

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 19 AUGUST 1998

AGENDA ITEM No. ....14.....

**CENTRAL SCOTLAND COUNTRYSIDE TRUST - CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE FOREST -  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN FINAL DRAFT MAY 1998**

14. There was submitted a report dated 19 August 1998 by the Director of Planning and Development (1) informing members of the complication of the Central Scotland Countryside Trust (CSCT) Community Involvement Plan (Final Draft); (2) outlining the background, providing specific comments on the proposals and outlining the implications for the Council, and (3) recommending that the Committee note the publication of the document and remit a report to the Area Committees for their information.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the publication of Central Scotland Countryside Trust Community Involvement Plan - Connecting People with the Forest be noted;
- (2) that the importance of the role of the Council's decentralisation scheme prove both the Area Committees and Developing Forums in meeting the Plans aims be recognised, and
- (3) that the report be referred to the Area Committees for their information.



## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

### REPORT

To: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject:  CENTRAL SCOTLAND COUNTRYSIDE TRUST, CONNECTING PEOPLE AND THE FOREST: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN FINAL DRAFT MAY 1998
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 19 August 1998	Ref: D/PL/40/02/NS/KG	

#### Purpose of Report

1. To inform members of the publication of the Central Scotland Countryside Trust (CSCT) *Community Involvement Plan* (Final Draft).

#### Background

2. The *Community Involvement Plan* has been produced to provide a clear definition of how CSCT will involve the community in the development of the Central Scotland Forest. The plan identifies three main categories for involvement:-
  - Local Initiatives, involving people on their doorstep;
  - Involving people in the Forest as a whole, the bigger picture; and
  - Volunteering for the Forest, personal contributions.

The basis of the *Community Involvement Plan* is to create a meaningful and lasting connection between people and the Central Scotland Forest.

#### Specific Comments

3. Alongside the three proposals above, there are a number of new proposals that build on previous experience, respond to current needs within the Community and strengthen the overall package of activities relating to the Forest. The new proposals comprise:-
  - Establishment of the Central Scotland Forest Community Project Award Scheme, which will give out small annual project grants for Forest related works;
  - The Central Scotland Forest Network for communication between groups involved in the Forest;
  - An annual gathering of the Central Scotland Forest Community Network to celebrate and recognise the communities contribution to the Forest.

An underlying theme of the *Community Involvement Plan* is the importance placed on Partnership. Particular emphasis is placed on the benefits of working alongside people such as local authority community education staff who are already in close contact with communities across the Forest area.

The recommendations for action made in the *Community Involvement Plan* will be implemented over the next three years to 2001. As community work is an integral part of CSCT's work, targets for this work will be set within existing mechanisms. In addition to this, a collection of descriptive feedback from individuals involved will help gauge the quality of peoples involvement and ensure the true value of community involvement is measured.

#### Implications for the Council

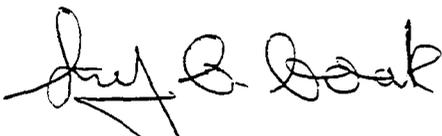
4. Examination of the *Community Involvement Plan* has highlighted that the Council can play an important role in the delivery of community involvement through its Decentralisation Scheme. The identified Area Committees and developing Community Forums provide an effective mechanism for consultation and identifying local needs, issues and opportunities. Specifically the Councils involvement in delivery of CSCTs *Community Involvement Plan*, would fulfil the following Remit and Terms of Reference identified for Area Committees:
- To establish and support representative community forums as one mechanism for consultation and community involvement and to develop effective working relationships with them; and,
  - To support local community groups and voluntary organisations and provide a focus for participation and partnership involving the Council, the local community, the private and voluntary sectors and other public bodies.

#### Conclusions

5. CSCT's *Community Involvement Plan* is an excellent example of a structured community involvement process with clear identification of mechanisms and opportunities to enable the delivery of effective involvement and community ownership of the Central Scotland Forest.

#### Recommendations

6. It is recommended:-
- (a) that Committee note the publication of CSCT's *Community Involvement Plan: Connecting People with the Forest*, and that Committee recognise the important role the Councils decentralisation scheme, through both Area Committees and the developing Community Forums can play in meeting the Plans aims and
  - (b) that Committee refer the above report to the Area Committees for their information.



Stanley C. Cook  
**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

24 July 1998

For further information or a copy of CSCT's *Community Involvement Plan (Final Draft)* please contact Nichol Slaven on 01236 616239.