

**RENFREWSHIRE FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP
THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2010
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Present:

Cllr Brian Lawson (chair)	Jenna Johnstone, Erskine
Pauline Moss, RC Chief Exec's (minutes)	Alison Clark, MEPC
Pauline Allan, RC Chief Exec's	Celia Mackie, Paisley Diocese
Joanne MacDonald, RC Chief Exec's	Duncan Macintosh, Unison
Jackie Milligan, RC Chief Exec's	Maureen Brough, PFTP
Paul Brennan, RC Chief Exec's	Charlie Dolan, Trinity High School
David Martin, RC Chief Executive	Marie Davidson, RC Planning
Cllr Eileen McCartin	John Littler, Bishopton Steering Group
Amin Mohammed, RC Housing	Colin Cunningham, RC Social Work
Liz Cotton, Rainbow Turtle	Janet Menzies, RC Social Work
Aileen McMillan, RC Finance	Sandra Stuart, RCHI
David Elder, RC Environmental Services	Derek Betts, RC Finance
Bob Turner, LIA	Karen Campbell, Lochwinnoch Primary

Apologies:

Marianne McGuire, RC Education	Cllr Iain Langlands
Mary Keane, Spateston Nursery	Cllr Marie McGurk
Maureen Hill, Piazza Shopping Centre	Paul Mullan, Scottish Parliament
Doreen Polson, Paisley South LAC	Sandra Crichton, Johnstone
Alison Duff, RC Finance	Jim McCrystal, RC Education
Alan MacPherson, Rainbow Turtle	Susan Duncan, UWS
Cllr Iain McMillan	Jack Nellaney, Trinity High School
Cllr Audrey Doig	Cllr George Adam
Richard Gibson, RC Planning	Maureen Pollock, Paisley South LAC
Irene Garrett, UWS	Graeme Clark, PACT
Cllr Derek Mackay	Provost Lawson
Cllr Davy Arthur	

2. Matters arising

It was agreed at last meeting that carrying out personal visits to store managers was the best way to encourage better promotion of Fairtrade Fortnight. Pauline M circulated a list of Renfrewshire supermarkets and asked group members to volunteer to speak to the manager at their local store.

Duncan has spoken to Fairtrade Foundation who also encouraged us to write out to the supermarkets again, agreed this would be done.

Action – PM to send out letter to supermarkets and circulate this to the group

3. Fairtrade Fortnight 2010

a. A Community Tea Party will be held on Saturday 27th February from 10am to 1pm in Paisley Town Hall. This will be a free event with Fairtrade tea, coffee and biscuits and the opportunity for some informal networking and to meet with Fairtrade campaigners, hear more about local groups and to distribute information packs. We hope to have our Fairtrade town and villages represented if possible with stalls for visitors to look at. We have approached a number of agencies to ask for a visit from a Fairtrade producer/farmer – still awaiting further information. We will also have film clips to show. It is now key to get invites out, although its open to all, we want to target specific groups – please send Pauline M

suggestions as soon as possible. Examples would include churches, community councils, LACs, tenants and residents groups, SWRI etc.

Action – Lochwinnoch, Bishopton and Paisley groups to confirm if they would like an information stand

All to forward suggested names etc to Pauline M via email

b. UWS Fairtrade Football Tournament will also be held on 27th Feb, 10.30am to 2.30pm, at the Sports Centre at Thornly Park. Paul is hoping to put forward a couple of council teams if possible. We will also be supporting it through providing Fairtrade footballs, banners and publicity. More details will be circulated in an email to the whole group.

Action – anyone interested in joining a team please contact Paul

c. A 'tea break' to celebrate one year of Renfrewshire being a Fairtrade Zone will be held on 1st Feb at 11am in Renfrewshire House – all steering group members are invited. There will be a Fairtrade cake, some tea and coffee and a photocall. It is informal and will last about half an hour.

Action – for more information or to confirm attendance please contact Joanne

d. Tea dance – Paisley town hall holds regular tea dances, usually attended by around 150 people. The tea dance on 17th Feb (1pm – 3.30pm) will be a Fairtrade tea dance - serving Fairtrade tea and coffee etc, with info on the tables about Fairtrade and during the break we will be showing some short film clips such as 'Swap your Cuppa'. Tickets £1.50 available from the Arts centre – all details will be circulated to the group in an email. We also hope to launch the FT Guide at this event.

Action – for more information please contact Pauline M

e. Braehead – We approached Braehead regarding holding an information stall at the shopping centre for a day during Fairtrade Fortnight, and also to encourage them to put a Fairtrade display in the door space area and any other promotions throughout the mall. We've got agreement the stall can go ahead on Monday 22nd Feb. As with last time we require a number of volunteers willing to do 2 hour shifts as the stall has to be staffed at all times from 9am to 9pm.

Action – volunteers who have not already signed up, please contact Paul for more information

f. Atrium at Renfrewshire House - During the week 1st to 5th March there will an information stall in the Atrium and hopefully a display of the Batiks again. We are also in the process of trying to arrange a Rainbow Turtle stall for one of the days – this is still to be confirmed.

Action – Liz to contact Paul regarding stall in Atrium

4. Publicity and marketing

a. Press coverage – Joanne gave an update on press coverage to date and also outlined the plan for a publicity strategy for Fairtrade Fortnight. Joanne encouraged all groups to get in touch with their plans so this can all be coordinated. Also, all details of events will be publicised through the Council's website, intranet site, all user events emails and on the group's Facebook page.

Action – please contact Joanne with details of any events planned for Fairtrade Fortnight

b. Fairtrade Guide to Renfrewshire – a new edition is currently being drafted in time for Fairtrade Fortnight. It will be the same format as previous edition, but doesn't have the date on the front so we can use it for longer if desired. These should be available for the next

meeting so steering group members can take batches away with them for distribution in their own areas. There was some discussion regarding the Fairtrade listings and it was agreed to change the order of the listings and include an extra sentence to make this section clearer.

c. Fairtrade Foundation materials – Pauline reminded the group that there are a number of free posters/leaflets being launched for Fairtrade Fortnight and some are available for download – check out Fairtrade Foundation’s website for more info – www.fairtrade.org.uk

5. Schools update

a. Trinity High have been preparing information packs about Fairtrade for pupils and have been working with a number of primary schools giving presentations on Fairtrade. They are developing information for the GLO network and have given assembly presentations to the whole school. They are also establishing a link with Renfrew Community Council to try and work towards Renfrew becoming a Fairtrade town.

b. Lochwinnoch Primary Karen Campbell from Lochwinnoch Primary School was welcomed along to the steering group. The school are developing their plans for Fairtrade Fortnight and linking in with the local group on these.

c. Pauline A and M and Paul met with Marianne to discuss the feasibility of hosting a schools conference this year but decided against it due to issues with costs and timing. Instead it was agreed to produce a resource pack that can be used every Fairtrade Fortnight and throughout the school year with posters, leaflets, quizzes, lesson suggestions etc.

d. Paul is organising a visit from Equal Exchange walnut farmers on the 3rd of March. It is still in the early stages of planning but hopefully the group will visit Gryffe High School and the feeder primaries in the morning and then further visits to Paisley schools in the afternoon.

e. David Elder confirmed that Renfrewshire would be serving Fairtrade rice at some of the schools in the area during Fairtrade Fortnight and that this was still being arranged. Cllr Lawson asked that Joanne collate this information and produce a ‘school specific’ press release promoting all this excellent work.

Action – Joanne to do schools press release

6. Renewal

Pauline M is currently working on renewal application which is due in February; we seem to have covered most of our weaker areas. Some discussion about the value of the renewal process and Bob pointed out there seems to be a backlog at the Fairtrade Foundation.

7. Local updates

a. Bishopston – A Fairtrade Information Display will be exhibited in the library to let people find out about Fairtrade and the "Big Swap" events during Fairtrade Fortnight. Free samples of Fairtrade products will be available.

Bishopton Primary’s Primary 5 will be holding a Fairtrade event on Friday 5th March - the pupils will present information regarding Fairtrade to parents and relatives through music, songs and presentations. The proceeds will be donated to Mary’s Meals who try to ensure that children of school age get one meal a day, they also operate in Haiti.

There will also be a Coffee Morning in Our Lady of Lourdes’ new Church Hall on Saturday 6th March 10.30am to 1pm. Members of the Fairtrade group will visit Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Bishopston Youth Club to talk about Fairtrade and let them taste some Fairtrade chocolate.

b. Lochwinnoch is celebrating the renewal of the Fairtrade status which shows the continuing commitment of the village to support Fairtrade producers and farmers. There will be a Coffee Morning at The Junction on the morning of Wednesday 24th February, from 9am to 12 noon. Another Coffee Morning will be held at The RSPB on the morning of Thursday 25th Feb from 11am to 1pm. On Wednesday 3rd March there will be a Coffee Tasting event at The Junction – from 10am -12 noon giving visitors a chance to try out some of the wide

range of Fairtrade coffees now available whilst learning more about how to taste and understand more about single origin coffees.

Throughout Fairtrade Fortnight the Castle Semple Centre will host an exhibition illustrating some aspects of the Fairtrade campaign's aims. To conclude this on Sunday 7th of March there will be a Fairtrade stall at the Castle Semple Centre with a range of Fairtrade products for sale.

The group are also going to have mugs made up promoting the campaigning in the village, similar to the very successful cotton bags. Bob also informed the group that the main hospital in St Lucia, where last year's visitor Cornelius Lynch was from, had burnt down. Lochwinnoch International Aid sent a sum of money to the rebuild fund.

c. Paisley group will support the various events taking place in the town throughout the fortnight.

d. Rainbow Turtle had a good and busy Christmas. They are getting two new volunteers, one for the shop and one for administrative work. The sale or return stalls continue to be very busy especially over the coming weeks with much interest from schools for Fairtrade Fortnight. Nearly 17 tonnes of rice has been sold through the Fairtrade Rice Challenge and this will continue to be a key focus of work. Liz also noted that at the Scottish Fairtrade Forum Renfrewshire was highlighted as an example of good practice in Fairtrade campaigning.

e. Development work

Erskine – Jenna has found her membership has dwindled, with the Trinity High School pupils struggling to commit their time with exams fast approaching. Nevertheless Jenna has been contacting the local pubs and restaurants in Erskine to encourage them to do 'Fairtrade specials' during the fortnight and she will also be holding a coffee morning, more details to follow.

8. AOCB

COSLA conference – Renfrewshire Council will be promoting Fairtrade campaigning to other local authorities at the COSLA conference from 3rd to 5th of March (this works particularly well as it falls during Fairtrade Fortnight). COSLA has kindly waived the fee for the exhibition stand.

Local authority Fairtrade conference – no further updates as yet but still on track for 11 June in Inverness.

'Unity in Diversity' Fair – We've had an invite to participate in a new Fair organised by Paisley West and Central Community Council to be held on Sunday 30 May – volunteers will be required, more details at future meetings.

Cllr Lawson received a letter from the **Scottish Community Foundation** regarding a variety of grants available details were circulated to the groups, for more information please see www.scottishcf.org

9. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 16th Feb 2010 at 2pm, Corporate Room 2, Renfrewshire House**