

BUCKIE AREA FORUM

MEETING

Wednesday 10 June 2015, Town House, Buckie

Present: Tam McLellan (BAF), Alan Beresford (BAF), Ian Moir (BAF), Gillian Rose (BAF), Linda McDonald (BAF), Emma Marandola (BAF), Neil Johnson (BHS), David Lawrence, Zafar Ali (BAF), Alistair Farquhar (BAF)

In attendance: Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr Sonya Warren, Dave Malpas (TMC), Elaine Penny (TMC), Alan Armit (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Jo Farquhar (BAF), Cllr Gary Coull, Margo Howe, Nick Brown (Buckie Radio)

Previous Minutes: Neil Johnson corrected the spelling of his surname, otherwise correct; proposed by Tam McLellan and seconded by Gillian Rose.

The AGM will be held in August. Alan Beresford chaired the meeting.

Buckie Traffic Lights consultation: Alan introduced Elaine Penny and Dave Malpas (The Moray Council, Traffic). Elaine reported that there had been large numbers of people attending the information days, 124 written comments and a petition with over 400 signatures opposing the traffic lights proposals. As a result TMC are not going forward with any of the proposals at the moment. Elaine was surprised by the negativity of responses and welcomes feedback and suggestions. Lidl money is available to cover the cost of lights at the Cathcart Street junctions on High Street and an alternate proposal for a crossing there will come in the future. Changing existing zebra crossings to signal controlled crossings (£30K per crossing) is being investigated and surveys will be done. There is a strong desire for full lights at Well Road/ Highfield Road junctions but this is problematic due to existing driveways; a second opinion will be sought. A crossing is required at Lindsey Gordon park for users of the park and also for Millbank Primary School pupils who live to the west of High Street. David Lawrence called on the police to help educate drivers and pedestrians eg use correct lanes at roundabouts and delivery vehicles/ taxis should not double-park. Alan Armit asked what the background to the lights proposals is and was told that they had come about because of economic development money for green travel, re-routing the national cycle route, and the square being difficult for pedestrians to negotiate. He is happy to observe the above issues in the town and report back. Alan thanked Elaine and Dave and they left at this point.

Matters Arising:

Tesco Sam had offered glassware etc and help with the hall. She has spoken to Gillian and help will be welcome once the hall floor has been fixed. Gillian will let her know that we'd be grateful for 24 glasses, a jug and 24 mugs.

James Alexander James is very busy with Speyfest and when it is finished he will be returning his attention to the "Drifter" project.

Tea Urn Gillian will get prices.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's report/ Bank signatories: Zafar thanked Ian very much for all his help in recent months. He provided Income & Expenditure and Balance sheets for BAF and Regen accounts; the tables should've been paid for out of BAF not Regen. No payment has been taken for Public Liability insurance for the hall. Gillian has a list of invoices and will check with Ian/ Zafar which ones are outstanding. New forms are needed for bank signatories.

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Moray Area Forum: Linda was at the last meeting which was the AGM.

Buses They'd like numbers for coastal people who want to use the train. Sonya suggested a Facebook page to aid consultation. Neil Johnson told us that some secondary pupils studying Highers travel to other schools/ colleges. At the moment this is done by taxi and the pupils are limited by the current arrangements. He suggested a questionnaire to school children.

Small bids £1.5 million per year is available to Moray as small bids grants, more information to follow.

Regen:

Wi-Fi The Wi-Fi covers Cluny Square and approximately a 500m radius. It will be free to access. It will have a 'Welcome to Buckie' front page and this will need a suitable launch. BT is being very awkward.

Four Towns There will be more leaflets for the Four Towns initiative, especially for walking.

Promotional materials There is a range available and we have more to get.

Website The structure of the Buckie website needs to be amended and made suitable for use with mobile devices.

Camera competition There were no entries and will be run again later in the year.

Cinema The Regen group is in the early stages of organising a mobile cinema for the town, Highfield Hall would be a good venue.

Youth matters: Neil Johnson reported that the deprivation v. attainment figures for Buckie are very good but the more affluent kids aren't performing so well; how can we raise their aspirations? There should be development in primary schools for thinking early about careers. There will be a Skills Academy at the harbour BHS/UHI. S5/S6 could do day release at college which would be equivalent to 1st year apprenticeship therefore go into 2nd year on leaving school. Career help is available from My World of Work, Scotland's national careers advice website: www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Community:

Legal highs Ian asked Alan about 'legal highs' and was told that there are no outlets in Moray (the nearest are Nairn and Fraserburgh) but they are available online. Police treat them as controlled drugs, they can be confiscated for testing and the police need information in order to act. Kids say to Neil Johnson that they're normal at parties; we need alternative ways to educate. Schemes are ongoing e.g. MIB bus in school.

P&J Community mini bus Please keep any P&J minibus tokens for BHS as the old bus is 'dead'.

Buckie Harbour Advisory Committee Linda reported that there will be future development consultation. The harbour and area has huge potential but has been underutilised for years. There is the possibility of 240 jobs (for minimum 25 years) in connection with the offshore wind farm, Windcat are keen to be in Buckie as it is an ideal harbour. Scottish Government and EU money is available for infrastructure. The decision will be made March 2016 with development a couple of years after that. Developer obligations would be beneficial to the area and would be negotiable.

World Host Alistair Farquhar reported that employer 'buy-in' has been generally poor. The cost is £40 per employee (subsidised by the Chamber of Commerce, normally £80) and Alistair believes it's best to speak to people face to face rather than rely on an advert.

Farmers' Market BCHS in October

AOCB:

Date of next meeting (AGM): Wednesday 26 August 2015, 7pm, Town House, Buckie.