

Summer 2008

Community Councils Vital To Success Of The Concordat

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With Your CC
Members**

The contribution of community councils will be critical if the Concordat between Scottish local authorities and the Scottish Government is to be successful. This is the view of the ASCC Executive Council expressed at its meeting on 26 April 2008 when it endorsed a policy document on the topic prepared by National Vice-President Professor Norman Bonney.

The concordat specifies the aims that the Scottish Government and the local authorities are trying to achieve at local and national level. Many of these aims depend however on effective action by local communities, and community councils are the most significant of local community organisations available to many local authorities in the achievement of their local community planning goals.

Local and national aims such as 'increasing the percentage of local residents who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live' or 'ensuring that local public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local peoples' needs' are furthered through the actions of Scotland's 1100 community councils which critically and constructively monitor the quality of the living environment in their neighbourhoods and encourage local authorities, other relevant public bodies and voluntary groups to take appropriate remedial action.

At an ASCC Lothians Edinburgh regional meeting in Edinburgh City Chambers on 15 March 2008 Prof Bonney and Edinburgh City Council leader, Jenny Dawe, held the City of Edinburgh as an example of good practise in collaboration between local authorities and Community Councils with community councils having representation on all of the 17 neighbourhood partnerships established all over the city to improve the quality of local living conditions, as well as a place on the Edinburgh Community Planning Board.

Editorial

The tricky thing about momentum is that it's hard to maintain. The Government has done a lot to create a feeling of renewal and possibility within the Community Council sector.

Community Councils that were exemplars of representation and action began to be recognised for the quality of their work. Community Councils that had failed to live up to their responsibility to reflect the views of a whole community (rather than the narrow assumptions of a few CCLrs) began to feel pressure to change. This particularly gave hope and heart to those CCLrs who were in underperforming CCs, but could not convince their colleagues to change.

If the forward movement in the sector is to be sustained -not for its own sake, but in the name of the constituents who elected us - the Government must now prove that it keeps its promises.

In a recent interview, the First Minister reminded the questioner that it takes four years to deliver a Manifesto. He also noted that it depends on Parliamentary support for a minority Government. A quick look at the Manifestoes of almost all the other parties will demonstrate that there is ample support in the Scottish Parliament for empowerment of Community Councils. So, we can assume this promise will be kept in the next year or two. Excellent. We're waiting. The ASCC is watching.

Vincent Waters, National Secretary.

Diary Dates

Sat 13th September - Glasgow Regional Meeting

City Chambers
George Sq

This event is open to ALL Community Councillors in Glasgow.

Saturday 4th October - South of Scotland Regional Meeting

This event is open to ALL Community Councillors in these local authority areas: Dumfries & Galloway - South Ayrshire - Scottish Borders

The venue is to be confirmed, but will be in Dumfries town.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND AT A REGIONAL MEETING BY CALLING OR EMAILING THE ASCC OFFICE.

ASCC WEBSITE RELAUNCHED!

visit www.ascc.org.uk

to learn, network, interact, and take part in discussions about issues important to the Community Councils of Scotland.



YOUR STORY CAN APPEAR HERE

The ASCC is looking for examples of local stories from Community Councils across Scotland.

What issues have you faced?

How will you use the proposed new powers?

Have you tried new ways to engage constituents?

How do you work with the local authority?

E-Mail your stories to newsletter@ascc.org.uk

Data Protection & Community Councils - What You Need To Know, What You Need To Do

By ICO Assistant Commissioner (Scotland) Ken Macdonald

What is the DPA ?

The Data Protection Act 1998 provides a framework to ensure that personal information is handled properly. It applies to all sectors and to most users within these sectors. All personal data processed electronically or held in “relevant filing systems” (basically paper files which are well structured according to individual names) is covered.

What is personal data ?

Personal data is data relating to an individual who can be identified from the data (or from that and other data). It doesn't have to include a name.

What is processing ?

Processing the information means using it. Storing community council files on a computer will most likely involve processing personal information. E-mailing Minutes will involve processing personal information. Holding a contact list on computer is also processing personal information.

The Community Council doesn't have a computer; instead, the Secretary types Minutes and letters on his home PC. That lets us off, doesn't it ?

I'm afraid it doesn't. The Secretary is

doing that on behalf of the Community Council. The Community Council is what is known as a Data Controller - in other words, it determines which letters are to be written and to who or what will appear on the Minutes or what will be published on the internet. The processing of the related personal data on computer is the responsibility of the Community Council, irrespective of who actually owns the computer.

The only personal data my Community Council uses is already in the public domain. Does that mean we don't need to worry about the Act ?

No. The Act covers the use of personal data, no matter what its source is.

Isn't it just red tape ?

The DPA has got a reputation for being bureaucratic but that tends to arise from a misunderstanding of the Act. It's best thought of as good practice in records management.

Come on, it stops you from doing things !

Some people would like to suggest that but it's not the case. A Community Council won't be stopped from doing anything if it follows the Data Protection Principles.

The Data Protection Principles ?

Yes. These are the rules which you should follow when processing personal information. There are eight of them; data must be:

- 1) Fairly and lawfully processed
- 2) Processed for limited purposes
- 3) Adequate, relevant and not excessive
- 4) Accurate and up to date
- 5) Not kept for longer than is necessary
- 6) Processed in line with individual rights
- 7) Secure
- 8) Not transferred to other countries without adequate protection

Can you put these into plain English, please ?

Principles 1 and 2 are to help an individual understand what their personal data might be used for. For example, people should know why you are processing their data and if you are collecting personal information for one purpose, you shouldn't use it for another, totally unrelated purpose.

Principles 3, 4 and 5 are about records management. Data should be fit for purpose - organisations waste time if they've not collected enough information or if they've collected too much information and if it's wrong, then more time will be wasted correcting it. Why store it when you don't need it ?

Principle 6 relates to individuals' rights over their information. For example,

they can ask to see copies of the information you hold about them. It's unlikely that a Community Council will receive one of these "Subject Access Requests" and, if you do, it's best that you contact the ICO for guidance.

Principle 7 is about security of personal information. The DPA requires appropriate security measures to be put in place and the level of security should be determined by the type of information your Council processes. Generally, if you use a home PC for Community Council work, make sure that no-one else in the household can access the personal information used by the Council. You should also watch what you publish on the internet; for example, we've previously dealt with a complaint from a parent about some of their child's personal details being put on the net by a Community Council and required that the information was removed.

It's unlikely that Community Councils need worry too much about Principle 8 if they make sure that they abide by Principle 7. Remember that the internet is global !!

What about notification ? Isn't that a burden ?

Notification is a legal requirement unless very strict exemption conditions are met. There are some Community Councils which don't have to notify because they don't use computers (these are few and far between !); however, the view of the ICO is that the vast majority will have to notify.

cont'd...

Failure to notify is a criminal offence.

We try to make the process as simple as possible and a draft template for Scottish Community Councils has been set up for your use. It isn't prescriptive and you can change it as you see fit. If you do have any queries about it, you can contact the ICO Notification Helpline on 01625 545 740 or e-mail notification@ico.gsi.gov.uk for further guidance.

But there's a fee

There is a fee of £35 which is set in law and is outwith the control of the ICO. This may change in the future.

Can't our local authority notify for us ?

Notification has to be in the name of the Data Controller (in this case, the Community Council). However, some local authorities are co-ordinating the process for the Community Councils in their area.

OK. What if a Community Council gets it wrong and breaches the principles ?

It depends on the circumstances ! As it's highly unlikely that any significant detriment to an individual will occur through a breach of the principles by a Community Council given the nature of the personal data held by most of them, generally, we'd want to work with you to get it right. We do have strong regulatory powers but we'd

rather work in partnership with you and not order you to do something. We're here to help.

You should also be reassured that a breach of a principle is not currently a criminal offence.

Anything else I should know ?

Hopefully, the above has reassured you that you are complying in the most part with the Act and that to fully comply isn't as onerous as you initially thought. However, please contact the ICO (on 0131 225 6341 or Scotland@ico.gsi.gov.uk) if you have any queries about the Act in general (although please pass notification queries to 01625 545 740 or e-mail notification@ico.gsi.gov.uk).

Whilst we can't meet with every Community Council individually, we would be happy to meet with local/regional forums and allay your fears about the Act (by the end of May, we'll have attended forums in Renfrewshire, East Lothian and Scottish Borders). This is something you may wish to raise with your CCLO or ASCC Area Representative.

Good Practice Good News

At the time of writing, EIGHT local authorities had agreed to pay the £35 DPA registration fee for all their Community Councils.

Several others are considering doing so.

Is yours one of them?

You and Your Local Authority Councillors – work in progress

The Scottish local government elections in May 2007 brought about sweeping changes in UK politics. For the first time in any major, public UK election, the Single Transferable Vote (STV) was used.

STV is a proportional system which allows voters to rank their candidates in order of preference. If your first choice of candidate is already elected or eliminated, your vote goes to your second choice and so on, meaning your vote is more likely to count.

A principal feature of STV is that it elects politicians people have voted for. Last May, almost three quarters of voters saw their first choice elected, and most people voted for someone who was elected in a later preference. However in 2003, almost half of all votes were for losing candidates, meaning the vote was wasted.

Also under STV, multi-member wards were introduced, ensuring there are now three or four Councillors per ward rather than one. Beyond offering the electorate greater choice, it encourages Councillors to respond to constituents' issues, or risk losing a voter's support to a rival.

With more seats up for grabs in the wards, parties were encouraged to put forward candidates for election, where they wouldn't have thought it worthwhile before. Even if their candidate wasn't the favourite, they were still in with a chance.

Consequently, in some areas of the Highlands for example, there was a genuine competition as parties had a presence for the first time. In the 2003 elections, a quarter of Highland Councillors were elected unopposed, whereas in 2007, there was a competition in every ward.

Most of all, what STV delivered for Scotland in last May's elections was a shake-up in the control of Scotland's local authorities – in most cases, no one party has overall control of the Council. As a result, across Scotland, a wide range of political voices offers voters more opportunities for meaningful engagement between elections.

Parties lost in strongholds and gained in new areas. Greens were elected in Glasgow for the first time and a Tory candidate took office in Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig, a Labour stronghold in North Lanarkshire. In East Renfrewshire, a Labour Councillor was elected to the Tory stronghold of Newton Mearns South, marking a departure from previous elections.

The Electoral Reform Society is an independent organisation which has long campaigned for STV for all UK elections. The Society welcomes the introduction of STV for local government, and considers it essential for building democratic, accountable government.

However, the Society also recognises that a key test for STV is the extent to which it delivers for the electorate, and encourages democratic engagement amongst voters and their Councillors.

Over the coming months, the Electoral Reform Society Scotland will be asking groups and activists across Scotland whether the changes at the council level have made a difference to the lives of ordinary people.

If you have views on this, or would like more information, the Society would like to hear from you. Please contact Community Engagement Officer, Kate Robinson, on 0141 227 3973 or by email on kate.robinson@electoral-reform.org.uk

ASCC MEMBERS SURVEY: CAUTIOUS WELCOME FOR SNP'S PROPOSALS FOR STRONGER COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The 2007 ASCC members' survey shows a general but cautious welcome to the SNP Scottish Government's election manifesto promises for strengthening community councils. Over one half of responding community councils said that they were in favour of increased community council budgets to spend on local priorities, more control over local spending in deprived communities, the devolution of some powers and responsibilities from local authorities, and local community ownership of facilities. Less popular, with 40% support, was the suggestion that community council boundaries should be aligned with local authority ward boundaries.

Many respondents recognised the need for more training and support to take on such additional responsibilities but over one third said that they were ready to take on some of these powers.

Attitudes to Local Authorities

Other results show that community councils are in many parts of Scotland strongly embedded in the system of local democracy. Over 90% of community councils have local authority elected members regularly attending their meetings with an average of four local authority councillors qualified to attend individual community council meetings. MPs and MSPs do not generally attend but they are

regarded as available should they be needed.

The great majority of respondents felt that local authorities were generally supportive of community councils but 57% felt that they did not recognise their special and unique statutory status and 45% felt degrees of dissatisfaction with the level of their grant, with the way that local authorities consulted with them and listened to the representations that community councils made on behalf of their constituents.

Yet again the ASCC survey showed that women were more equally represented in community councils than they are in local authorities and the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments. 40% of community councillors are female.

Commenting on the results ASCC National President Frank Gunning stated that the current consultation on a proposed national model scheme for community councils provided an opportunity for local authorities to reflect on, and improve, the level of their support to community councils and their responsiveness to community councils in general. Strengthening Scotland's community councils can only enhance the quality of local democracy in Scotland.

The full 2007 Survey results will shortly be available on the ASCC Website.

What Have You Done For Us lately?

The ASCC is sometimes asked by Community Councils what it's doing on their behalf and in their name. Sometimes individual Councils say they do not see much being done in their area, or much that helps their particular CC.

When this happens, there are usually two reasons. First, the elected ASCC Area Representative in each local authority area is the person who should be representing the ASCC; if you don't see or hear from him/her too often, give them a call or an email and ask for more regular updates. We ask all local authorities to support Area Reps with admin assistance. Many do, but not all. If your authority doesn't, encourage it to start.

The second reason you might not see a lot of ASCC activity in your local area is that the majority of the work done by ASCC elected representatives (unpaid, in their free time, and IN ADDITION to their work for their own CC) is done at a national level. So, what does that mean?

Well, here is an excerpt from one of the Quarterly Reports the ASCC presents to the Scottish Government. This one covers the three months from January to March 2008 (and remember this is only the national-level work; more is done locally by your Area Reps):

1. Meeting with Cosla President and Chief Executive to discuss CC reform agenda and local govt support. Arranged follow-up meetings with key Councillors and officials.
2. Meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Finance concerning CC proposals from Govt Working Group and SNP Manifesto.
3. Informal discussion with First Minister on same issues. Arranged to convene a Ministerial meeting to develop shared agenda
4. Informal discussions with other Ministers on same.
5. Regional Meeting of Community Councillors from across Lothians. Hosted by Edinburgh City Council. Informal discussions with Leader of the City Council.
6. Meetings with CCs from Inverclyde
7. Meeting with CCs from Lochaber
8. Full compilation, editing and printing of two editions of the ASCC Newsletter "The Community Councillor" sent by post to every CC in Scotland, by email where possible, and copied to local authorities, parliamentarians and the wider public sector.
9. Continuing meetings with MSPs individually and in small groups.
10. Meeting with senior elected members of Glasgow City Council to discuss CC agenda in the City. Secured agreement of City Council to host Glasgow Regional Meeting in autumn 2008.
11. A significant, and growing, caseload. CCs now routinely approach the ASCC for support and advice on local issues and problems. Most often, these centre around challenges with their authority or an elected member.
12. An ASCC Executive Council meeting of elected representatives from all across Scotland. A full-day meeting, with a large volume of business, including policy issues, national officer accountability reports, operational planning etc.
13. ASCC Area Representative Elections throughout the CCs in the South of Scotland, Lothians, and Mid-Scotland & Fife Regions.
14. Reissue of Insurance cover to almost 300 Community Councils, including special insurance for events, property, "all risks" etc.
15. Negotiation and contract awarded for brand new ASCC website, with considerably more functionality and user-friendly features.

(That's a summary! FOR A THREE MONTH PERIOD.) At the end of this period, the ASCC had achieved:

The largest membership levels in history (by a factor of 10%)

The most elected Area representatives ever.

The greatest number of contested election as ASCC Area Representatives.

Elected ASCC Area Representatives for the first time in several local authority areas.

The best-attended ASCC Annual Conference in history. More than double the attendance rate for 2006.

An embedded annual schedule of four Regional Meetings. Planned so that each region of Scotland has one every two years, where all the CCs of the region come together, and have the opportunity to talk with MSPs from the region.

The highest number of CCs ever receiving standard insurance cover from the ASCC (public liability, personal injury, defamation), together with the most ever to receive additional cover for specific risks. All provided at a loss to the ASCC.

That's what the ASCC has done for you lately! What should it do next?

COMMUNITY COUNCILS' GOOD POLICING PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTED

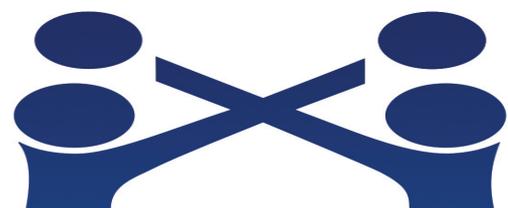
The regular monthly meetings of hundreds of community councils around Scotland were highlighted as examples of good practice in community policing by ASCC in evidence to the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament on 27 May 2008. The regular monthly meetings at which local residents report their concerns to local police officers and the police report back to the community provide one of the most important regular and systematic channels of communication between police and the communities they serve, according to ASCC Vice-President Norman Bonney who gave verbal evidence for ASCC at the inquiry. In the future, he stressed, building stronger community councils can also assist in improving the quality of local community policing.

In their evidence Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary stated that its role is as 'working with others to improve communities'. This, of course, is much the same role that community councils set themselves and emphasises

the close relationship needed between the police and the communities that they serve.

Evidence to the ASCC from its members and from the ASCC Executive Committee indicates that community councils see police attendance at their meetings as widespread and positive although they also shared the concern expressed by some other witnesses about the regular turnover of local police officers and, in a few cases, their non-attendance at their meetings.

A video recording and written record of the proceedings can be found on the Justice Committee pages of the Scottish Parliament website at www.scottish.parliament.uk. Some public libraries also hold the written record of Scottish Parliament proceedings.



Progress of the Scottish Parliament motion on Community Councils

Motion S3M - 01250 by Patrick Harvie MSP, Scottish Green Party, Glasgow.

That the Parliament values the excellent work done by Scotland's community councils in fostering participative democracy by getting communities active and involved in local decision-making and planning; recognises the vital role played by the Association of Scottish Community Councils in the provision of services and resources to Scotland's 12,500 community councillors; notes with concern that annual funding awards for the association's crucial work have fallen dramatically over recent years and that, as a result, the organisation now finds it extremely difficult to carry out its core duties, and calls on the Scottish Government to work with local authorities to develop a strategy to support and develop dynamic, responsive and effective work by community councils and the Association of Scottish Community Councils.

The motion has been supported by MSPs from all parties, including:

Bill Kidd, John Lamont, Rob , Jim Hume, Mike Pringle, John Park, Kenneth Gibson, Jamie Hepburn, Jackie Baillie, Robin Harper, Elaine Smith, Angela Constance, Pauline McNeill, Dr Bill Wilson, Marlyn Glen, Cathy Jamieson, Shirley-Anne Somerville, Dr Christopher Harvie, Jim Tolson, Ken Macintosh, Roseanna Cunningham, Aileen Campbell, Malcolm Chisholm, Hugh O'Donnell, Michael Matheson.

Since the motion closed Stuart McMillan has also indicated his support. If any reader has contact with any other MSP not listed but who supports the motion please get the MSP to e-mail their view to nationalsecretary@ascc.org.uk

Govt Launches Working Group Consultation

The Scottish Government's Consultation on the Proposed National Model Scheme for Community Councils and Code of Conduct for Community Councils is out - and your CC should have a copy!

Hopefully, by now, your CC -and perhaps a few Community Councillors individually, have returned a response to the consultation.

The Government intends to have a FINAL version of both documents released in late September.

The ASCC and COSLA will be invited to sign up to the final versions. The ASCC will do so provided the proposals represent a fair improvement to the working practices of local authorities in relation to Community Councils. Crucially, this will depend on the mechanism chosen to adjudicate breaches of the CCIr Code of Conduct.

When the final version of the scheme comes out, it is VITAL that the CCs in every local authority ensure their authority adopts the Model Scheme without changes.

Draft ASCC Policy Statement on Community Councils and Community Empowerment

The ASCC is responding to the Joint Statement issued by the Government and Cosla on Community Empowerment in Scotland. Sadly, though perhaps not unexpectedly, the prevailing view of Cosla (though not necessarily the true view of local authority councillors across Scotland) is that Community Councils should not be empowered, nor treated any differently from local community organisations.

In shaping a response, the ASCC is seeking YOUR views on community empowerment and the place Community Councils should have in it. Send your comments to newsletter@ascc.org.uk

This is the Draft ASCC Policy Statement

If the Scottish government and Scottish local authorities are serious about the idea of community empowerment they need look no further than to assist in strengthening community councils. The existing 1100 plus Scottish community councils provide a sound basis for the further development of democratic local community organisations that provide advice on local public services and community issues and which have the potential to undertake a wider range of functions devolved from local authorities to local communities.

Statutory Basis

Community councils are unique Scottish organisations established by an open public process of nomination and election under local government legislation to 'ascertain, coordinate and express' the views of local communities to local authorities and other public agencies whose activities impinge on the well-being of their local communities. They are well placed to be in touch with local communities since they represent, on average, local populations of about 4,500 people and their meetings being regularly attended by local authority members are a way for them to keep in touch with local communities. Community councils have special statutory representational rights with regard to development control, planning issues and licensing matters and they regularly make known local views on numerous local issues such as traffic, bus services, litter, anti-social behaviour and youth services.

In some local authority areas they are emerging as important partners in the community planning process.

Cost-effective

Typically community councils exist on a local authority provided budget of a...

...few hundred pounds per annum. This enables them to perform their essential secretarial and representational business. Additional funding for community councils from the Scottish government and the local authorities would make them much more effective, more able to represent their communities and more capable of undertaking local services. Most importantly since they are largely staffed by volunteers and have minimal local authority staff support they are not costly and an expansion of support for them would provide by far the most cost-effective means of empowering local communities compared to the large sums (in the many millions of pounds) that have historically been provided to promote citizen participation in local communities through Scottish government and local authority programmes.

Democratic

While about one fifth of the Scottish population still does not have a community council they can easily be established by an 'off the shelf' kit that is provided by each local authority's community council scheme upon a petition by at least twenty electors in the relevant area. Local authorities that are serious about community empowerment should actively encourage the establishment of community councils where they do not exist and support them more where they do exist.

Community councils are sometimes criticised for not being democratic in the sense that there are usually only sufficient nominations forthcoming to fill the number of vacancies available on a specific community council, thus obviating the need for an election. However community councils are regularly reconstituted, usually every three or four years, by a process of open public nomination. More contested elections would be welcome and ASCC expects this to be the case as interest in community councils grows but it should not be overlooked that community councils provide a publicly accountable framework across Scotland through which over 13,000 citizens are regularly involved in attempting to improve Scotland's local communities. With 40% of community councillors being female community councils have a better performance in this regard than local authorities or the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments.

There is no comparable set of organisations available across Scotland to promote citizen participation. Tenants' organisations are based on peoples' housing circumstances. Residents' associations do not have the framework of public accountability that governs community councils. Local authority forums are based on the agenda and priorities of the local authorities themselves. As the Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament commented community councils are genuinely independent and autonomous local associations of citizens concerned to promote the betterment of their local communities. They exercise their rights as citizens and residents to speak up on behalf of...

of their local communities. They make a significant contribution to local democracy and there is much more that they could do.

The Way Forward

ASCC is working with the Scottish Government to enhance the quality of Scotland's community councils through the promotion of a National Model Scheme through which community councils and local authorities can promote improvements in their current ways of working. ASCC aims also to work with the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to ensure that the community empowerment agenda to which both those organisations are committed is centrally focused on using community councils as the most democratic, available and cost-effective mechanism of delivering community empowerment.

What Do YOU Think? newsletter@ascc.org.uk

COMMUNITY COUNCILS MUST HAVE INSURANCE

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www.ascc.org.uk

insurance@ascc.org.uk 0845 644 5153

Practical Action To Support Your Constituents

As members of community councils do you want to improve your local community?
Are people you know concerned about climate change?

If you, your colleagues or your friends have ever thought about going that extra mile and doing something for the benefit of others but don't know how to go about it, then Community Action for Energy (CAfE) can help. CAfE is a national support programme from the Energy Saving Trust - an independent organisation providing free and impartial advice to communities. It is designed to promote and facilitate local community projects.

Community-based projects promoting sustainable energy can help bring a neighbourhood together through a common purpose, helping to save money and the environment. Community groups can also have a vital role to play in lowering greenhouse gas emissions and CAfE helps those at the local level bring grass roots ideas to life.

What CAfE can do to help improve YOUR environment:

- Combat fuel poverty
- Help the local economy
- Save money
- Help the environment

By becoming a member of CAfE, you are provided with a range of services to help your community set up and run local energy projects. Membership to CAfE provides you with:

- A national helpline
- A national network of members
- A database of community energy projects
- Regular newsletters
- Training courses for community groups and members
- Access to the national CAfE conference
- Information on sources of grant funding
- An Energy Efficiency Guide for Community Energy
- Travel bursaries
- Written and on-line resources including briefing notes and publicity resources.

All members are eligible to attend free training courses that are specifically aimed at people working in the community.

If members of the ASCC want to find out more about CAfE Scotland log onto www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe or call the helpline on 08701 261 444.

Whether you want to save money on your fuel bills or develop a local renewable initiative, CAfE is here to help. Why not take action and lead the way in your region!

Your National Representatives - The Executive Council of the ASCC

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ASCC Area Representatives

The Executive Councillors above are each the Area Representatives in their own local authority area. There are locally-elected ASCC Area Representatives in almost every area of Scotland. These are elected from among the Community Councillors of the authority area.

For details of YOUR local ASCC Area Representative, contact the ASCC office on office@ascc.org.uk