

# **BUCKIE AREA FORUM**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in the Town House, Buckie**

**Present:** Barry Taylor, Alan Beresford, Sonya Warren, Jo Farquhar, Alistair Farquhar, Ian Moir, Benjamin Palmer, Neil Johnson, Tam McLellan, Lynne Ward,

**In attendance:** Andrew Anderson –HIE, Cllr Gordon MacDonald, Ian Todd – Moray Council

**Apologies:** Cllr Anne McKay, Cllr Joe MacKay, Gillian Rose, Bill Greig, Ian MacPherson, Nicola Warren. Emma Marandola, Nathan Edwards, Zafar Ali, Scott Mann, Joe Grant, Emily Allan

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Two misspelt names: Sheila Whishop should have read Sheila Wishart. Lynne Wood should have read Lynne Ward.

It should also be noted there are two head boys.

Amendments proposed by Ian Moir and seconded by Neil Johnson

### **2. Matters Arising**

Section 7: the community wardens to be involved to get extra monies for extra bins and potential sitings of same to help with the littering problems.

Banking – Zafir still not heard from the bank regarding change of details as Ian Moir still receiving post from bank.

### **3. Correspondence**

Moray Council have sent details of apprenticeship opportunities but detailed email to follow.

### **4. World Host presentation**

Andrew Anderson from HIE gave a presentation on World host. It will support locally based initiatives led by local communities. It will bring festivals together and has cross border collaboration e.g. Banffshire and Cairngorm. It will help develop Moray as a destination offering more jobs and therefore more profits. His aim is to improve customer care in hotels, restaurants, shops etc. It is preferred that Moray obtains the accreditation as opposed to individuals. Forres is acting as agents for management. Elgin BID covers a large area and is committed. Aim is for Moray to be the first County to hold the award.

To obtain the award: qualifying businesses need to be identified, then a 50% minimum need to be assessed and accredited.

It involves approx 1000 people in Moray.

Training is a one day course organised by People First at a cost of £95 each

Courses will be subsidised via SDS/ learning accounts.

Return on accreditation is 5:1 so profits will increase along with staff satisfaction and retention.

Will lead to career posts not seasonal jobs.

There were enough parties showing interest within the group for a follow up meeting on the subject.

Business accreditation lasts 2yrs with a half day refresher.

Aim is for completion in 18 months.

It is an opportunity for the Business Association to be involved.  
Cullen volunteer group are keen to be involved and wish to work with and be part of the Moray award.  
BCHS are keen to see the pupils accredited as it is seen as a skill.

Training the trainer costs £750 but they can then charge to recoup costs.  
Alistair Farquhar is to act as lead for public meeting to discuss the matter. Proposed date: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013.  
Of the 131 businesses identified there are 23 food outlets, 38 services, 42 cafe/ B&B/ hotels and 36 other outlets.

#### **5. Regeneration Group**

In Zafir Ali's absence, the state of the finances could not be verified but there was some concern that Ian Moir is still receiving post which should be going to Zafir. There also needs to be liaison between the area forum and the regeneration group.

#### **6. Youth Matters**

The Pupil Council has nothing to report at this time. Lynne Ward is looking for a suitable sound system for her show at the end of November.

#### **7. Community Issues**

Education / sustainable schools. See the Council website for consultation details until 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Police Scotland is out to consultation regarding the closure of stations and reduced hours at others.

Retained firemen and the lifeboat crew are both short of volunteers.

#### **8. AOB**

Buckie festival – the Spooky men concert was a sell out and enjoyed by all. Feedback very positive.

Sustrans- the issue of traffic lights at both Well Road and Cluny square junctions are being discussed.

Also safety along cycle route between Buckie and Portgordon

#### **Next meeting:**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> January 7pm in the Town House.**