

The Moray Forum

Minutes

Meeting on the 27 September 2010

In New Elgin Primary School Annexe

Present	Alan Beresford	Buckie	(Chair)
	Louise Ellerby	Elgin South	
	Peter Bush	Milne's	
	Aileen Marshall	Elgin South	
	Carin Schwartz	Forres	
	Barry Taylor	Buckie	
	John Bremner	Forres	
	Anita Milne	Milne's	

In Attendance

John Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager – TMC

Ian Todd, Community Support Unit Manager – TMC

1. Welcome

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for apologies.

2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted by Kieron Green from Elgin North

3. Qwizdom Presentation

Carin Schwartz gave a demonstration of the QWIZDOM system an innovative software solution for consultation. The aim of the tool is to ask questions from large audiences to analyse and represent the results to that audience.

Transition Town Forres have 30 QWIZDOM handsets but it is possible to deal with groups of 2000 people. Carin explained the keyboard on the handsets that were issued to this meeting and then demonstrated a variety of questions and answers. The process can be used in teaching and questions can be asked. The handset letting the user know if they are correct if they are wrong, . A panel allows the facilitator to know if everyone has responded. It then can provide details of responses in a variety of formats, tables, graphs etc. The process can be used to allow people to select preferred options, to give opinions, options and to vote. The material can be analysed as is being done currently by the Short Life Working group which used TTF's expertise and equipment successfully at the CPP seminar on the 29th June this year and will be used by RAF Kinloss. It was agreed by the Moray Forum that this was a valuable tool for community consultation and engagement.

4. Minutes of the last meeting.

The chair asked for any corrections on the last minutes. It was pointed out that it should read Buckie Town House in item 5 not Buckie Toon Hoose. Also Anita Milne pointed out that on item 5 she represented VSPM on the CPP Health theme group not the VSPM health theme group.

Carin pointed out that we had discussed the issue of Farmers markets and there was a discussion on new planning changes and how they might affect community organisations

With these corrections the minute was approved by Carin Schwartz and seconded by Aileen Marshall

5. Matters arising.

Travelling people sites

Alan and Barry reported that meetings had taken place in the Buckie area and that the Forres meeting had been arranged.

BIDS

Richard Lochhead's office called he is quite concerned about the current situation, the MSP will take action on the situation. Elgin Forum and .CAB will make representations saying that charges should not be invoked

6. BCE update

The steering group met last week, the consultant commissioned by the Scottish Government was there and he was involved in a learning day for participants. There had been some concern expressed that reports did not seem to show much progress , there had been some mistake made in inputting data into the VOICE reports .It was felt that VOICE did not fully demonstrate what was happening at this stage. Aileen prepared a report on the learning day for activity group members. The LGBT group gave a presentation on their progress and the group as a whole [responded to the](#) issues regarding input to Voice.

All projects are now entering the 'Do' stage. A few couple of the projects have found it difficult to develop the engagement process due to the sensitivity in targeting group members. One group has dropped out of the programme due to unforeseen circumstances out with the control of the BCE Steering Group. Five projects are still progressing. .It was suggested that the lessons learned should be passed onto the SLWG

The next meeting of the BCE group/ Learning sessions will be on 25/26 October and on the 22/23 November 2010

7. Community Support Unit update

Ian distributed [d](#) a copy of a newsletter which has been distributed widely throughout the communities in Moray to mark the Units first year of existence. The newsletter demonstrates [s](#) the work the unit involved in.

8. CEG update.

Carin thanked Aileen for standing in and it was Aileen who gave a brief report. It was focussed on the discussion around the disbandment of the CEG by the Community planning Board. Letters were received from Carin on behalf of the Forum and Alistair Kennedy from The joint Community Councils. JF was able to report that at the Board meeting it was agreed that the process undertaken was wrong and those apologies were to be sent to The JCC and Moray Forum. The group will be reformed to evaluate the proposals from the Short Life Working group on Community engagement produce a draft strategy. , There was a discussion on the complexity of Community Engagement and the role of VSPM which has representatives from community groups the voluntary sector, community Councils and Forums.

9. Funding consultation.

John explained that the Council was facing having to make massive reductions in service and were planning to repeat the consultation exercise carried out last year with community representatives. The Council will use the format used last year which was deemed highly successful. (Moray Area Forum received evaluation from the last consultation earlier this year) He explained the rationale behind the approach, in that the council wanted to have an informed discussion with community group representatives. This would allow representatives to ask their constituent members and community their views and allow the widest possible participation in the exercise. It would also allow community group reps to have direct dialogue, in small groups, with senior budget managers of the Council. Having a facilitated group approach as opposed to the traditional public meeting allowed people who would not normally speak to have their voice heard. Senior officers of the Council would be present at all the meetings. .Alan Beresford was concerned that the public would be excluded and that in Buckie, the Area Forum would not cooperate with this if it was not a public meeting. He stated that he was unhappy that this could be seen as exclusive. John reassured those present that if members of the public turned up staff in attendance on the evening would do their best not to turn them away as the team managed to achieve last year. It was agreed that Anita Milne would represent the Moray Forum and Alistair Kennedy from The Joint Community Councils will represent the Area Forums and Community Councils and form a small planning group to facilitate the consultation process with John and Ian Todd

10. Community issues.

Milnes forum have reformed a steering group and are working towards an AGM on the 6th October, a small working group has been established to facilitate the process to establish a formal forum group at an AGM in early October.

11. Time and date of next meeting

29th November 2010 - 7.00pm at NEON