

Community Plan Action Group Meeting Notes and Update 20/09/2016

Date: Monday 5th September 2016, 7.30pm, Farr Community Hall

Attendees: Peter Christie, Paul Robinson, Bea Wallace, Scott MacDonald

1. Defibrillators

Awaiting confirmation of installation at Keppoch Inn. **UPDATE** As of 20th September this has now been confirmed. A second training session will also be taking place at Daviot Hall on **Monday 26th September at 19:30h**. A good turnout is hoped for, please spread the word.

2. Loch Ness Community Broadband

Further information from the last broadband working group meeting as follows:

Discussion of the project area and the postcode picture have taken place. Clarity on the postcodes has still not been received due to the Gainshare modelling still ongoing on for further small bits of funding which are coming in to the DSSB programme and therefore the picture continually shifting. The new figure for HIE is likely to be 87% of premises connected to fibre and the additional Gainshare work will continue later into 2017.

So, to get the data for Loch Ness and to enable the Working Group to consider their options, Nick Scroggie from DSSB and Felix Spittal of CBS looked at every postcode in the Loch Ness area and assessed it against built and planned build data to give a best approximation of whether it is white, grey or black. The results were mapped with early indications showing that there are around 750 premises in postcodes that are likely to be white and around 1250 in postcodes that are likely to be grey.

To tackle the grey postcodes as well as the white would require an Open Market Review. An OMR gathers data from broadband providers on what they are providing in an area and what their plans are for future broadband build. Given that there is an OMR later in the year (as part of the planning for the 100% 2021 target) it would mean waiting until the results of that are in - potentially 5-6 months. However, the advantage of the OMR is it will be down to premises level so the postcodes won't be an issue – it will show what each individual premises is receiving and will allow a community project to provide a service to those not served by DSSB.

The alternative is to just target the white postcodes. However, the problems with this approach are that the white postcodes are scattered across the area, which would affect the commercial viability (it is more difficult to design a network for a smaller number of premises scattered over a large area). It would also mean missing out many premises that could be included after an OMR.

A decision was made to await the OMR and include both grey and white postcodes in the project.

In other news and after a selection process carried out by the sub group it has been decided that the working group will be legally constituted as a Community Interest Company (CIC) made up of a maximum of 12 directors with anyone in the community who wishes to become a member able to apply.

A project officer is also to be hired to facilitate the setting up of the legal entity and support the ongoing project.

3. Winter Resilience

Since Sylvina's departure there has been no further development with this item. It remains on the agenda

4. Community Company/Trust

A meeting of the Community Council subgroup together with Rory Dutton took place on the 23rd of August with a follow up shortly afterwards. The decision was made to move forwards and seek assistance from DTAS to set up the community company. In parallel the community plan group was tasked with reviewing the community survey results and coming up with a shortlist of projects. Once the nuts and bolts of the trust are set up these items would form the initial basis for the community plan. After discussion the shortlist is:

Farr Community Hall

Strathnairn (Daviot) Community Hall

Daviot Playing fields

Farr Community cafe

Cycle/Foot paths (added after cc meeting on 19/09/2016)

Further information about any of the above feel free to contact Scott MacDonald at scott@strathnairncc.com