

RENFREWSHIRE FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP
TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2010
MINUTES OF MEETING

Present:

Cllr Brian Lawson (chair)	Alison Clark, MEPC
Pauline Moss, RC Chief Exec's (minutes)	Duncan Macintosh, Unison
Joanne MacDonald, RC Chief Exec's	Derek Betts, RC Finance
Jackie Milligan, RC Chief Exec's	John MacDowell, former Provost
Cllr Derek Mackay	Christina Robb, Trinity High School
Cllr Bill Perrie	Erin O'Neill, Trinity High School
Cllr George Adam	Celia Mackie, Paisley Diocese
Annabel Travers, RC Finance	John Littler, Bishopton Steering Group
Michael Boyle, Scotland Excel	Jenna Coyle, Erskine

Apologies:

Marianne McGuire, RC Education	Provost Lawson
Cllr Iain McMillan	Sandra Stuart, RCHI
Cllr Davie Arthur	Pauline Allan, RC Chief Exec's
Susan Duncan, UWS	Karen Campbell, Lochwinnoch Primary
Bob Turner, LIA	Marie Davidson, RC Planning
Liz Cotton, Rainbow Turtle	Colin Cunningham, RC Social Work
Charlie Dolan, Trinity High School Sister Maria	Janet Menzies, RC Social Work
McGuire, Reid Kerr	Cllr Eileen McCartin
Maureen Brough, PFTP	Amin Mohammed, RC Housing
Paul Brennan, RC Chief Exec's	Mary Keane, Spateston Nursery
Aileen McMillan, RC Finance	Doreen Polson, Paisley South LAC
David Elder, RC Environmental Services	Kim Ferry, RC Finance
Richard Gibson, RC Planning	Alan MacPherson, Rainbow Turtle
Amanda Moulson, RC Planning	Cllr Audrey Doig
Mary Alice Mansell, LIA	Irene Garrett, UWS
Lesley Scott Khan, LIA	Cllr Iain Langlands
Maureen Hill, Piazza Shopping Centre	Cllr Marie McGurk
Maureen Pollock, Paisley South LAC	Sandra Crichton, Johnstone
Graeme Clark, PACT	Jack Nellaney, Trinity High School

2. Matters arising

Following the previous meeting we have been in contact with the Fairtrade Foundation regarding our experiences with the supermarkets for Fairtrade Fortnight. We have had some feedback from them which will be circulated to the group.

We have also written to COSLA to ask them to consider promoting Fairtrade amongst their member Councils. We hope to have a response by our next meeting.

3. Publicity and marketing

Joanne gave an update on some of the recent press coverage. A press release has just gone out outlining the summer programme and a photocall is being arranged for this week to promote African

Fairtrade goods to coincide with the World Cup. Jackie will upload both of these stories to our website.

4. Events

a. Summer programme

We've had a busy summer so far with stands at Johnstone and Houston (thanks to Rainbow Turtle) and also at Renfrew and Bridge of Weir. We will also be at Barshaw, Howwood and Sma' Shot Day over the next few weeks. Bishopton Day is coming up this Saturday and Lochwinnoch had their gala day last week. Any additional volunteers would be very much welcomed. We're also working with our colleagues in Education and Leisure to see how we can incorporate Fairtrade into Paisley's 10k race once again.

b. Local authority conference

Cllr Lawson and Liz Cotton were guest speakers at two workshops at the recent Scottish Fair Trade Forum's local authority conference in Inverness. Cllr Lawson gave feedback from the conference – it was a good day but the attendance was a little low, perhaps due to the location. Overall it was very positive and it seemed like Renfrewshire were doing a lot to promote Fairtrade in comparison with some other areas. Cllr Mackay suggested that, workloads allowing, perhaps we could host some sort of networking event to share our experiences of Fairtrade campaigning that maybe more of our colleagues across the central belt would be able to attend.

5. Renewal of Renfrewshire Fairtrade Zone Status

Cllr Lawson highlighted the very positive response we've received from the Fairtrade Foundation and thanked all the steering group members for their hard work. A report is going to the next Council meeting to note the findings and perhaps at our next steering group meeting we could draw up a rough action plan for the coming year, based on the feedback report.

6. Schools update

Erin and Christina gave an update on Fairtrade news from Trinity High School – the school recently won a Diana Award and visited the Scottish Parliament to receive it. Cllr Lawson asked Joanne to follow this up with a view to doing a press release on it. The school helped out at Renfrew Gala Day which was very much appreciated. Currently their main efforts are on getting their new Fairtrade magazine launched, hopefully just after the school comes back from summer holidays. They are also further developing their website content about Fairtrade.

Cllr Lawson also highlighted that at the Council's recent 'Dragon's Den' event St Fillan's Primary School was awarded a grant of £1,700 to set up a Fairtrade Cafe.

7. Local updates

a. **Bishopton** - As mentioned above Bishopton Day is Saturday 19th of June and the Fairtrade group are teaming up with Wateraid and the One World Committee to promote these good causes. They are featured in the programme for Bishopton Day with a half-page spread about Fairtrade.

b. **Lochwinnoch** – Bob provided a written update in his absence – Lochwinnoch Gala Day went very well, another nice sunny day. The Fairtrade group had a stall with promotional material and displaying their exhibition.

Bob spoke to an interested group of folk in Kilbarchan, following contact made in Paisley during Fairtrade Fortnight. It went well - 9 keen folk who were interested in what Bob had to say and have formed a steering group to start work.

Bob also attended a meeting for people working in schools organised by the Fairtrade Foundation in Coatbridge - mainly for teachers but open to groups too. Bob found it very inspirational and got some good ideas for future activities in school. It was announced that cotton will be the theme for FT14 2011 which will start on Feb 28.

c. **Paisley/Rainbow Turtle** – In Maureen and Liz’s absence, Duncan gave an update – the shop and hub continue to do well and be busy. Stalls from Rainbow Turtle are at a number of gala days during the summer. Alan is getting married next week and then at the end of the summer he will be leaving Rainbow Turtle to move up to Aberdeen with his new wife. Liz is going to India for the summer through Habitat for Humanity and will give a report back to the group on her return about her experiences there.

d. **Partners** etc – no updates

e. **Development work – Kilbarchan** - see Bob’s comments above. A new group has now formed. Unfortunately due to a family emergency of our lead volunteer we were unable to attend Lili’s Day but will work with the group to see if we can support them perhaps through a coffee morning or similar.

Renfrew – hopefully after the summer there will be the first meeting of a steering group to work towards the town’s Fairtrade Status. Cllr Perrie has agreed to lead this process and help the campaign get up and running.

Johnstone – Sandra Crichton did a presentation to the community council which got some press coverage. There was some interest at the meeting but, in common with the other areas, just needs a further push to get a group set up. Sandra has also been working hard within her church to promote Fairtrade further.

Erskine – a Fairtrade taster session was held in February. A new logo and slogan for Erskine’s Fairtrade Campaign have been picked from the competition that Jenna ran – the slogan will be ‘Erskine is bridging the gap in Fairtrade’. Jenna is working with graphic design teams in UWS to get the logo finished off. Jenna is hoping to hold a Fairtrade ceilidh for St Andrew’s Day, but will need some willing volunteers to help out as her baby is due around that time!

8. AOCB

Renfrewshire Fairtrade Campaign was a runner up in the Renfrewshire Quality Awards. On behalf of the rest of the presentation team, Pauline expressed her thanks to the judging panel for the opportunity to speak to them about the importance of Fairtrade and hoped that they might feel inspired to support Fairtrade within their own organisations.

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

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