

Minutes of The Moray Forum meeting held on 16/03/2009

Present:

Alan Beresford (Buckie Area Forum)
Barry Taylor (Buckie Area Forum)
Aileen Marshall (Elgin South Area Forum)
Kieron Green (Elgin North Area Forum)
John Bremner (Forres Area Forum)
Carin Schwartz (Forres Area Forum)
Anita Milne (Milnes Area Forum)

Also present : Linda Adam, John Ferguson , Ian Todd (The Moray Council)

1 Welcome

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Linda Adam to the meeting who is the new area support worker for Buckie, Speyside and a round the table introduction was carried out.

2 Apologies

Rebecca Kail (Elgin South Area Forum)
Alistair Kennedy (Joint Community Councils)
Sandy Henderson (Speyside Forum)

3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 January 2008 :

2 amendments for accuracy was noted there is no 's ' at the end of Linda Adam and Carin Schwartz was misspelt. The minute was proposed by John Bremner and seconded by Carin Schwartz

4 Matters Arising

Vandalism And Litter- Alan Beresford reported that Harry Torry had met with Andy Jamieson to clarify the position, The chair had as discussed at the last meeting sent a letter to The Chair of The Safer & Stronger group and the item was discussed. Harry will get back to the Chairperson to report on progress.

Feedback from meeting with the convenor regarding Area Forums

Anita Milne and Alan Beresford had their meeting with the convenor and John Ferguson, but in reality events have overtaken the meeting with the consultation about to take place. This is on the agenda.

5 Better Community Engagement

Ian Todd presented a paper seeking pilot status for Moray in The better Community Engagement Initiative . The government are seeking to develop a programme to support and improve practice in engaging with communities Nationally they are trying to develop a learning programme, too provide a toolkit for Community engagement. They are hoping to have 6 Pilots across Scotland and if Moray were to apply and be chosen as a pilot then we will receive four days consultancy from the Government. Ian had shown Alan Beresford and John Ferguson a copy. In response to a question Ian was able to expand on the proposal, it would cover the whole of Moray it would focus on targeting

hard to reach people as the focus for Government was very much on the equalities agenda.

Alan Beresford felt that it would be useful to have an independent overview and important to have a benchmark. Ian pointed out that if successful an oversight group could be formed for the project. There would be no additional cost. It was pointed out that the bid mentions the Volunteer centre from the section on the CPP. The feeling of the meeting was that this expression of interest should be submitted.

6 CONSULTATION UPDATE

John Ferguson explained that at the Policy and resources meeting of The Moray Council held on the 10th of March, two papers were approved the first was on financial support to community engagement though focussing mainly support to forums and community councils, and a paper on staffing support. John was able to speak about the financial paper but because the staff who might be affected by this have not been spoken to he could not discuss the detail, but felt that it was difficult to look at each paper in isolation.

The paper has three options laid out for funding. The first option looks at a standard £1,000 across the board to all groups with some money of the Moray Forum and not all of that money will be for administration. The second option looks at a per capita arrangement and the third looks at an allocation based on ASG per capita being given to each area and leaving it to the organisations to work out an allocation.

The Community Engagement group has been asked to look at the consultation and the implementation group has asked that the consultation go to The Community Engagement Group in April for approval. John has been asked to produce the consultation document. Various comments were made on the financial proposal, it was felt that the options outlined were flawed and that the options should be examples not options. John felt that if other more solutions agreeable to those affected could be found then they would be considered could be found. It was also felt that the Council should be seeking to stimulate a dialogue with groups. It was agreed that an informal meeting between the Joint Community Councils and The Moray Forum be arranged to discuss this. John will forward details of the staffing proposal when staff and Unions have been consulted.

7 ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

Carin reported back that the Lease for Transitions Town Forres for 29 acres at Bogton Road Forres had been approved at the Policy and resources committee on the 10th of March which was good news as they can now make progress with the community garden. Carin explained some of the plans for the new site. Carin wanted to record her thanks for the support she received in pushing for this lease.

8 VOLUNTARY SECTOR PROPOSALS

This was on the agenda as groups had gone away to discuss this with their own forums feedback should be

