



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Milne's Neighbourhood Forum held in Fochabers Heritage Centre on Thursday 08 October 2009 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Sylvia Reid, Chairperson for the meeting  
Gill Stewart  
Teresa Sherman  
Anita Milne  
Kay Griffin  
Vicki Holmes  
Paul Ralph

**In Attendance:** Cllr Douglas Ross  
Fiona Rolt, Community Support Officer

**Apologies:** Marc Macrae  
Cllr George McIntyre  
Cllr Anita McDonald  
Anita Gouldsbrough  
Jennifer Shaw  
Ness Smith  
David Mackay  
Michelle Gillibrand, Community Support Worker

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Sylvia welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made round the table. Apologies were received as listed above.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting held 06 August, 2009**

Fiona informed the Committee that Michelle was currently off sick. She had left her notes with Fiona who will attempt to draft a minute

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Moray Young Carers/ Quarriers**

Douglas Ross has been following this up on the Forum's behalf. Anita read out from the report to Health and Social Care Committee on 23 September. The report stated that the contract was awarded to Quarriers following a rigorous tender process. It also stated that "Following a difficult service inception, Quarriers are now delivering a succinct, structured and accountable Carers Support Service"

Ann Griffin, Public Involvement Officer with the Health and Social Care Partnership, was interested to know why the Forums were so concerned about

the service to carers, however, she is to attend a Moray Forum meeting to find out more.

Douglas Ross believed that the Forum had genuine concerns and had a right to express them – they were not being negative or scaremongering. He believed that the report was vague on the services offered to young carers. The Health and Social Care Committee have agreed to request a specific report on young carers.

### **3.2 Drugs and Alcohol issues in Milne's area**

Fiona asked if this item could be postponed. It was agreed to try to arrange a meeting in November with all three Councillors, a representative from the Police and also Robert Bruce from YPAC to discuss the issues in the Milne's area and specifically Fochabers.

**Action: Fiona**

Douglas Ross informed the Forum that as a result of the "disturbances" in Lhanbryde the Police have upped their patrols. However, it has become apparent that there were other issues which had not been reported. Anita thought that this would be an appropriate time to try to resurrect the Multi-Agency Group for Lhanbryde.

### **3.3 Better Community Engagement Development Project**

This is a Scottish Government initiative and there are only 10 areas in Scotland that have been accepted. The main purpose of the Project is to illustrate how to better engage with the community – particularly those who do not normally engage. Anita reported that a Steering Group has been formed of community members – not officers.

Gill asked for it to be noted that she didn't get an invite to the evening meeting!

## **4. Police Quarterly Report – emailed**

This was circulated to the Moray Forum and is for noting. It was noted was the small numbers of PCs in Moray, compared to other authorities.

Douglas informed the Forum that John McNab, Depute CC, wants to make these reports more reader friendly – so if there are any suggestions please pass them on to Douglas.

## **5. Milne's Neighbourhood Forum – developing and strengthening the Forum**

It was suggested that the meeting to look at Drugs and Alcohol issues in the Milne's area be used to "kick-start" the process of trying to get more people involved in the Forum. It was also noted that Lennox Community Council was to have an election for the Fochabers seats and this could be a good time to try to join up more with the Community Council.

## **6. The Moray Forum Update**

- Presentation by Jacqueline Larkin, Police Diversity Officer. Jacqueline deals with "hate" crimes i.e. crimes which are against race, gender, etc. It has been

agreed that she will contact the relevant Forum if anything becomes apparent in their area.

- Road-side signs advertising various events etc. A policy on this was supported by Douglas and Cllr Gordon MacDonald and has now been approved. This means that groups/ organisation can continue to put up the small road-side signs advertising their local events without fear of them being removed by Roads Department.
- Young Carers – this is still being pursued.
- Constitutions – Some of the Forums have expressed the view that the current constitutions are not fit for purpose and there is a desperate need to review them. Anita will keep the Forum up-to-date with any progress on this.
- Concerns have been raised that the SOA does not recognise the value of volunteering. It was hoped that when the SOA is reviewed/ revised that this will be included. Douglas informed the Forum that there was a debate in Scottish Parliament on volunteering and there may be some useful information from that.

## **7. LEADER Applications**

Anita informed the Forum that it had been agreed that Forums would be consulted and asked for comment on LEADER applications in their area. David Watson has suggested that two people from each Forum be nominated to look through the applications and give an opinion as to their appropriateness and suitability. Paul Ralph volunteered and Jennifer Shaw to be approached. These two representatives were approved.

## **8. Community Support Unit**

The Community Support Unit has now been formed. It has been agreed that Fiona will be the Community Support Officer for Milne's and Laich and Michelle Gillibrand will be the Community Support Worker.

## **9. Community issues**

- Paul highlighted the lack of transport particularly for young people to get to and from activities in Lhanbryde and Elgin. Anita informed the Forum that she and Fiona had been investigating a Community Transport Scheme and still had a couple of contacts to follow up. She will keep the Forum informed of progress.
- Douglas has yet to meet with Mark Tennant with regard to the land at Station Road, but will try to do so as soon as possible.
- Douglas also informed the Forum that the follow-up report on Child Protection stated that there were encouraging signs of improvement. (The original inspection of Child Protection in Moray was extremely poor). The Council, Police and NHS Grampian responded well to the original report and put in steps for improvement at a very early stage.
- Douglas informed the Forum that the budget position of the Council was very poor and cuts in the order of £18 million were to be expected over the next 4 years. Council Tax is likely to be frozen again as to increase it would incur penalties from the Scottish Government. So, major savings will have to be

made and this will no doubt result in staff redundancies. It has been proposed to consult the wider community with regard to the proposals.

- Fochabers by-pass is still on schedule. Douglas will check with Gordon Holland as to whether the contract has been awarded and to whom.
- Anita gave a very brief report on the Forum's finances. £1500.00 has been received from the Council for administrative expenses, giving a total of £3768.89 in the account. It was agreed to give a donation of £75.00 to the Fochabers Heritage Centre for the use of their facilities over the past few meetings.
- Teri informed the Forum that John Ferguson has been designated as the Allotment Officer for Moray. Also an Allotment Policy has been written and will be going to Policy and Resources Committee shortly. The Steering Group are still looking for suitable ground and will probably have to go to a private landlord as there is no suitable Council owned ground in Fochabers. Anita passed on the information that the Carbon Trust Awards may have funding for allotments and community gardens.
- Gill has tried to contact Gordon Christie to see if the swimming pool at the caravan site could be made available for school pupils as they had expressed an interest in this. She has left a message for him.
- Fireworks – there seems to be a problem with insurance, however, Fochabers Village Association are still confident that they will be able to run the event under their own insurance.
- Douglas informed the Forum that the Flood Relief Fund has been established. If anyone knows of any events which are looking for a good cause to donate to, then the Flood Relief Fund will gratefully accept any monies going! Vicky has a tin for donations and also claim forms in the library.

## **10. Chair for next meeting**

It was proposed to hold the meeting in Urquhart, so Paul volunteered to Chair the next meeting.

## **Date, time and place of next meeting**

Thursday, 03 December 2009 at 7.00pm in Urquhart Parish Hall.