

**RENFREWSHIRE FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP  
THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2009  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:**

Cllr Derek Mackay (chair)  
Pauline Moss, RC Chief Exec's (minutes)  
Liz Cotton, Rainbow Turtle  
Cllr George Adam  
Alison Clark, MEPC  
John Littler, Bishopton Steering Group  
Irene Garrett, UWS  
Nicola Irvine, RC Chief Exec's  
Joanne MacDonald, RC Chief Exec's  
Bob Turner, LIA  
Duncan Macintosh, Unison  
Jack Nellany, Trinity High School

Erin O'Neill, Trinity High School  
Claire Lindsay, Trinity High School  
Paul Mullan, Scottish Parliament  
Cllr Iain McMillan  
Cllr Allan Noon  
Maureen Brough, PFTP  
Fraser Pass, Scotland Excel  
Gillian Shaw, UWS Students Association  
Christine Lee Young, RC Finance  
Graeme Clark, PACT  
Amanda Moulson, RC Planning

**Apologies:**

Cllr Brian Lawson  
Cllr Davy Arthur  
Celia Mackie, Paisley Diocese  
David Elder, RC Environmental Services  
Eileen McCulloch, Scotland Excel  
Marianne McGuire, RC Education  
Marie Davidson, RC Planning  
Cllr Iain Langlands  
Dave Mellor, LIA

Cllr Marie McGurk  
Mary Alice Mansell, LIA  
Tommy Reilly, Reid Kerr  
Richard Gibson, RC Planning  
Iain McKie, RC Finance  
Vicky Meechan, Reid Kerr  
Maureen Hill, Piazza

**2. Matters Arising**

Cllr Mackay welcomed all new members to the meeting.

From the previous meeting, LC confirmed that she was meeting with DE this week to discuss the Fairtrade rice in schools proposal, and they would update the group at the next meeting.

**3. Publicity and Marketing**

JM gave an update on the ongoing press coverage and her plans for press releases over Fairtrade Fortnight. She asked all members of the group to let her know of any further stories or events as soon as possible.

We are currently in the process of producing the 2009 Fairtrade Guide to Renfrewshire, which is being done 'in house' this year for reasons of costs, timescales and to use our FT theme designed by the marketing team. The aim is to have the booklets produced for the next meeting on the 19 Feb. BT indicated he would like 1000 copies for Lochwinnoch, JL asked for 2000 for Bishopton. JL also asked if this could be put on-line, AC agreed that an e-version of the guide would be useful and could be emailed out to contacts or put on websites.

**Action – NI to ensure completed guide is made into a PDF and put on website. PM to circulate to mailing list.**

DM suggested writing out to local supermarkets about the launch of the new Fairtrade Guide for 2009, Cllr Mackay asked him to draft up this letter.

**Action – DM to draft letter to supermarkets and send to PM for action**

The events team have produced the diary for January to March 2009 and included a good section on Fairtrade Fortnight.

#### **4. Fairtrade Fortnight 2009**

##### **a. Business Breakfast**

MEPC Hillington Park is hosting a 'business breakfast' in their Innovation Centre on the 27th of February 2009. Work is currently ongoing to firm up agenda and arrangements for on the day. Linda Fabiani MSP has accepted our invitation to attend. The aim is to get business to think about how they can support Fairtrade on a day-to-day basis, incorporating Fairtrade into their working practises. A progress update will be given at the next meeting.

##### **b. Schools**

Unfortunately the inter-authority conference had to be cancelled as a programme needed to be in place prior to the Christmas break. However, a banana farmer from St Lucia is scheduled to visit a selection of primary and secondary schools on 3 March.

He is visiting:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 9.30am -10.30am | held at St Anne's Primary with Barsail Primary pupils attending       |
| 11am -12pm      | held at Bargarran Primary with St John Bosco Primary pupils attending |
| 1pm -3.30pm     | held at Trinity with Park Mains and Renfrew pupils attending          |

##### **c. Trevor Leighton Photography Exhibition**

Paisley Arts Centre will host the exhibition in their café bar display area for the first week of the tour. We are working on the possibility of the photographs being displayed at MEPC Hillington Park for the second week (to coincide with the Business Breakfast), Bishopton Library for the third week and then Lochwinnoch Library for the fourth week. This is still in the planning stage.

**Action – PM to work with AC, JL and BT to arrange possible tour of locations**

##### **d. Producer Tour**

PM was asked by Fairtrade Foundation to coordinate this for the West of Scotland. There is a very tight schedule but Cornelius Lynch, a banana producer from St Lucia will be visiting the various schools events on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March and then will attend an event in Lochwinnoch in the evening before moving down the West Coast. There is some scope for a possible event on Saturday evening before he returns to London on the Sunday morning. LC expressed an interest in this.

**Action – PM to liaise with LC over potential event on Saturday evening**

#### **5. Progress Update**

##### **a. Application for Zone Status**

NI informed the group the application was submitted in November and unfortunately the Fairtrade Foundation lost our supplementary evidence on a CD and has asked for pieces of evidence as they need them - including our press coverage and churches packs. Obviously with Christmas holidays it has taken quite a long time, but we hope to hear very soon and they have been positive when they've been in touch about the evidence. We will let the group know as soon as they contact us.

##### **b. Local groups update**

**Paisley** – Rainbow Turtle will be holding a special Fairtrade pancake day special as Shrove Tuesday falls in the first week of Fairtrade Fortnight. LC has been very busy with stalls for Fairtrade Fortnight and working on developing the Hub, including work on the Malawi rice

project. MB also noted that there may be a stall/event run by Oxfam in the Piazza but that she would update the group further at the next meeting.

**Bishopton** – The 'Fairtrade Village' road signs are ready to be installed any day now and Bishopton are firming up their plans for celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight, hoping to use the photography exhibition as a key element of this.

**Lochwinnoch** – The big news for Lochwinnoch is that they were granted Fairtrade village status just before Christmas! The group has applied for a SFTF small grant to help fund their projects. They have a number of plans for celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight including working with the Parish Church, hosting Cornelius Lynch, the photography exhibition, schools events and a stall at Castle Semple.

## **6. AOCB**

PM and NI are having a stand in the marquee at the opening of the new St Mirren Football Stadium on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January from 10am, with a similar 'pledge map/prize draw' idea as used at the Fair in the Square event earlier this year.

John McCallion and Betsy Reid have approached Cllr Mackay regarding the future for local authority involvement in the Fairtrade movement and he hopes to meet with them shortly to discuss ways forward.

7. The Date of next meeting is **19<sup>th</sup> February 2009, 1pm, Corporate Room 2**