



Speyside Area Forum www.undiscoveredspeyside.org

Tuesday, 15th August, 2017
Carron Public Hall
7-30 pm

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies

Participants – Sandy Henderson, Hugh Fraser, Jenny Herschell, Patricia Grant, PC Craig Dammer, Andrea Fuller, Derek Ross, Charlie Alexander, Margaret Grant, Greg Saraf, Karen Delaney, Bunty Campbell

Apologies – Patti Nelson, Cllr Louise Laing, Cllr Walter Wilson, Bill Burgess, George McKenzie, Jim Hart, Jean Grimshaw

2. Presentation by Karen Delaney, The Moray Council – Knowing Who, Knowing How

Karen asked if the communities would like to hold a training day to highlight who to contact about any concerns – main purpose being to support the most vulnerable in the communities. All agreed it would be a good idea and there should be sessions around the county so all could access – especially areas where transport is an issue.

FT to circulate email for communities requesting they contact Karen with proposed dates of sessions.

3. Minute of previous Meeting for approval – 6th June, 2017

Sandy mentioned not sufficient time to go through these tonight as various points to amend on minutes. [to be reviewed and recirculated]

4. Matters Arising
[as above]

5. Police Matters

PC Craig Dammer mentioned they had caught the persons who had ransacked various houses. Andrea mentioned the Community safety report is helping. Craig mentioned lot of staff are off at moment.

Hugh mentioned trying to organise CCTV around the Aberlour tea rooms building as still getting issues. Hope to get installed in next few weeks.

6. Community Planning Partnership Development Day – 23rd June, 2017 – update

Andrea had asked councillors to lead on this. CEG reps and all the Speyside councillors attended.

Prior to this meeting, stats had been circulated re each of the wards and this was used to consider outcomes for the improvement plan – this will be an update to 2026 plan. Andrea mentioned she has seen the report as it's available on the Your Moray site / she recommended we should all read it. Points of note are the ageing population, gender inequality, & youths leaving the area. One of Andrea's concerns is the interpretation of the stats (being able to show what wanted to) - it suggested less older people living in most rural areas – but this may be because there are no care

homes there. There was another stat suggesting a good bus service which is ridiculous given the poor connectivity and that the last bus out of Elgin is at 6pm.

The Local outcome improvement plan (LOIP) will follow on from this.

They should recognise that there are not enough houses in our communities – especially when people are getting shipped in from Elgin and Invernesshire to some of the larger employers.

7. Community Engagement Group – update – Revised National Standards for Community Engagement

Andrea mentioned she had attended a development day re the national standards of community engagement. The aim is to deliver the effects of the community empowerment act. The Scottish Government has asked for them to be revised (best practice re how partnership agencies engage with communities). Andrea circulated a summary which highlighted the key points of engagement : Inclusion, How to involve right people, how to provide support, how to plan for it, methods to use for community engagement. She added Voice Scotland site is a source of info re the tool. This has been set up by Scottish Community development centre.

At meeting earlier today Alison [Federation?] mentioned felt CEG group and community planning process is a bit muddled. Comment made that the community sided members don't think that the other partnership agencies have much of a clue of what is going on however Andrea emphasized it's early days.

8. Money for Moray - update

This is group of volunteers to deliver 120k of participatory budgeting to the people of Moray, decided by the people of Moray. We have bid for 60k to community choices fund for Participatory budgeting (PB). Have also been promised +60k for rural economic projects. The Government has said that 1% of budgets have to be distributed by PB.

Hugh and Andrea raised that one of the main issues is that expenses in relation to running these events has not been agreed – eg advertising and transport. In a discussion last night John Cowe told Hugh and Andrea that to take 3k for expenses from the 60k pot would need to go back to full committee for approval. If this money is not spent by March it would be lost and so important to keep this moving forward.

9. Moray Growth Fund (Cllr Ross will lead discussion)

Cllr Derek Ross mentioned there was a meeting re this on 29 June. This is based on city deals – there is a regional deal designed to boost economic growth – keep young people in area, remove gender inequalities, Derek said for it to be successful it needs support – please see the My Moray web page on the council site. There is a survey on the site [now closed].

We obviously all aspire to the vision but comment made that it's difficult to give feedback without knowing what the proposed projects are. We need to highlight the Speyside rural issues :eg transport, service, digital, housing. Comment made that funding is likely to get sucked into Elgin because of the transport policy that's in place. Derek stressed it's important to note this isn't a pot of money for bidding into.

Derek said we should be getting a greater share of government money – £15m shy of what Highland getting but need all the councillors to lobby together / was also stressed that councillors shouldn't be political.

10. Community Issues and Update from Community Groups (please also see Diary www.undiscoveredspeyside.org)

Broadband still issue throughout the area.

Dorenell wind farm benefit fund consultants are appointed and will shortly be carrying out community consultation with the communities of Cabrach, Dufftown, Glenrinnnes, and Glenlivet & Inveravon.

Laurie Piper would like to attend one of our meetings to discuss Moray Tourism. Met with Dufftown 2000 and Andrea suggested other tourism bodies should also attend.

11. Treasurer's Report

Received council funding – slightly up from last year.

Proposed – Patricia Grant

Seconded – Bunty Campbell

12. Distribution Lists

Andrea mentioned Fiona & Hughs lists were slightly different.

To update / remove where necessary – Claire Couttie, Donna Smart, Renie Milburn and Gillian Bailey could now be removed. Comment made that although don't want to lose communities involvement although there is option on constitution to remove those not contributing. Hugh stressed this is an open meeting – and we would never refuse anyone from attending.

Greg suggested an information presentation would be useful as he can feels out in dark. Eg explain what the different organisations do and what could be added to encourage more to attend and all to get more out of the meetings.

13. Any Other Business

None

14. Date and Venue of Next meeting – to be confirmed, venue Dufftown, [Mortlach Hall 21 November 2017]