FORRES AREA FORUM

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th April 2010 in Forres House Community Centre

PRESENT

Fabio Villani	Transition Town Forres
Carin Schwartz	Chair person
Heather Shaw	Moray Council
Irene Ogilvie	Moray Councillor – Elected Member
John Bremner	Individual
Lee Bell	Moray Councillor – Elected Member
Sandra Maclennan	Forres in Bloom

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome from Chair	Carin welcomed everyone to the meeting	
Apologies	Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Young, Angela Sutherland, Jennifer Matheson, Naomi Zair	
Minute of meeting held in March	Approved – Sandra Maclennan Seconded – Fabio Villani	
Matters Arising from last minute	Last page of minute should read 'Forres in Bloom Membership Drive' at Mackenzie and Cruickshank Garden Centre on May 1, 2 and 3. Moray Towns' Partnership (MTP) meeting, Whole Town's Strategy at Horizon Scotland was well attended with good representation from Forres. The general feeling is that there would need to be some funding support before Forres or any of the represented towns could run with any of the ideas. Cllr Russell is to present a paper to Council on Tuesday 20th April. • Forres Health Centre – nothing happening at moment • Youth Fund bank account has been set up • Redco Milne – no further developments • Qwizdom – Has now been purchased by TT Forres • Forum calendar of speakers/themes – Heather to present at next meeting • Future Venue – Heather to book Forres Academy dining room	Heather Heather
Treasurer's report	Account stands at £1790.78	
Guest Speaker -	Carin informed the group that she was successfully interviewed for the position of Master Composter Volunteer	

Carin Schwartz – Master Composter	Coordinator (MCVC) with Transition Town Forres, a position funded by Zero Waste Scotland. As a MCVC Carin has to recruit 10 volunteers and attend 70 different events to raise awareness of the amount of household waste that can be composted, and thereby avoid adding to landfill. 14 volunteers were recruited at the recent Farmers' Market and the first training will take place on 5th May. Carin said that she and her group will be looking to attend as many events as they can to demonstrate that home composting can be fun as well as beneficial to the environment.	
Allotment Policy	The meeting held on 24 March 2010 at 1.30 pm in the Gallery, Elgin Library to discuss the Allotment Policy attracted 25 people. It was a useful event with many practical suggestions that should go some way to assist the Council towards an Allotment Policy. Carin stated that the Community Garden in Forres was a good example of how much could be achieved in a small piece of ground. Transition Town Forres are paying £3k per year for 11 years for the lease of the site at Bogton Road. It was also suggested at the Policy meeting that developers should incorporate growing areas into their plans for new housing estates	
Moray Towns Partnership (MTP)	Access for All initiative; Commissioned by the Forres Area Forum in partnership with Moray Towns Partnership, the report, 'Forres: A Disability Town of Excellence' highlights what is currently available for disabled people and what improvements could be made to increase access. Nick Brown, of NBPlanning has done a great job in this initiative. The report can be viewed in the Forres Area Forum page of the Moray Council's Community Planning website www.yourmoray.org.uk . The next stage of this exercise will be to seek funding to undertake some of the projects highlighted for action. Heather will contact Fiona Limbrey to investigate further. Heather to post out hard copies of the report to those agencies who contributed to the exercise. Further projects; Fiona Limbrey had intimated that there could be a further tranche of money for projects, but the amount was as yet undetermined. The MTP steering group and Heather had met and came up with the following wish list of priorities to send to Fiona • Print re-run of the Forres maps. Perhaps folded this time • Purchase of roadside banners for promotional purposes • New 'Welcome to Forres' on 3 approaches to Forres – something that stands out • LED Festive lights • Cotton shopping bags • Identify one/some of the recommendations from the Forres – Access for all initiative for funding • An additional information board	Heather Heather

Area Forum Remit	Heather had come across examples of operational and strategic issues that would tie in to Community Planning structures. Some debate took place on how to facilitate more community involvement. Agreed that this would be a discussion item for a future agenda	
Round the Table	• Transition Town Forres have advertised for a Programme Manager. The post to be on a self employed basis for 10 months • The first ever Farmers Market in Andersons had attracted an estimated 1000 people. It was a huge success. This event will be held on the second Saturday of every month. Next Andersons Farmers Market on 8th May • Trellis has selected the Community Garden as one of five garden sites to visit in Moray and Highland Councils. Trellis is the national Scottish charity that supports, promotes, and develops the use of horticulture to improve health, well-being and life opportunities for all. • Forres in Bloom are organising several litter picks. Dyke Gardening Club have their coffee morning on 8th May • Land Use Strategy – This is an important piece of legislation that the Scottish Government need to have in place by March 2011. There will be many consultations before then. Local meetings are in Inverness and Aberdeen. • Correspondence received from Grant and Geoghegan, engaged by Springfield Developers re proposed plans for further housing development in Forres. Plans to go on show on 30th October? • Heather is currently meeting with Forres Lunch Club to explore all options available to them given that their Lunch Club will cease to operate in its current format at the end of April.	
Date Time next meeting	Wednesday, 12th May at 7pm. Venue: Forres Academy Dining Hall	