

About The Ayrshire Green Network

Introduction

The Ayrshire Green Network (AGN) aims to enhance the quality of the manmade and natural environment for the benefit of the economy, society and nature. The background to the AGN is the National Planning Framework 2 which designates a swathe of the Central Belt of Scotland from Ayrshire to Fife as the "Central Scotland Green Network". The aim of the Central Scotland Green Network is to make "a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic development" through restoring and improving the rural and urban landscape of the area.

A step change in the quality of the environment will be achieved by public agencies and stakeholders working together to align their policies, programmes and actions over the long term. It is not the intention, at least initially, to create new processes but to reinvigorate and coordinate existing ones. These processes include, but are not limited to, the statutory Town & Country Planning system, the Rural Developments Contracts- Rural Priorities Scheme, the Scottish LEADER funding programme and the decisions made about how land is managed by public, private and third sector bodies.

Local communities have a role in identifying improvements that can be made to their local environment and in initiating local action to bring these about with the support of other sectors.

The "Ayrshire Green Network" (AGN) will take this process forward within the three Ayrshire Council areas. A Steering Group comprising representatives of the three Ayrshire local planning authorities, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland has been established to undertake preliminary work. The Steering Group will work to establish a Partnership which will be the basis upon which the Green Network process will be delivered in Ayrshire.

Green Network Actions

The actions required to improve the quality of the manmade and natural environment will emerge as the Partnership process develops. An initial list of actions required to support the development of the Central Scotland Green Network is set out in the publication "Central Scotland Green Network – The Vision" published by the national CSGN Partnership Board in June 2011. These include:-

Creating high quality environments for business	Increased woodland cover	Creating attractive & well maintained green spaces & improving access to the countryside	Creating increased opportunities for people to improve health & well-being through physical activity and enjoying nature	Improving connectivity between important sites and habitats for nature
Bringing vacant & derelict land into use	Supporting water catchment and coastal zone management	Increasing the number of allotments, orchards and community	Providing opportunities for volunteering, education, training and	Improving the landscape setting of the places where people live

		gardens	developing skills	
Increasing employment & training in land based 'green' and low carbon industries	Reducing the effect of climate change by capturing, storing & retaining carbon	Developing active walking and cycling and recreation routes		
	Investing in public parks, tree planting and sustainable urban drainage			

Further Information

For further information on the Central Scotland Green Network please visit <http://www.centalscotlandgreennetwork.org/>