

Buckie Area Forum

Minute of the meeting for Buckie Area Forum held on Wednesday 11th February 2009 in Buckie Community High School.

Present

Barry Taylor, **Chair**, Alan Beresford, **Vice Chair** (Portknockie Community Council), Gillian Rose (St Peters Parent Council), Murray Geddes (Buckpool Golf Club), Marie Buchan (Buckpool Harbour Group), Alistair Farquhar (Buckie Festival), Ian Moir (Buckie Community Council), Ian (Thomas) MacPherson (Arradoul and Rathven Community Council), David Barnett (Buckie Community High School), Anna Parker,

In attendance

Cllr Joe Mackay, Cllr Anne McKay, Cllr Ron Shepherd, Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr Douglas Ross, Leanne carter (the Northern Scot), Gillian Bailey (CLD, the Moray Council), Doug Wilson (TESCO), Craig Harrow (TESCO), John Ferguson (the Moray Council), Linda Adam (Area Forum Support Worker), Michelle Gillibrand, (Area Forum Support Worker)

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting following on from the Buckie Area Forum AGM.

Apologies received from Cllr Coull, Cllr George McIntyre, Cllr Anita McDonald, Peter Souter and George Stewart

2.0 Community Issues

Buckpool Golf Club – Murray Geddes from the Buckpool Golf Club explained due a change in licensing legislation which will come into force on 1st September Junior Members will no longer be able to access the bar area at the club for social purposes. They were therefore asking the Forum if they would be able to assist and support the Club in seeking funding to renovate a separate area for a Junior Room and hence help increase Junior Membership

It was agreed to support the Buckpool Golf Club in their endeavours.

Moray Towns Partnership – Councillor Gordon McDonald gave a brief update on the progress being made on the Moray Towns Partnership bid.

- Credit Union – The Milton Drive Project, The Well are keen to progress the establishment of a Credit Union. Gillian Bailey commented that the Well already have put forward a number of volunteers but still liking for a further 3-4 individuals to take the concept forward. Training will be provided. It was agreed to organise a presentation at a future Forum meeting.
- Community Radio – Cllr Gordon McDonald and Cllr Anne McKay had met with David Barnett to discuss the involvement of pupils at Buckie Community High School with the proposed community radio idea. It was felt this could be a community enterprise project. There was a lot of support and enthusiasm for the idea
- Retailers Association – Certain business groups had been informally approached. There was a lot of enthusiasm for the idea of a Retailers association. Still to organise a meeting

to bring together all the business/retailers concerns in Buckie this will be organised by the end of the month.

- Harbour Regeneration – Currently the Transportation Section of the Moray Council is working on the drawings for the proposed marina and will be working up castings for the infrastructure.
- Arts and Crafts Events – Local artists and crafters will be meeting on Monday 16th May to look at the visibility of holding an art and craft event which would also involve the schools in the area.
- Funding – at the moment funding will not be an issue with the possibility of Town Regeneration monies but this will have to be looked into further.

Barry emphasised the following points in relation to update given by Cllr McDonald:

- There will be spin offs for the Buckie area
- The business community in Buckie are very supportive
- Schools will be involved.

TESCO – Doug Wilson and Craig Harrow welcomed the opportunity to update the Buckie area Forum on the planning application which has been submitted for a 20,000 ft Food store. At this point Cllrs Gordon McDonald, Anne McKay, Ron Shepherd and Douglas Ross excused themselves from the meeting as they sit on the Moray Council's Planning Committee.

The reps from TESCO went on to say that the building will be an environment timber clad framed structure and that they were keen to discuss with local suppliers and producers on how they could work together.

A full discussion took place with the following subjects and points discussed:

- Local public transport to and from store
- Lack of Café facilities at the store
- Demand for the store was proven through statistics collected from Clubcard data.
- Town Centre land was not available to create store
- Basic clothing especially for children should be looked at
- Online business would not take away from business at proposed store
- Concern was expressed on the perceived carbon footprint on using the distribution point at Livingston. The reps explained that this had been looked at and in fact the carbon footprint was smaller than taking local deliveries.
- The planning application would be reviews if the garage forecourt was denied
- Safe crossings required at the Town Centre for safer access to the proposed store.
- Looking to explore railway links to deliver goods which could potentially could take 300 lorries off the A9.

Barry thanked the TESCO representatives for their presentation and question and answer session. He commented that the debate has a long way to go but the presentation has

shown that there potentially could be positive spin offs for the Buckie area including jobs, supporting local produce and reducing the carbon footprint.

Both Doug Wilson and Craig Harrow left the meeting at this stage.

Speeding – Alan informed the meeting that Portknockie Community Council have put forward the request for reduced speed limits at Portknockie and Findochty. Clls Gordon McDonald has put this forward to the Economic Development committee of the Moray Council; for a blanket 20 miles per hour limit in these villages. The likely costs for the necessary signage would be £20,000 to £30,000. A speed analysis was conducted and it was concluded that on average vehicles were going faster than 24 miles/hour and so further speed calming measures were needed.

It was agreed that Buckie Area Forum would support the Community Council's endeavours to make the Moray Council to reconsider its position on this matter.

3.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that future Buckie Area Forum meetings will be every third Wednesday, every second month. The next meeting will be Wednesday 18th March at Cullen, venue TBA.