

BUCKIE AREA FORUM

MEETING

Held on Wednesday 27th August 2014
In The Town House, Buckie.

Present:

Zafir Ali, Alan Beresford, Alistair Farquhar, Jo Farquhar, Neil Johnson, Emma Marandola, Tam McLellan, Ian Moir, Sonya Warren

In attendance:

Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr Gordon Cowie, Ian Todd

Apologies:

Douglas Ross, Julie McIntosh. Ian MacPherson, Gillian Rose, Gary Coul, Margot Howe, Cllr Joe McKay.
Barry Taylor

Previous Minute:

Neil Johnson was missed off the apologies list.
Ian Todd should be listed under "in attendance" not as "present".
Amended minutes were proposed by Jo Farquhar and seconded by Alistair Farquhar.

Matters arising:

Training – it was noted there was nothing on the Council website and Ian Todd will organise.

Correspondence:

None

Scottish Traditional Music centre of Excellence:

James Alexander was not present but it noted that a public meeting held recently filled the hall. Progress is slow but in hand.

Maklab:

Neil Johnson reported that funding had allowed them to progress to a further round but the school failed to make it through to the final round. However Moray Chamber is keen to support.

Sporthub:

A website has been set up. It has a Facebook page and is being run as a virtual hub.

Worldhost:

Nothing to report but it was noted that Worldhost is a Moray-wide initiative not just for Buckie. Everyone is in the same position. The Scottish government is subsidising the training fee possibly to approximately £40 per person but this is to be confirmed.

Schools review:

The four schools group are seeking support from BAF. The report on the independent review is due out at the end of September and will be discussed by the full council in early November. It was stressed review fits in with "Education not estate" vision. It is estimated that any actions would commence 2017 at the earliest.

Chairman: Sonya Warren. Secretary: Jo Farquhar. Treasurer: Zafir Ali.

BUCKIE AREA FORUM

Moray Towns Partnership:

A leaflet is to be produced incorporating the four towns and we need to produce events to be included in the leaflet that are specific to Buckie. E.g. Rotary 6 harbour walk, Classic car rally, Peter Pair, 10k race, farmers market etc.

An app "Mi Moray" for Moray was declined due to cost. Elgin BIDs scheme is to run for another 5 years.

The Cluny Square town map was discussed and it is due to be replaced soon.

Regen Group:

Wifi for Buckie is due to be installed on the cctv pole in Cluny Square. This will enable free wifi to be available within the town centre. BT are providing this at an approximate cost of £10k. The equipment will be on loan and the scheme run for either 5 or 10 years.

The new signs are up but there is still debate if they are in the correct position (Buckpool sign at Victoria Bridge).

It is also planned to have free pen drives to give away at events

Youth matters:

Crofting connections --- BCHS and local primaries are working together and this will culminate in the Moray supper in the Fishermen's Hall in October 2015.

The new representatives from BCHS will be in attendance at the next meeting.

BCHS- has requested help with running mock interviews for the next academic year. This will enable students to improve their skills ready for the job market and university applications.

It was noted that recently there has been less waste and litter around the town than previously and credit was offered to the school.

The new Head Pupils Allanah Mair and Liam Gordon will attend the next meeting hopefully accompanied by some 5th year pupils to give continuity into the next year.

Community report:

Buckie festival listed their next productions:

Film "Whistle my lad" on 9th September

Play "Burton" on 24th September and

Play "Rallying Around" on 23rd October.

All take place in the British Legion Hall at 7.30pm

AOCB:

Alistair Farquhar raised the issue of phones in Portknockie being out of action for 10 days. BT showed a lack of concern and the police said they were offering additional police in the area. It was agreed little police presence was noted and the length of time reconnecting the village was unacceptable.

The Buckie Kracker committee is combining with the Christmas lights committee. School have designed new lights which are more energy efficient. A new Christmas tree will be purchased with LED lights. Estimated tree height is 5.2m (16' 9")

Chairman: Sonya Warren. Secretary: Jo Farquhar. Treasurer: Zafir Ali.

BUCKIE AREA FORUM

Communities partnership funding applications can be made and suggested possible projects may include community alarms, midnight football, modern dance. Sonya Warren has not yet had time to study the application but anyone with ideas and suggestions please notify the chair.

The forum was reminded that all coucillors and Community Councils should be notified of meetings. BAF secretary to note for circulation.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 7pm in the Town House, Buckie.