

Strathnairn Community Plan Group

Farr Hall, 4th April 2016, 7.30pm

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Scott MacDonald (SMac, Chair), Sylvina Tilbury (ST, Minutes), Peter Christie (PC), Paul Robinson (PR), Darren Read (DR), Sally Moore (SMo)

Apologies: Bea Wallace, Kirsty Adam, Bev Maclean, Ewen Hardie

2. Approval of minutes/matters arising

The minutes from 7th March 2016 were approved. SMac asked that in future the group agrees the minutes by email so they can be published before the following meeting.

SMac gave updates on two items that were not on the current agenda:

Farr Hall – SMac has had further email conversations with Doug Meiklejohn and has provided some clarification on some of the items on the wish list. It was agreed to take this item off the agenda for now as the ball is now in the Hall Committee's court and they are in communication with SCBF over their application for improvements.

DR noted that publication of the minutes had already proved useful as Maggie had been in touch with him regarding hall changing room bookings.

Newsletter – SMac reported that he had spoken to Caroline again as per his action point. After a brief discussion it was agreed that ideally the Community Council would take forward the issue of the editor's remuneration, as long as Caroline and the editorial committee are happy with that. SMO suggested that this should perhaps form part of a wider proposal for the development of the newsletter.

ACTION

PR will speak to Caroline and report back to SMac

3. Community Emergency Plan

ST reported that she had attended Care in Strathnairn's meeting on 22nd March and had a productive discussion with them. They are keen to be involved and to use the emergency plan as an opportunity to tighten up their procedures and improve the information they hold.

Three contacts were provisionally agreed for inclusion in the emergency plan: Christina Murray, Duncan Hendry and Kathy Collins. ST committed to contacting Highland Council's Corporate Address Gazetteer team for an extract from their database covering Strathnairn CC area. This data should include accurate geographic locations for all properties.

Care in Strathnairn will keep their own database/list of vulnerable residents and these two information sources can then be brought together as and when needed in an emergency situation. This avoids the potential data protection issues that could arise if a list of names and addresses were held by anyone other than Care in Strathnairn.

All agreed that we should try to move the plan forward as quickly as possible now. Pending some further information from Meallmore it was agreed that we are now close to the point of being able to meet with SSE.

ACTIONS

SMo to contact Meallmore Lodge again

ST to monitor progress with a view to arranging a meeting with SSE as soon as we are ready.

4. Winter resilience

ST noted that the discussion of the item on grit bins at the recent Community Council meeting suggested there was little appetite for pursuing this issue. However the group agreed that this really does fall within the CC's area of responsibility. PC and others also noted that there are much wider issues that should really be discussed in terms of winter maintenance. Some of this will probably be covered by the community emergency plan; others may need separate items in due course.

It was agreed that the subject of grit bins will be added to the next CC agenda by PC and members of the community will be invited to suggest possible sites. The CC can then discuss and agree a short list of sites and submit these to Highland Council for consideration.

ACTION

PC to ensure this item is included in the agenda for the next Community Council meeting (18th April).

5. Defibrillators

In KA's absence, SMac gave a brief update on this. SCBF has approved the funding application and would like to fund a total of four defibrillators including an additional unit at the eastern end of the strath. Further information will follow.

6. Community Development

SMac reported that the planned meeting took place between himself, Mike Fitzgerald and James Murray, and was productive. James Murray will report on this at the forthcoming Community Council meeting on 18th April.

7. Ward 13 broadband

SMac reported that the Community Broadband Scotland presentation to the Community Council had been well received. The next meeting of the steering group will be on 13th April at Highland Council HQ. Anyone is welcome to attend.

ACTION

SMac will circulate details of the next steering group meeting.

8. Mobile signal

DR reported that he had started to look into community Sure Signal facilities as promised at the last meeting, however since 2014 things seemed to have gone rather quiet on the subject. He explained that 4G will be rolled out to this area in due course and that we should probably wait and see if that solves some of the problems. Specifically regarding the hall, DR also noted that most modern smartphones now include the ability to make calls over WiFi and that this may be a partial solution.

We tested the hall broadband connection during the meeting and found it to be over 7 Mbps, which should be perfectly adequate for this purpose. However it may be necessary to improve the reach and strength of the WiFi signal (not tested) and an upgraded router may be an option here. ST noted that this could possibly be looked at in conjunction with the proposal for a “work from home” space.

ACTION

SMac will suggest a review of current internet access at the hall in the course of future discussions over hall improvements.

9. CPG web pages

DR promised to create the requested sub-page to hold minutes/agenda. He also noted that there was formerly an email address for the CPG and will check whether this is still active. There was some discussion over whether the CPG minutes should also be published in the community newsletter, but we eventually concluded that the existing information channels were sufficient (not wanting to overload the community newsletter with meeting minutes). ST noted that the CPG should ideally be providing a short report at the monthly CC meetings, and that this summary would then appear in the CC minutes.

ACTION

DR to create sub- page and check status of CPG email account

10. Community Survey

We discussed how the results of the community survey can be used as a starting point for the production of a community development/action plan. ST suggested that there are a number of obvious themes emerging from the survey which could be looked at in turn and used as the basis for agreeing key actions to include in a community plan. It was agreed that the production of the plan itself could be part of the role of a community development officer.

There was some disagreement over whether the results of the community survey had already been reported to the community, but it was eventually agreed that this should be done now in the context of a broader newsletter article about the current work of the CPG.

ACTION

ST to circulate a brief summary of the survey results as the basis for an article in the June newsletter

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.