

# Buckie Area Forum

Minute of the meeting for Buckie Area Forum held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 in Buckie Community High School.

## **Present**

Barry Taylor, **Chair**, Alan Beresford, **Vice Chair** (Portknockie Community Council), Gillian Rose (St Peters Parent Council), Alistair Farquhar (Buckie Festival), Ian Moir (Buckie Community Council), James Smith (Buckie Community Council), David Barnett (Buckie Community High School)

## **In attendance**

Cllr Joe Mackay, Cllr Anne McKay, Cllr Anita McDonald, Cllr Ron Shepherd, Cllr Gordon McDonald, Michelle Gillibrand, (Area Forum Support Worker)

## **1.0 Welcome & Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting by introducing David Barnett, Head Teacher at Buckie Community High School. The Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then invited notes of apology. Apologies received from Anna Parker, Cllr Ross, Cllr Coull.

## **2.0 Previous Minutes**

### **Buckie Area Forum meeting 26/11/08**

For the minute the Chair clarified that Cllr Gordon McDonald is chairing the Moray Towns Partnership (Buckie) on behalf of the Buckie Area Forum. With this clarification the minute was proposed by Alan Beresford and seconded by Alistair as a true record of the meeting.

## **3.0 Matters Arising**

**HMIE Inspector Focus Group** – Barry reported that Buckie High School and the wider 'Learning Community' of which the Buckie Area Forum is part received a good to very good report from HMIE. The work of the Forum was also highlighted as national good practice. Barry said this was a great achievement and was due to everyone around the table and congratulated Buckie Area Forum members, CLD and the school.

**Cullen Allotment Project** – The first open meeting to investigate the demand for allotments in the Cullen area will be on 28<sup>th</sup> January, at Cullen Community Centre. All welcome

**Area Forum Support Workers** - The chairman reported that the interviews for the new support worker for Buckie took place and the job was awarded to Linda Adam who came across very well and enthusiastic. Linda's start date is still to be confirmed.

## **4.0 Financial Report**

The Treasurer distributed copies of the financial update. The Account is currently standing with at £2596.99. The full accounts are ready from the auditors. The year end has been taken as 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.  
**Action: Ian**

## **5.0 Feedback from the Moray Forum Meeting 2/12/08**

Alan reported that the following was discussed and agreed to at the last Moray Forum meeting-

- **Eileen Bush, Moray Voluntary Service Organisation (MVSO)** gave a presentation on the proposed establishment of a Volunteer Sector Forum which would represent 400-500 members on MVSO's data base at present. There are approximately 1400 voluntary groups in Moray. MVSO are keen that the Joint Community Council and the Moray Forum are consulted at an early stage to discuss and progress this idea. At the Moray Forum meeting it was felt there shouldn't be

a conflict of interest in this new proposed Forum and would complement the work of the Moray and Area Forums further.

- **Moray Forum Management proposals** - Alan informed Buckie Area Forum that the report prepared by the Moray Forum on behalf of all the Area Forums will be presented to the Convenor of the Council, George McIntyre on 29<sup>th</sup> January and then would be presented to all the Elected members. John Ferguson, Community Planning Development Manager informed the Moray Forum that the Council were currently considering a consultation process on how best to support voluntary groups in Moray. No other details were given.
- **Keith and Strathisla Regeneration Partnership Group** – the Moray Forum felt there would be no problems for the KSRPG to take on the role of the Keith Area Forum with the proviso that they worked within the Community Planning Protocols and Guidance. A letter has been sent to KSRPG informing them of this decision. Michelle updated the meeting to say that KSRPG had received this letter and would be responding in due course.
- **Forres Allotment Group** – Carin Schwartz, Chair of Forres Neighbourhood Forum gave an update on the current situation on accessing land from the Moray Council for allotments. The allotment group which is being supported by the Forum and is part of the Forres Transition Town have been asked to consider a Common Good site but because of previous commercial use on the land they would expect to be charged £1600/acre/year which would go back to the Common Good funds. The Moray Forum agreed to write to the Moray Council and the local MSP to see how things could be resolved. Michelle explained that it has been challenging for both the community and the Council to investigate how things could be taken forward but both Forres Neighbourhood Forum and Council officials were working very hard so a report could go to a Policy and Resources meeting soon to discuss lease terms for the site.

## **6.0 Moray Towns Partnership Presentation – Mr Alan MacBeth**

Cllr McDonald gave an update on the work to date of the Moray Towns Partnership, Steering Group which is a sub-group of the Buckie Area Forum which consists of Alan Beresford, Barry Taylor, Jim Johnston, Moray Chamber of Commerce, Nick Brown, consultant and Cllr McDonald, Chair. A draft Action Plan had been drawn up for consideration by the Forum.

After a detailed presentation from Cllr McDonald the following comments were made-

- The action plan was very ambitious with a tremendous amount of great ideas but there was concern that may be too much was being taken on especially during the first year. Cllr McDonald reassured that the plan was achievable with the support from the Moray Council and many of the projects outlined in year one would be at a feasibility stage.
- The level of community involvement is massive and concern was expressed that this may not be met and therefore many of the ideas could fail. Again Cllr McDonald reassured the meeting that it would not be the same group of people taking forward everything in the Action Plan and if the meeting was agreeable that the Buckie Area Forum would be central in facilitating, support and encouraging as many people and groups to be involved.

The meeting agreed that the Action Plan should be taken forward. In summing up Cllr McDonald officially thanked the support individuals, groups and organisations had already given to the plan.

**Action: Cllr Gordon McDonald**

## **7.0 Youth Matters**

The meeting agreed that there should be a closer link with CLD and the schools, Including Primary Schools, in the Buckie area to ensure the Forum are aware of the issues young people may have and to support their involvement with the work of the Forum. It was agreed that this should be looked at using the

Moray Towns Partnership as an example of how young people could get more involved. This would tie in perfectly with Curriculum for Excellence and Good citizenship.

The Forum also asked to be updated on the Street Football and if any events were planned for the Buckie area. **Action: Michelle**

## **8.0 Community Issues**

**High vis Armbands for Primary School Children** – Cllr Anita McDonald asked the Forum for their support on encouraging the local community to consider the need for high vis armbands for Primary School children during the winter months. This had been discussed at the Moray Council but unfortunately due to financial constraints the Council were not able to support the purchase of armbands. The Forum agreed that a letter would be sent to local schools and parent councils to establish the need for armbands.

**Action: Barry**

**Gollachy Road** - Barry brought it to the attention of the Forum of the difficulties of accessing the bump at Gollachy Road and suggested a one-way system may help. Ian and James reported that the Buckie Community Council were already in discussing with the Moray Council on how the traffic movement could be improved on and one of the suggestions being made was introducing passing places. Cllr McDonald also said that the Transport section of the Moray Council were also looking at the feasibility of moving the amenity dump which in the long term would alleviate the current traffic situation at Gollachy Road. It was agreed that since Buckie Community Council were already dealing with this issue the Forum did not need to be directly involved at this stage. Michelle made comment that this was an excellent decision made by the Forum showing a good working relationship and understanding with a community council.

**Action: Buckie Community Council**

## **9.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm at Buckie Community High School at 7pm