



The MORAY FORUM

Minutes of the Moray Forum Meeting held on, 22 August 2011 at 7.00 p.m., in New Elgin Primary School Annex

Present:

Alan Beresford	Chair
Anita Milne	Vice Chair
Sandy Henderson	Speyside Area Forum
Carin Schwartz	Forres Area Forum
John Bremner	Forres Area Forum
Peter Bush	Milne's Neighbourhood Forum
Steve Christie	Elgin South Area Forum
Aileen Marshall	Elgin South Area Forum
Sheila Hollis	Elgin North Area Forum
Barry Taylor	Buckie Area Forum

In Attendance:

Roddy Burns	Acting Chief Executive, The Moray Council
Linda Adams	Moray Council – Community Support Officer
Alastair Kennedy	Moray Joint Community Councils
Fiona Rolt	Minute Secretary

Apologies:

Bill Burgess	Speyside Area Forum
--------------	---------------------

Item	Discussion	Action
1	<p>Welcome, apologies and introductions.</p> <p>Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Roddy Burns, Acting Chief Executive of the Moray Council. Introductions were made round the table as detailed above. Apologies were noted as above.</p>	
2	<p>Minute Secretary</p> <p>Alan informed the Forum that he and Anita had approached Fiona Rolt with a view to her taking on the role of minute secretary. Fiona had agreed and Alan asked for her appointment to be formally ratified. This was seconded by Peter. The Forum approved Fiona's appointment. Carin asked if Fiona was to be paid for her time. It was agreed that she should be, however, the actual amount had yet to be negotiated!</p>	Alan/ Anita
3	<p>Roddy Burns, Acting Chief Executive</p> <p>Alan thanked Roddy for attending the meeting and enquired after Alasdair Keddie's health. Roddy informed the meeting that Alasdair was as well as could be expected. Alan requested that the good wishes of the members of the Forum be passed on. Roddy informed the Forum that he was delighted to have been invited to speak to the Forum and had readily accepted Alan's invitation. He said he would like to paint a picture of where the Council was going and how that would tie into the role of the Forum.</p> <p>Moray Economic Strategy</p> <p>Roddy informed the Forum that the consultation on the Moray Economic Strategy would</p>	

commence on 06 September in Speyside and encouraged members to attend and also encourage others to participate in this process. He went on to say that the fight to save RAF Lossiemouth had proved that the community, by working together, could really achieve positive outcomes. The Community Planning Partnership really want to hear what the community think and so consultations such as the one planned on the Moray Economic Strategy are “real”.

Roddy went on to say that Moray has a very fragile economy and there is a real need for the community to be fully engaged in the consultation. The meetings are open to everyone, although they will be structured – similar to the budget consultation meetings. The Council have undertaken to re-run meetings if required i.e. if people are unable to attend or if there is not enough space for everyone on the night.

Roddy said that there was a need to be achieving a strengthening of Moray’s economy particularly in view of the review of the RAF bases in 2015. He urged everyone to be involved and assured the Forum that there will be further occasions to ensure that people get a chance to participate. John Ferguson is line managing the nuts and bolts of the community engagement process, so this was not only an exercise about the strategy but also an exercise in community engagement.

Roddy said that the purpose of the consultation was to find out what is the community’s ambition for Moray? What are groups within the community looking for in Moray for the future and for them to participate in the identification of the priorities for Moray for the next 3 – 5 years? He pointed out that there is not a lot of money around and so there is a need to make the best use of what we have.

Roddy then went on to say that he hoped to be able to come back to a future meeting of the Moray Forum to discuss the outcome of the consultation and subsequent decisions made.

The timescale for the process is:-

September/ October – consultation

November/ December – evaluate the outcomes

January/ February – the plan begins to emerge

February / March - the plan is completed in time for the new Council to take forward following the May elections

Roddy thought that it was so important that communities understand and engage in the process so that there is knowledge of and influence over what is being proposed.

John Bremner informed the meeting that Forres Area Community Trust has been awarded funding for 2 full-time posts with the purpose of finding out what people in Forres and area want for their area in terms of social and economic development. John suggested that their findings could be tied in with the findings from the consultation.

Roddy said he was very pleased with this suggestion as it is so important that communities pull together and contribute – it is not just about the Council doing something but about everyone contributing to Moray’s future.

Aileen expressed the view that promises have not been delivered on from past consultations so this one may be met with a degree of resistance.

Roddy accepted that but hoped that people would put that cynicism behind them and get serious about contributing to Moray’s future. He pointed out that the loss of RAF Lossie would have devastated Moray but people power changed that.

Sandy pointed out that Speyside appeared to be the poor relation in Moray and the area

	<p>was often ignored. However, Roddy assured Sandy that this was not the case and the area was seen as an area of opportunity.</p> <p>In relation to the consultations, Linda explained that Area Forums in partnership with the Community Councils had been asked to facilitate these events and to nominate a Chair to welcome the community to them. She also said that if there were individuals who would be prepared to facilitate they should inform Linda. Those present agreed that there were no objections to these proposals and agreement was given in principle pending further discussion at Forum meetings as appropriate.</p> <p>Budget Consultation</p> <p>Roddy informed the meeting that the Scottish Government will determine their budget and priorities for the next year on 20th September. Councils will not know until sometime after that date what those are. Councillors and officials have already had some dialogue but the budget is still under discussion.</p> <p>It has been intimated that the current political boundaries will remain the same, however, that does not mean that the Council can't look at sharing services with neighbouring Councils – but these would have to be for the benefit of Moray and the people of Moray.</p> <p>Roddy went on to say that the outcomes for the Single Outcome Agreement were set by the Government but how these were to be implemented in Moray was agreed by the Community Planning Partnership. This is due for review in May 2012. Roddy said he was very keen for the Forums to engage in the consultation process and to be involved in determining what is best for people in Moray.</p> <p>Alan raised the issue of the post-it notes and said that Forums need to be assured that those comments, in future, will be taken into account and they also need to have confidence in the process.</p> <p>Roddy assured those present that no information had disappeared. He went on to say that the hunt for the post-its was not a priority but the future of Moray was, and to spend time looking for those notes would have taken resources away from what was important. Roddy continued by saying that he hoped that what happens <u>now</u> is worthwhile, although he also recognised that the issue of the post-its wouldn't be forgotten. He asked that people show some trust in <u>this</u> process. He said that lessons had been learned – meeting would be open to the public and post-its will not be used!</p> <p>Alan assured Roddy that the Forum was not criticising consultation. On the contrary, Forums supported consultation – they (the Forums) just wanted to ensure that it was made better.</p> <p>Roddy was thanked for his input which was informative and invited to stay or leave the meeting as he wished. Roddy expressed an interest in remaining to hear the rest of the agenda.</p>	
4	<p>Minute of the previous meeting held 06 June 2011</p> <p>Errata: Item 9, last para should read "John Ferguson agreed to raise this with the Council"</p> <p>With this amendment the minute was approved. Proposed John Bremner, seconded Sandy Henderson.</p>	

<p>5</p>	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 3: Area Forum Code of Conduct. Elgin South had discussed this at their last meeting and had no problem with it. Milne’s and Buckie Forums were discussing it at their next meeting. Forres Forum had discussed it but didn’t understand the purpose of it, especially in light of the additional circulation of a Code of Conduct for Employees and a Volunteer Policy. As a number of Forums still had to discuss the Code of Conduct it was agreed that this will be an item for the next meeting. It was also concluded that the Code of Conduct for Employees and the Volunteer Policy had been circulated for information. • Item 5: Bank Account. John informed the meeting that this should be finalised this week, once Alan has signed the form. • Item 8: Community Support Unit (CSU) Update. A query had been raised with regard to the hours allocated to the Milne’s area. Linda explained that she had emailed Anita with the required information. Peter asked that, as Chair of Milne’s Neighbourhood Forum, he be kept informed of any developments. • Speyside Area Forum had requested a meeting with John Ferguson to discuss the allocation of CSU hours to the Speyside area and how these are deployed. However, due to John’s illness this has yet to take place. They will follow this up and keep Moray Forum informed. • With regard to inter-agency evaluation of the new working arrangements of the CSU, Linda informed the meeting that there an internal review of working arrangements would be conducted 3 months from 01 June 2011 i.e. September 2011. • Linda informed the meeting that due to change management the CSU staff have reviewed and revised Support agreements. Funding is showing up as an issue to many groups. Individual work plans (IWPs) should be in place by the end of September, although holidays have impacted on the progress of their development. It was agreed that CSU staff IWPs should be discussed at the next meeting. • Support Agreement. Alan and Anita met with Linda to draw up the Support Agreement for the Moray Forum. This was read to those present and Alan asked for any additions/ comments/ amendments. No changes were requested and the Support Agreement was approved and signed. It was given to Fiona for safe keeping. • Item 9: Volunteer Policy for Staff. The Code of Conduct for staff had been circulated and whilst it referred to “Conflicts of Interest” the meeting agreed that the policy was open to interpretation and required to be much clearer. It was further agreed that John be requested to try to resolve this. Alan to discuss this with John. 	<p>Next agenda</p> <p>Alan</p> <p>Linda</p> <p>SAF</p> <p>Next agenda</p> <p>Fiona</p> <p>Alan</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Moray Transport Seminar</p> <p>Peter queried if the Forum had received the grant from Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership (MCHSCP) to fund the forthcoming Transport Seminar. Alan informed the meeting that the funds had been effectively frozen as a result of queries raised by Voluntary Action Moray (VAM). Alan asked Alastair if would care to comment as Chair of the Board of VAM. Alastair informed the meeting that the queries raised by VAM were in relation to the process that was undertaken to award funding to these projects – the projects themselves were not under scrutiny. Alastair also stated that he attended these meetings as Chair of the Joint Community Councils and not as Chair of VAM. He had taken a copy of the report along,</p>	

but only as a courtesy.

Alan referred to the newspaper article which had appeared in the Press and Journal and stated that it contained inaccuracies and thought it was important to issue a statement refuting some of the content of the article. Alan apologised for not having circulated the statement before submitting it to the press – it had been issued on behalf of the Chairs of the three organisations involved.

Aileen expressed her distress that the Forum appears to be stuck in the middle of this argument. She had no concerns about the project, just that we seemed to be involved in an argument which is not of our making.

Alan thought it was important to defend ourselves against the insinuations because to do nothing could be seen as admitting they were true.

Peter thought that the report should be made available to the public, particularly as Milne’s Neighbourhood Forum is mentioned in it and he, as Chair of MNF, would wish an opportunity to respond.

Anita informed the meeting that she had now resigned from one of the organisations named in the report and has offered her resignation to both Chairs of Moray Forum and Milne’s Neighbourhood Forum respectively. She has also spoken to the Vice-chair of Lhanbryde Community Challenge.

Carin stated that she did not want Anita to resign and was very mindful of the amount of work Anita carried out as a volunteer. Alan agreed and said that he had great faith in Anita’s ability and integrity. The meeting agreed that Anita should not resign from her position as Vice Chair of Moray Forum and endorsed the statements made by Carin and Alan.

Barry asked if MCHSCP had raised concerns about the procedures and apparently this is not the case. Anita referred to a minute of a meeting of Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray (VSPM) which stated that we should look on this as a learning curve. She suggested that it was time to do this and move on.

Aileen, however, felt that we should not be taking on this type of project particularly since we are all very committed and don’t really have the time to devote the time the project deserves.

Roddy offered to help in resolving this issue. He offered to speak to Jane Mackie, particularly since this type of opportunity may come up more and more and he would be concerned that community groups would not take up these opportunities when offered. He would want to make sure that this situation does not arise the next time. The meeting welcome his intervention.

Roddy

Alan informed the meeting that the preparations for the seminar were coming along very well. Notes of previous meetings have been circulated to chairs to ensure they are kept informed. Feedback to date has been positive and the next stage is to identify outcomes which can be achieved.

Roddy suggested that we contact HITRANS so that they can offer any assistance and also referred to the Audit Scotland report on Patient Transport Services.

Alan outlined the programme of the afternoon and commented on how much has been learned already by the Steering Group. Dr Jamie Hogg has agreed to do the “round up” on the day. Dr Hogg is heavily involved in working on issues relating to keeping older people in their own homes.

This seminar is being seen as a chance for agencies e.g. Council and Stagecoach to explain why the services are as they are and for the community to influence how future services are developed.

Aileen raised the issue of data protection as Elgin South Area Forum is finding it difficult to get a list of organisations to circulate. They wish to contact older people’s groups to pass on information about the seminar. Alan suggested that they way round that was to

	<p>utilise those contacts we already have. Roddy also agreed to look into this issue as organisations and individuals should not be excluded from these opportunities due to the apparent restrictions allied to data protection. This was welcomed.</p>	Roddy
7	<p>Communications Strategy</p> <p>This item had been put on the agenda as the Forum needed to ensure a good information flow between the Council and the Forum and also from the Forum to the Council and other organisations. It was agreed to review how the Moray Forum communicates both internally and externally.</p>	Next agenda
8	<p>Joining the Dots – feedback</p> <p>Anita informed the meeting that the Joining the Dots event organised by the Volunteer Centre Moray was an excellent opportunity for groups and organisations to find out more about what each other do and also to make connections and strengthen networks. Fiona explained that she had set up a small display about the Forums but felt that a leaflet or similar would be really helpful to explain what the Forums do in their areas and the role played by the Moray Forum. The Area Forum Handbooks serve a purpose but something more succinct and eye catching would give the Forums more and wider publicity and this would tie in with the communication strategy. It was agreed to look at this at a future meeting.</p>	Next agenda
9	<p>Area Forums' issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forres: Carin informed the Forum that they were delighted to have the funding for FACT (Forres Area Community Trust) which will be used to employ Development Workers to take the Trust forward for the next two years. Congratulations all round on Forres' success. • Buckie: Barry offered everyone a really good night out at their Ceilidh on Saturday and encouraged folk to come along! <p>There being no other issues from Forums the meeting was closed and Alan thanked everyone for their attendance.</p> <p>Alan thanked Roddy on behalf of the Moray Forum for attending the meeting and he in his turn thanked the Forum for inviting him. Roddy went on to say that he would appreciate an invitation to the Forum's December meeting. As community engagement is high on the Government's agenda, he believes that his time would be well spent attending some Forum meetings exchanging information with Forum members.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.05pm</p>	
10	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Monday 24th October 2011 at 7.00pm</p> <p>N.B. This date was subsequently changed to 07 November 2011 at 7.00pm in NEON.</p>	