

# Buckie Area Forum

Minutes of Meeting held at Buckie Community High School  
on 20 January 2010 - 7.00pm

**Present:** Alan Beresford, Barry Taylor, Anna Parker, PC Mairi Page, David Barnett, Karen Pitt, Alexander Thatcher, Ian Moir, Eleanor Kidd, Fiona Herd, Iain McPherson, Alistair Farquhar

**In Attendance:** Cllr, Anita McDonald, Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr A McKay, Cllr Joe McKay, Gillian Rose, CSU, K Sui, Moray Housing Enabler, Gavin Morgan, Duke of Edinburgh

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Barry Taylor, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the two guest speakers.

Apologies were received from Gillian Jaffrey, Cllr D Ross, Cllr R Shepherd, Bronagh O'Kane, Zafar Ali, Cllr G Coull

2. **Kim Sui, Moray Housing Enabler - Presentation**

Kim introduced herself and gave a brief outline of what her job entails and what she hopes to achieve. The project is funded for 1 year initially and involves one off research looking into what we think and what we want for the small rural areas along the Moray Coast. The project has been commissioned by The Moray Council to find out if there is a need for more housing for rent or ownership in the areas marked on the map she presented.

Kim asked for volunteers to display posters and distribute leaflets and to raise awareness of this project in smaller rural places. Further information can be sought through phone or email.

3. **Gavin Morgan, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - Presentation**

Gavin introduced himself and explained a bit about his work. He covers all 8 High Schools in Moray.

He would like to know what volunteering opportunities there are in the Buckie area or what he can offer to young people. There are young volunteers looking to complete their Award and need experience in the Community for example helping with fundraising. He explained that the aim to make them feel part of the Community and to treat them like adults. Gavin asked that any ideas or projects that could involve young people as volunteers can be passed on to him.

A few suggestions were made by the Forum.

Alexander Thatcher, Head Bow at BCHS explained that he has been working with a group of youths at the High School and they have done a survey amongst pupils on if they would like a 'Hang Out' Place. The response was not good. FH suggested that the way it was done could have had an affect on response and a meeting will be held next week to discuss this and to try and encourage a more positive response. More volunteers would be welcomed.

Mairi Page mentioned she has been involved with Cullen kids who are looking into developing a Mountain Bike Track in the Logie Avenue area. The Moray Council have been approached for ground. Any extra volunteers would be good to get the project off the ground.

Gordon McDonald suggested that volunteers would be welcomed for various tasks in relation to the setup and running of Radio BCK.

#### **4. Minutes from Last Meeting**

Minutes were Proposed by Alan Beresford and Seconded by Ian Moir

#### **5. Matters Arising**

A few questions were raised regarding the recent Budget Consultation

- How the pieces were collected for the feedback?
- Petition from youth work groups in Buckie weren't mentioned why?
- No mention of how many responses were received altogether.
- Only Elgin responses seem to be highlighted. Why is this?
- Have councillors see all emails or comments?
- Ian Moir questioned whether the cut will be bigger next year and if the same consultation will be carried out?

**Action:** Barry to contact Peter Jones.

#### **6. Buckie Registrar's Office**

Barry explained to the forum that the Buckie Registrar's Office has had the opening hours cut and is now only to be open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There has not been much information given by the Council and it is believed that the hours in Buckie are to be cut and opening hours in Elgin are to be increased. A lengthy discussion took place. There are concerns that people are being asked to contact Elgin when they do not hold the relevant information or the diary for the Buckie area. The registrar holds lots of information which is needed for organising burials in particular and for cremations and unnecessary waiting can put added stress on bereaved relatives and undertakers.

It agreed that it would be much better if the office could open everyday just in the morning at least and that the outcomes didn't seem to have been looked at before putting in place the new opening hours. It was also felt that there was more concern from local residents, and undertaker businesses than was recorded and that it would cost more for

someone to come to Buckie from Elgin to deal with matters. The group understood that cuts had to be made but thought there were alternative ways to make these. Local councillor advised the group that any decision could not now be overturned for 6 months.

It was agreed to send a letter the Council expressing the concerns of the forum.

## **7. PC Mairi Page ( Local Community Project)**

PC Page apologised for not attending previous meetings but shift patterns meant she was unable to. She told the group about two projects she is currently working with. The first one being Cullen Kids Mountain Bike Track. She explained that Cullen Community Council have been approached. A suitable area for the cycle track has been identified and they now have to define the area they want and put to Alex Burrell at The Moray Council. The track itself would be very easy to put together and also easy to take apart. The kids have to come up with fundraising ideas.

The second project is the Bin it to Win it litter initiative which has full backing from Buckie Community High School. If children are seen picking up litter their own and others litter they will be given a ticket for Slater Sports, Division, Motovation, or JMK. The scheme will be run over 1 year. Police staff on duty and senior staff at the school will issue the tickets but not necessary every day. A sum of £500 to needed set this up.

**Action:** Barry to look into possible funding.

## **8. Youth Matters**

As explained earlier the group plan on doing another survey to get a better response for creating a 'Hang Out' place. They will ask people face to face and make the form easier by having options to pick from. It is hoped that the survey will justify the need for such a place and that it will bring in more people volunteering to help.

## **Treasurer Report**

Ian Moir gave a brief report and explained the expenditure.

## **10. Community Issues**

1. Moray Way email – Barry received an email regarding changes to the Moray Way. He will forward it on for people to comment on. It was mentioned that the new route makes a loop and misses out Buckie so it effectively be taking people from Buckie rather than encouraging them to visit

2. Fishermen's Hall Charges – Barry informed the group of the hire charges for the fisherman's hall. The Arts and Crafts Group have

arranged an event and were shocked at the charges being imposed. It was suggested that those doing the catering at the event may be able to contribute. John Ferguson had been contacted and unfortunately these costs cannot be claimed from his budget anymore. It was asked whether a proportion of the rate was charged when you are not there and if the income will go into the Common Good Fund as that is where repairs come out of.

3. Andrew Graham (Transportation Consultation) – Barry received an email but on reading through it felt that this was information for Elgin rather than Buckie. **Action:** BT to send out for members to look at.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting will be 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 following the AGM at Buckie Community High School.