



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM (FAF) MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT

Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
Councillor Lorna Creswell (LC)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Debbie Herron (DH)	Fabio Villani (FV)
Ian Todd (IT)	Jo Smithson (JS)
Michael Scott (MS)	Tina Coffey (Minutes) (TC)

(Abbreviations of groups: TTF – Transition Town Forres, FACT – Forres Area Community Trust, FiB – Forres in Bloom, MC – Moray Council, BBCT – Berry Burn Community Trust, FCC – Forres Community Council, TH - Town Hall, Area Forum - AF)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2. Apologies	Apologies had been received from John Bremner (JB), David Edgar (DE), Graham Hilditch (GH) and Brian McDonald (BM).	
3. Jo Smithson, tsiMORAY	Jo Smithson is a new in post locality based worker working out of the TH. This a one year pilot post to help and support community based groups, the post is funded by Leader to the end of August 2020.	
4. Minutes of FAF Meeting held in June 2019	There was one correction, Item 12, first bullet point, the Huntly Development Trust trip took place on 30 th August 2019. The minutes were proposed by Lorna and seconded by Debbie.	
5. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 4 – Towerview, Lorna stated the building was no longer required and the lease is up in March 2020 Item 4 – Army event - Lorna was unable to attend the event, Debbie attended, there were 10 – 12 organisations present to promote employment opportunities to spouses of Army personnel Item 4 – trolley invoice to be emailed to the Secretary 	DH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4 – Grant Park Public Trust, Lorna to check with John Bremner • Item 4 – Secretary booked the TH for future meetings • Item 4 - toilet scheme survey – Lorna is no further forward although Rene Milburn has met with groups and businesses in town. The Joint Community Council are setting up working groups • Item 7 – DH emailed out party invites for the TH • Item 10 – the Town Centre Regeneration Fund was oversubscribed • Item 11 – Ian put 2 x reports to the Community Planning Board (Forres and Keith) and they will not be taken any further. Two existing pilot schemes, Elgin launches next Saturday and Buckie launched with 160+ in attendance with evidence that a community development approach would not fail • Item 14 – venue for FAF meetings moved to the TH 	LC/JB
6. Treasurers Report	Treasurer was not present and Secretary to email Treasurer for the bank balance.	TC
7. Correspondence	<p>Secretary read out a list of emails forwarded to the FAF membership which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Community Council Group leaders meeting • Forres Town Hall – invite to 1st party since FACT took over • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – MSP Town Connectors 2019 • Bus timetable consultation – Moray, Highlands and Aberdeen 18th – 28th June 2019 • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – Future Town Design Competition 2019 • Community Asset Transfer Notice – Forres Town Hall • Children and Young Peoples Mental Health resources • Scotland’s Towns Funding Finder for June 2019 • Moray Council Consultation of Forres Town Hall • tsiMORAY – upcoming event – Trustees responsibility of training • Scotland’s Towns Partnership and SID’s Bulletin • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – Your Town Clear, Green, Sustainable and Healthier • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – Funding Finder for July 2019 • Sex Entertainment Venues Consultation • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – August Bulletin • tsiMORAY – August 2019 update • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – Funding Finder for August 2019 	
8. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	Debbie informed those present of the following: Community Asset Transfer submitted application and the consultation process has finished, 14 comments/responses received, all positive. Submitted FACT’s response and will go	

	<p>to the P&R Committee, MC on 29th October 2019 for a decision. Scottish Land Fund application to be submitted by mid November 2019 to be considered in January 2020. Also to be sent to the Sheriff to be acknowledged as a Common Good asset.</p> <p>Reports for funding to be written with money received from Berry Burn and Beatrix and the Baillie Gifford Foundation – for Forres On-line funding for a year. Older Persons project received £5k/year for 3 years and will submit an application to Lottery and Auchernack Trust for match funding – busy summer and there will be a learning visit to Compassionate Inverclyde.</p> <p>Forres On-line has secured funding and have undertaken outreach work and working with those seeking employment. Skate Park – group has office bearers, application submitted to become a SCIO.</p> <p>Tourism – supporting the Moray Tourism Business Improvement District work.</p> <p>Attended the Development Trust Association Scotland conference over the weekend – sessions were good networking opportunities – would recommend speaking with Calderdale Council who advocated working in collaboration with communities.</p> <p>The annual funding report for the Lottery is being compiled.</p>	
<p>9. Forres Area A96 Community Group</p>	<p>David Edgar provided a brief report: the FAA96CG had not met since the last FAF meeting. The group can report that Transport Scotland have responded to our letter pressing them to provide a copy of the full Stage 2 Assessment Report to be placed in Forres library. The group are delighted to note from their response that hard copies of the report have now being placed in Forres, Elgin and Fochabers libraries.</p>	
<p>10. Planning for Real known as Greenspaces Group</p>	<p>Meet on 5th September 2019, Emma Gordon from the Planning Department, MC regarding the draft Food Growing Strategy contains suggestions of food growing areas in Forres, want to launch in Elgin and Forres and requires help from the community with regard to the consultation, meeting in the Red Room of FHCC on 6th September at 7 pm.</p> <p>Cluny Woods plan and Sanquhar Pond plan being spoken about.</p> <p>Mosset renovation work – in the paper, received £25k.</p> <p>Debbie rang Rene Milburn, MC regarding Economic Development, Rene said Moray has £1.2 million allocated from the Scottish Government for town centre work, 114 applications/proposals received amounting to £3.5 million – changes made to allocations, max grant of £100k/project with various small grants application approved.</p> <p>Public transport – going to be improvements to Elgin bus station and Buckie bus public transport. In the public realm can be funded to 100%, meeting happening shortly. Forres Market Cross is to be repaired with a grant of £11.5k, transforming the duck pond (dredge and tidy up identified by</p>	

	<p>the council) and the surrounding area of the Mosset Tavern £25k and to rectify the Museum Square at a cost of £35k, Debbie informed that the Council will discuss with colleagues across departments and then a consultation with the public afterwards, Debbie has requested a meeting with Rene to discuss more community engagement and will report back. Craig Wilson, MC stated planning permission is required for signage – on hold whilst investigating and Chair to update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Fabio - Community Challenge Fund bid - would be interested in sending someone from TTF to meet with a member of FiB.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>SM</p>
11. Moray Towns Partnership	No further meetings and no money received.	
12. Moray Area Forum	<p>Discussion around defibrillators – they have to be registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service and they should have planning permission, those who own the building are responsible for the defibrillators being serviced and checked. Paul Connor, MC – Participatory Budgeting conversation paper to be emailed out – Area Form would like feedback. Ian informed all that at the Community Engagement Group they stated PB could be up to 1% across Scotland but has not been clarified. Ian met with the Money for Moray group who asked for clarification which couldn't be given and they are to ask if each local authority has to give 1% or if it is an average 1% over Scotland.</p> <p>Transport Steering Group – apologies received as they have not met due to staff absence.</p>	
13. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH – Doors Open Day (DoD) – 21st September 2019 – TH open from 12 pm to 4 pm – displays up and looking for volunteers to serve teas and coffee or be a steward in various rooms. Exhibition in the Wee Gallery, a floral theme, launching 11th September 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm, all welcome • IT – MC putting together a Corporate Plan, an agreement between MC and communities on how best to work together in partnership, draft at present. MC would like to engage in conversation and engagement with the community ends November/beginning of December 2019. P&R participation request agreed structure live on council's website. Presentation put together for community groups – could invite Jill to a meeting and have a joint input with Forres Community Council • FV – tsiMORAY – busy forum and networks, Health & Wellbeing forum, future governance PB round on 10th September at #youchoose4 – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm with PB Moray having £12k in the Drug and Alcohol Partnership and £20k from the Public Health Partnership, in Elgin TH Supper Room on 10th 	

	<p>September and on 9th October Employment Law Seminar about social media in the workplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS – had a good highland games • AS - no transport meeting – the electric bus on route 369 from Aberlour to Forres was involved in a road accident on 31st July 2019, no passengers aboard and driver went to A&E. MC has no funding for the Devoran buses for routes 340 and 341 both circulars, cost is £20k annually to run both services. Press report said rail services From Aberdeen to Inverness were over packed, expensive and not punctual. New timetables for Stage Coach out and a lot of bus shelters have no timetables. Last 2 buses leave Elgin at 20.45 pm and 22.50 pm, a long time to wait. Looking at cycle paths on the A96 in the paper • DP – DoD - Nelson’s Tower and the Tolbooth will be open. Tolbooth photo exhibition from 5th to 7th September, Spirit Book Festival from 17th – 21st September and on 16th September Global Eco Village. Men’s Shed put up for an award and David attending ceremony on 18th September, 172 Men’s Sheds in Scotland • TC - DoD - St John’s church open from 2 pm – 4 pm • SM – banners to be ordered for the FAF, FiB and FACT • FV – Global Eco Village Network project to promote more sustainable approaches to communities – stage 1 facilitated 3 hour session at Transition Town Forres on 9th September from 10 am – 1 pm. Stage 2 - 20 groups entitled to put their names forward to be a showcase demonstration project, 3 to be elected and given support of up to 100 hours marketing etc all paid for and go on a learning exchange in Norway and Germany with communities and also go to Brussels for a day of sustainable communities – anyone interested get in touch with Fabio, applications for travel closes on 11th September • SM – attending awards ceremony for Beautiful Scotland in Dumfries on Thursday. End of month presentation from the Lord Lieutenant for FiB’s Queens Award for Voluntary Service to be held on a Sunday at St Leonard’s church hall. Heard on the grapevine Forres has won an award for the War Memorial run by the Royal British Legion 	
<p>14. Councillors</p>	<p>Councillor Creswell informed those present of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Carroll passed away – memorial service to be held on 7th September 2019 • Nick Goodchild, MC has left the Council • Correspondence with Andrew Gray, MC regarding 14 responses on the Community Asset Transfer of the TH 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lossiemouth TH – discrepancy over lease and all leases are different, Andrew said he would prepare a paper for the next committee meeting if appropriate • Museum – closing from March 2020 unless a group come forward to look after it. Met with the Chair of Friends of the Falconer Museum hoping a group comes forward – could tsiMORAY help source money for having access to a curator – tsiMORAY will look at it • Land Commission Public meeting – well received and attended – Tesco old area to be followed up • Leys Road Sheltered Housing held a coffee morning which raised £790 • Church project has folded • Film Forres are showing Spider Man on 6th September and Rocket Man on 21st September • Met with Music Maychanics who are looking for premises • High incidence of suicide in the area 	FV
15. AOB	<p>Coffee morning for FAF/FACT on 7th September, any offers of help and items for the raffle would be gratefully received.</p> <p>Film Forres Presents have received a small grant which will enable them to show films at the OAP's meetings on a couple of Wednesdays, the first film to be shown will be The Ladykillers on 18th September 2019.</p>	
16. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 2 nd October 2019, 7 pm, Lesser Hall, Forres TH.	