



## SPEYSIDE AREA FORUM

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

Speyside High School, Aberlour

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

#### Attending:

Chair: Sandy Henderson  
Hugh Fraser  
Mhairi McBain  
Martin Sheed  
Bill Burgess  
John Fleming  
Andrea Fuller (Minutes)  
Pat Shanks  
Derek Clark  
Patricia Grant  
Jenny Herschell  
Margaret Stuart  
Jean Grimshaw  
Jean Oliver

Aberlour Community Association  
Aberlour Community Association  
Cabrach Community Association  
Cabrach Community Association  
Carron Community Association  
Duftown & District Community Association  
Edinvillie Community Hall Council  
Edinvillie Community Hall  
Glenrines Community Centre  
Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association  
Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association  
Rothes Council  
Rothes Council  
Speyside Paths Network

#### In attendance:

Rhona Patterson  
Linda Adam  
PC Craig Dammar  
Cllr Pearl Paul  
Cllr Fiona Murdoch  
Stewart Maxwell  
Karen McGowan

Community Support Worker  
Community Support Officer  
Grampian Police  
Moray Council  
Moray Council  
HMie  
HMie

#### Apologies:

Brenda Cooper  
Jim Anderson  
Rita Marks

Craigellachie Village Council  
Rothes Council  
Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association

Cllr Paul introduced a new member to Speyside Area Forum, Jean Grimshaw who will represent Rothes Council in place of Jim Anderson.

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010

- Matters Arising: meeting with BEAR Scotland: it was noted that point 5 should read: Egress onto the A95 at the “Vets” premises and the Glenallachie distillery road
- Treasurers Report – should read Miss Mhairi McBain
- Minutes were approved by Bill Burgess and seconded by Jenny Herschell

### **3. Matters Arising**

**a. Meeting with BEAR Scotland:** Cllr Paul confirmed that she and Cllr Murdoch had met with BEAR and raised all issues with them. Moray Council have visited Ballindalloch filling station, action has been taken with regards to the Kinermony water issue, some pot holes have been filled in but the issue with the manhole on the A95 outside the Pantry in Aberlour is still outstanding. Cllr Murdoch will report the pot hole outside Craigellachie to Ralph Newlands (Bear) It was noted that lack of communication from BEAR appears to be an issue (Edinville didn't even receive an acknowledgement to their letter) – Cllrs Paul & Murdoch to contact Ralph Newlands.

**b. More Choices, More Chances:** Mr Tierney is grateful to the Forum for their offer of assistance and he will contact Sandy Henderson when more information is available.

**c. Developer Contributions:** Cllr Paul reminded Forum members that we had not compiled a list of possible projects etc that could benefit from developments in the Speyside area.

**d. Town Partnership/Street Markets:** Mrs Mhairi McIntosh to be invited to next Forum meeting. Issues to be raised with her include identification of sites to enable her to look into relevant planning permissions etc. Cllr Paul advised that Rothes were considering holding a Street Market to coincide with Autumn Whisky Festival.

### **4. Area Forum Handbook Presentation**

This was delivered by Linda Adam and copies handed to Forum members. The purpose of the handbook is to assist the Forum promote itself within Speyside; contents include details about Area Forums, Moray Community Planning Partnership, Community Planning structures and contacts together with a map of the area covered by Speyside Forum and a model constitution.

A discussion followed as to whether a list of members should be included in the Speyside handbook or whether it would be better to store this information separately on a central database. It was agreed that a list of member groups could be listed. Linda Adam recommended to the Forum that we consider updating our profile etc on the Your Moray website ([www.yourmoray.org.uk](http://www.yourmoray.org.uk)); she also advised that a Power point presentation was available and could be used by ourselves to further promote the Speyside Forum. Rhona Patterson is available to provide assistance to us if need be.

Forum members agreed to review the handbook in their own time and discuss its contents and how best to use it at the next meeting.

### **5. HMIe**

Stuart Maxwell explained that the purpose of the HMIe visit was to establish how active and influential communities are in Speyside. Examples of the Forum's involvement included lobbying against and subsequently achieving overturning Moray Council's proposals to close Speyside Swimming pool as well as Tomintoul library. Pressure from communities, including the Forum, had also resulted in the re-introduction of several rural bus services. Forum members agreed that we are a strong unit in our own right but that we also provide support to various individual community associations. It was acknowledged that the presence of Cllrs at our meetings benefited the Forum, particularly as Speyside is generally regarded as the "poor relations" compared to other areas within Moray.

It was also acknowledged that not all communities within Speyside are represented at the Forum. Work is on-going to encourage greater participation and assistance has been provided to these communities when they have approached us for support.

It was recognised that organisations who currently attend Forum meetings provide mutual support to their fellow community associations.

Hugh Fraser suggested that the Forum was perhaps too modest and that we should try and raise our profile e.g. by reporting in the press the outcome of our meetings.

## **6. Police Update**

Email and credit card scams continue to give cause for concern and PC Dammar advised that if the authenticity of the caller/request for information was in doubt then no personal details should be given. A scam box has recently been installed in Aberlour library.

PC Dammar also stated that lines of enquiry had been followed up following the recent vandalism in Aberlour. The Forum was reminded that Cllrs have regular meetings with the Police and the next one is scheduled for June 2011.

## **7. Update Community Groups**

a. Cabrach School – Will close 10<sup>th</sup> February and children transferred to Mortlach School after the mid-term break. Children will be entitled to school transport. The responsibility of the building will transfer to Moray Council Estates who will then establish if other Council departments and Community Planning Partners have any use of the building. During this intervening period the local community will not have access to it but it will give the Cabrach Community Association time to draw up a plan as to how they could best use the premises.

b. Roths School Project – progressing, likely completion date March.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Balance of account as at 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 - £3,878.00 Report to follow at next meeting. Forum members were reminded that Travel forms were available.

## **9. Community Issues**

a. Tomintoul snow clearing. Sandy Henderson advised that a farmer in Tomintoul had contacted him regarding the difficulties he was experiencing trying to feed his animals because Moray Council had not ploughed the roads following the latest snowfall. Hugh Fraser had, on behalf of Sandy Henderson, sent a letter to Bill Ross at Moray Council and the Forum was disappointed to note that a response had not yet been received. Rhona Patterson to chase this up.

Bill Burgess advised the Forum that he had been in Tomintoul the day after the snowfall and that the roads had been ploughed and salt deposits replenished.

b. Glenrinnes Refuse Collections: Derek Clark advised the Forum that one elderly member of the community was still encountering problems and that the issue had now been raised with Richard Lochhead who had forwarded a copy of his response to the Convener of Moray Council.

c. NHS Grampian meeting at Tomintoul: Meeting was well attended locally. The issue of "single manning" is a country-wide problem but assurances were given that in future "breaks" won't be taken locally.

## **10. Correspondence**

a. AVC Juniors: It was acknowledged that the press had covered their visit to the Scottish parliament.

b. CNP: A letter had been sent from the Forum to all Councillors expressing our concern at the replacement of Cllr Murdoch from the CNP Board and also the way in which the Policy & Resources Committee had handled her removal. Only 2 responses have been received (Cllrs Ross and Hamilton) and a response on behalf of all SNP Cllrs will follow shortly. The Forum was reminded that it was the Council who had set up the community planning process and the lack of responses was disappointing.

In particular the Forum noted that Cllr McIntyre had not acknowledged our letter and that Mr Keddie had replied on behalf of Cllr Wright. The Forum was unhappy with the inaccuracies contained within Mr Keddie's letter and the tone of his letter. The Forum agreed that we needed to respond to his letter (Andrea Fuller to draft) and point out to him that the Scottish Parliament did not terminate Cllr Murdoch's appointment and that it was not the remit of the Chief Executive to involve himself in matters of a political nature.

Cllr Murdoch thanked the Forum for their support.

## **11. Appointment of Secretary**

Forum members present expressed no interest in this position; Rhona Patterson to email local groups to see if anybody was willing to take on this role. It was agreed to discuss this at our next meeting including the amount of remuneration that could be made available.

## **12. AOB**

**a. Moray Way Association:** Cllr Murdoch advised that communities along the route were encouraged to apply for Walkers are Welcome status and that a Walking Festival is being planned. Dufftown have offered to provide assistance to any community who is interested; email Cllr Murdoch in the first instance and she will pass it onto the appropriate person.

**b. Moray Local Plan:** The Forum was encouraged to participate in this.

**c. Planning Application Approvals:** Concern was expressed that developments of 3 wind Turbines or less did not require committee approval. Fears were expressed that the cumulative effect is not being considered.

**d. Whisky Festival:** Hugh Fraser suggested individual communities give some thought to having a stall in the Square on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April in order to raise some funds for themselves. It has proved to be successful in the past. If anybody is interested, contact Hugh by the end of February.

**e. Handbook Launch:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 3 – 7 p.m. Aberlour Library. Handbook includes advice regarding marketing, fundraising, recruitment etc. If unable to attend, let Rhona Patterson know and she will reserve a copy for you.

**f. HMIe feedback presentation:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 10 a.m. Fleming Hall – all welcome to attend.

## **13. Date & Time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Edinville Hall on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m.