

MEETING OF THE MORAY FORUM HELD ON 30TH AUGUST 2010 IN NEW ELGIN PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNEXE

Present	Alan Beresford	Buckie	(Chair)
	Bill Burgess	Speyside	
	Peter Bush	Milnes	
	Aileen Marshall	Elgin South	
	Carin Schwartz	Forres	
	Barry Taylor	Buckie	
	Sarah Murray	Buckie	
	Kieron Green	Elgin North	

In Attendance

John Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager – TMC
Ian Todd, Community Support Unit Manager – TMC
Linda Adam, Community Support Officer – TMC

1. Welcome

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Sarah Murray, secretary of Buckie Area Forum.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Anita Milne, Louise Ellerby and John Bremner

3. VOICE Presentation

Linda gave a demonstration of the VOICE (Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement) software. Those present indicated they could see potential for it's use. An online version of VOICE should be available this month.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Amendment – Item 4 – Farmers Market – third line should read 'continental markets which would compete with existing farmers markets'
The minute was then proposed as a true record by Aileen Marshall and seconded by Peter Bush.

5. Matters Arising

ME Support Group

Alan fed back on behalf of Anita that the ME Support group is going from strength to strength. A DVD is being considered. Anita will be representing the VSPM on the Community Planning Partnership Health theme group.

Farmers Markets

It was noted that charges for stall holders at farmers markets is being considered.

Travellers Sites

It was noted that consultations are due to get underway in coming weeks.

Buckie Town House

Barry reported that the Buckie Area Regeneration Group have now secured a 6 month lease on the Town House in Buckie. Carin enquired as to what they were being charged. Barry responded they are paying £40 per month for heat

and light. The cost of leasing the building is being offset by funding received from Moray Council. Linda asked if the Buckie Area Regeneration Group now have their own constitution as the existing Area Forum constitution doesn't have a 'Powers' section, which in effect means individuals could be held personally liable for any lease they enter into. Barry stated Moray Council are covering liability and insurance costs.

BIDS

Alan reported that he had met with Sandra Dow, CAB, to discuss correspondence received from Jacqui Taylor, BIDS Manager which contained the threat of sheriff officers. Alan wrote a letter to Jacqui Taylor following discussion with Councillor John Russell. A response had been received from Jacqui Taylor which Alan has emailed to Moray Forum members for comments. Alan may convene a meeting of voluntary groups and charities affected. Copies of correspondence to date is available for anyone to see.

Farmers market

There was a discussion on the new planning changes and it was noted that The Moray Council are looking at licence fees.

6. BCE Update

Ian reported that the BCE steering group had met in June and that representatives from Moray had attended a national BCE event in Glasgow. Ian had sent out project reports in advance of this meeting allowing members time to read same and raise any questions they may have. Out of the 6 BCE pilot projects, 5 are progressing well with 1 being suspended due to a change in structure of one of the Community Planning partners. Ian proposed that he would keep Moray Forum members up to date with electronic VOICE reports. He advised that a number of BCE learning sessions were planned between now and December which would bring together all the project participants. It was noted that some good partnership working has come about as a result of the projects.

7. CSU Update

Ian distributed copies of a CSU update which reflected the work of staff within the unit, including language and literacies staff. He highlighted there was no update available for Buckie and Keith as Gillian Bailey is on sick leave, He reported that with the recent appointment of part time Community Support staff the CSU now had a full complement of staff.

Linda distributed copies of the final draft area forum handbook and induction session, advising that an equality impact assessment had been undertaken and the handbook would go to the MCPP Board meeting on 16 September for approval. It was noted that some area forums do not currently have membership registration forms. Linda suggested this was easily overcome by ensuring that those attending meetings/AGM complete same. Carin stated that she didn't agree with the language used on page 11 – Moray Forum, as it was not reflective of the current situation, given that the Area Forums do not liaise closely with the theme groups nor of the flowchart on page 12. It was

suggested that the terminology of the paragraph be altered to reflect the current situation and that the MCPP Structures Flowchart requires clarification. Linda requested those present to identify the number of copies of the handbook were required for each forum. Although no definitive number was identified Alan recommended members be furnished with electronic versions.

8. CEG Update

Carin expressed her concern regarding the status of the Community Engagement Group of which she has been a member for two years Alan reported that a paper on disbanding the CEG went to Moray Council in July. Section which relates to CEG is 5.4.

Carin stated she thought the Community Engagement Sub Group description in the handbook was good but she felt the CEG had not developed optimally. Elected members on CEG are not only the link to the theme groups but also the chairs of the theme groups, but tended not to attend the CEG. Active membership of CEG depleted and not operating effectively.

John stated the short life working group has been more effective. When it met last week it was proposed by Carin that the CEG does not disband but change the way in which it operates. John highlighted the recent successful seminar held at Spynie Hospital.

Carin stated she was unhappy about having been involved for 2 years and the group is disbanded without any consultation. She recommended that the Moray Forum is not represented on a group where they have no say or have no means of reporting to the Board. Alan said the points and concerns raised need to be brought to the attention of the Board. It was agreed that Carin write a letter to the Board in Alan's name.

Alan mentioned that Anita's report outlined concerns about the BCE group disbandment and that VSPM and the JCC were going to write to the Board regarding the matter. Carin to attend CEG meeting on Thursday and express the views and concerns raised at this meeting. **Action:Carin**

9. Funding Consultation Update

John reported that the P & R committee would be dealing with responses to the consultation at their meeting on 28th September.

10. Community Issues

Bill Burgess had received some telephone calls expressing concern regarding elected member representation on the Cairngorm National Park Authority. The previous Councillor who represented Moray Council lived and worked in the Glenlivet area. Kieron reported that the previous incumbent had been nominated but not selected based on the voting results. A Laich Councillor has been elected to represent Moray Council.

11. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Monday 27th September 2010 at 7pm in NEON

Monday 29th November 2010 at 7pm in NEON

