our schools and community facilities.

4. Summer programme – there are a couple of clashes with events, e.g. Houston Show is the same day as Liliash Day but as we did Houston Show last year we should probably do Liliash Day this year if possible. Dates for shows are as follows, we will need a number of volunteers from the group and the Council to be able to go to these events and we will also need to get our stalls booked on them as soon as possible:

5 June	Liliash Day Kilbarchan
6 June	Renfrew Gala Day
12 June	Bridge of Weir Gala Day
19 June	Barshaw Park Gala Day
19 June	Howwood Fete
3 July	Sma Shot Day

Please note that Amanda and Pauline have already agreed they could cover Howwood Fete between them and there are already a number of officers on the Steering Group who will be working at Sma' Shot Day but we need volunteers for the remaining dates.

Other events include the West End Fair (30th May) but we've raised this before and not had much interest yet (especially as it is a Sunday and a holiday weekend) and Johnstone Gala Day is the 29th of May.

Bob encouraged the group to support Liliash Day as there is a core group of people in Kilbarchan really keen to form a Fairtrade group and this could help them to get more interest from the local community.

Liz pointed out that Rainbow Turtle would be taking a stall at Houston Show and Rainbow Turtle would be happy to also look after an information stall if the two stalls were placed together. This might also be an option for other gala days if we are low on volunteers. Having a Fairtrade presence at the upcoming Cluny event in Paisley was raised, Cllr Lawson confirmed that Fairtrade guides were included in the delegate packs, only Fairtrade tea and coffee would be used in catering, and that the Fairtrade banners would be displayed in the Abbey for the weekend. We are also in the process of working with Paisley Abbey and trying to get the wine served at this event to be Fairtrade also.

5. Schools update – Paul and Marianne congratulated Trinity High School on winning the Provost's Community Award Spirit of Fairtrade Award. Marianne said that the feedback from the schools following the walnut farmer's visit was very positive and she passed on her thanks to Paul for all his hard work organising the visit and the poster competition. Sister Maria suggested that the nursery at Reid Kerr could be included in any competitions or similar that involve the council/partner nurseries. Charlie, Erin and Beth updated the group on Trinity High School's recent work on Fairtrade – during Fairtrade Fortnight presentations were given to the second years, the school ran its own poster competition, the group are working hard within the school recruiting new members and work is ongoing with the Community Council to develop a Renfrew Fairtrade Town campaign. They are also developing a Fairtrade newspaper for the school to keep pupils, teachers and parents updated on their progress.

6. Local updates

a. Bishopton – John has provided a written update as follows:

Bishopton Primary School Fairtrade Coffee Afternoon:

Bishopton Primary have a long record in supporting Fairtrade since their first event in 2006. On Friday 5th March they held a very successful Fairtrade Coffee Afternoon. The Parent Council with the help of Primary 7 pupils kept the audience supplied with Fairtrade tea, coffee and cakes, while other Primary 7 pupils had a busy time selling Fairtrade products to the adults and Fairtrade biscuits to the school pupils.

All year groups provided entertainment and gave excellent performances - Parents, Grandparents and friends were entertained by songs, dancing and an interesting presentation on Fairtrade cotton production. The whole audience were on their feet joining the pupils in Primary 6/7 and 7 in their excellent performance of The Lion Sleeps Tonight.

The school was excellent given the amount of work undertaken in preparing this event for Fairtrade Fortnight, and thanks for the effort given by teachers, BPPC and those who supported the event, but special thanks to the stars - the pupils themselves.

Other events:

Bishopton Library Fairtrade Information Display - information on Fairtrade and the "Great Fairtrade Tea Drinking" events, plus free samples of Fairtrade products.

On Saturday 6th March, we had a successful Coffee Morning in Our Lady of Lourdes' new Church Hall, despite there being three coffee mornings in Bishopton that morning - thanks to all who attended.

b. Lochwinnoch – Bob gave an update on Lochwinnoch's very successful Fairtrade Fortnight which included events such as coffee mornings, coffee tasting sessions, Fairtrade stalls and displays as well as supporting the Renfrewshire-wide events. The new Lochwinnoch Fairtrade village mug is proving popular and selling well. Please see Bob if you'd like to buy one.

c. Paisley/Rainbow Turtle – The members of the Paisley group have supported the Renfrewshire-wide events and supported Rainbow Turtle. Duncan thanked Cllrs Lawson and McMillan for supporting International Workers Memorial Day and for making reference to

the relevance of Fairtrade in this area. Rainbow Turtle have had a really good Fairtrade Fortnight and with additional help from their two new members of staff they have been able to do a lot more school's work. In addition a team from Rainbow Turtle were runners up in UWS Student Union Fairtrade Football Tournament. Just Trading Scotland are working with schools in Wales to get the Fairtrade rice used in school's catering down there too. Rainbow Turtle is also working on an idea to promote Fairtrade during the World Cup with some sort of a 'World Cuppa' promotion – more details soon.

Reid Kerr College distributed 100 posters promoting Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and also help a Fairtrade Day on the 3rd of March with stalls and tasting sessions etc. The college's nursery also had its own Fairtrade afternoon. UWS Student Union had a very successful Fairtrade Football Tournament and through its' ethical and environmental policy are pushing for Fairtrade status for the University.

d. Development work – we had a visit to Howwood Community Council earlier this month – where they were keen to get a local campaign established and already have a number of strong elements in favour such as a supportive local church and school.

Renfrew Community Council are now taking the local campaigning forward and arranging a meeting for after election time and are working with Trinity High School to move this forward. Also there has been local business lobbying by former Provost John MacDowell in Renfrew over the last few weeks with good press coverage and a good response from local shop owners. John also asked how many councils are currently supporting Fairtrade and what role COSLA could play in encouraging all councils to play their part. It was noted that although COSLA don't have a formal 'policy position' on Fairtrade they had waived the fee for us to have an exhibition stand at their conference to promote Fairtrade.

Action – Cllr Lawson to write to COSLA encouraging them to promote Fairtrade amongst councils.

7. AOCB

- Facebook page – we're now up to over 50 members - please use it, make comments, take part in the discussions etc, you can find us on Facebook by searching for Renfrewshire Fairtrade Campaign or by following this link: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=137894527664>
- Scottish Fair Trade Forum Local Government Conference – Cllr Lawson has been invited to speak at a workshop entitled 'Engaging your community' at the conference on the 11th of June in Inverness – he will report back at our next meeting.
- Maureen reminded the group that there are still hustings taking place prior to the general election on the 6th of May.
- Derek pointed out that at the election count there would be a great opportunity to promote Fairtrade to both the large number of people who would be at the Lagoon that evening but also as the results would be televised. Cllr Lawson hoped that the Fairtrade banners could be displayed at the count.

8. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 15 June, 11am, Corporate Room 3, Renfrewshire House

Future meetings (all in Corporate Room 2 of Renfrewshire House):

- Thursday 26 August, 1pm
- Tuesday 5 October, 11am
- Thursday 2 December, 11am