

**Banff Development Partnership
Deveron Community & Sports centre, Banff
18/09/2018 at 1900 - 2100**

Attendees: Cllr Glen Reynolds – (Chair), Cllr John Cox, Christine Webster - Regeneration & Town Centres Manager, Morna Harper – Service Manager, Business & Community, David McCubbin – VisitAberdeenshire, Suzanne Rhind, Regeneration Executive, Des Cheyne, Eric Wells – Sustainable Development Officer, David Locke (Churches Together)

Note Taker: Linda Hendry Project Assistant

Item	Description
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>All were welcomed to the meeting, introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies: Dave Acton – Motive Offshore, Jan Emery - Project Officer, Cllr Michael Roy, Phil Hemsley</p>
2	<p><u>Note of previous meeting / Call to Action</u></p> <p>Note of meeting was agreed.</p> <p>Actions/Update from last meeting</p> <p>CW Day markers – The up take on the project as a whole nationally has been very slow. Company unable to provided suitable updates.</p> <p>NESFLAG – The application for funding for the harbour slipway extension and Boat hoist is currently with Marine Scotland. A decision is expected in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Cruise Tourism event – CW reported that this was fully subscribed with over 30 businesses attending. The key element was to get business to work together in tailoring packages that would be suitable to sell onto Cruise companies. Jan Emery has been following up with business but the response has been slow. DM advised that opportunities are always ongoing, so we haven't missed the boat and can still develop suitable products and packages. VisitAberdeenshire will be arranging further workshops. These workshops are open to all groups not solely business. If they have a product that would be of interest to visitors they are more than welcome to attend. JC felt that that too much emphasis was being placed on cruise and not enough on local marketing opportunities. In particular, there are limited opportunities for restaurant business as most cruise passengers pay for food on board.</p>

Des Cheyne said it is very difficult to promote Banff when there is no literature available to pass on to the bus tours that come to The Spotty Bag. With the harbour being at capacity there is very limited space for people to berth overnight.

ACTION - CAVA leaflets, walking leaflets and other local info to be gathered for Des for display. LH/NM to source.

ACTION – Briefing paper to be brought on harbour tourism for next meeting.

Call to action – Promote Banff – Circulate to all.

Scottish Government Capital Grant Fund – The Vinery project, which the partnership agreed at their last meeting to apply to the Scottish Government for capital grant for has been accepted to go through to Phase 2. Consultation with the community will take place over the next month prior to this submission.

Granny bakes – Conversations are ongoing with regards to a smaller unit.

There has been discussion with property and they have advised that a new lease has been signed for the small industrial units in Macduff for one year.

ACTION– Remain on Agenda

3

Financial Summary

Finance changes from last update

The Smiddy – Civic opening on Friday with a public opening on Saturday. 40k committed to operational phase.

Video project – This project is underway and filming is due to start next week with completion for the beginning of October. The aim of the project is to stimulate interest in living and investing in Banff and Macduff.

CW and SR working with RGU who have submitted a LEADER bid for a pilot project with Aberdeenshire Libraries. The project is to provide dedicated space within libraries to be used by business for free where they can come together to network and collaborate. This will be supported by mentorship and training etc. in part provided by RGU alumni. There will be no financial cost to Aberdeenshire Council. Once more details are made available we will share with the group. JC asked if there were any plans for the businesses once they've had the initial support. CW said this would be something that would be looked at as a part of the project. JC stated that there was a need for incubator space in the town and that there were a number of buildings that could be suitable.

ACTION – SR to liaise with RGU and invite to next meeting.

49 – 53 Bridge Street NESPT are in the process of submitting a LEADER application to match fund the legally committed regeneration funds.

	<p>There was a concern that the financial information circulated read like there would be an underspend of funds. It was confirmed that 52% of regeneration funds are legally committed from the overall budget and therefore will definitely be spent. The remainder has been allocated to projects in the action plan and we will continue to develop these over the next 3 years.</p> <p>ACTION - 6 monthly update will be circulated in due course and will be submitted to Area Committee on 6 November.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the remaining budget and projects to develop. There is an opportunity to focus on a theme and discuss the partnership priorities.</p> <p>ACTION – Look at focussing on a theme for the New Year meetings.</p>
4	<p><u>General Update / View on the sector Aberdeenshire</u></p> <p>EW Gave a presentation on Sustainable business and how to benefit. Climate change act 2009 this set 2 targets to reduce carbon emissions in Scotland with a 42% reduction by 2020. This was changed this year with revised targets set to 56% by 2020.</p> <p>There are many ways that business can reduce their carbon emissions. 94% of business to be supplied by lower forms of heat by 2032. Each Local authority has to come up with a plan. There are pilots currently ongoing with 12 local authorities. A Phase 2 pilot will look at SME sector across whole of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>Resource Efficient Scotland - provided advice, energy audits and loans.</p> <p>Circular North East – provided advice on reduce waste (food businesses), feasibility studies and grants.</p> <p>Electric Vehicles – Advice and grants</p> <p>Call to Action – Forward details of Resource Efficient Scotland, Circular North East and Electric Vehicles advice for forwarding to any interested party.</p> <p>4 vehicle charge points are currently getting installed in Macduff at the Platform.</p> <p>Call to Action - North East 250 Electric Vehicle Charge Point Project: Charge Point workshop to be held on 1 October at Woodhill House, Aberdeen.</p>
5	<p><u>Harbour Update</u></p> <p>SR circulated a prepared brief from the Harbours team.</p> <p>Structural issues have been uncovered with the North pier at Banff Harbour, specifically the section of the pier at the entrance to the harbour below the lighthouse.</p>

	<p>An inspection in May 2018 highlighted the loss of grout and possible movement in the area.</p> <p>With repairs scheduled to take place over the summer but prior to these repairs commencing the contractor noticed a number of cracks on the seabed at the base of the wall and voids over 1 meter deep. Due to the significant deterioration in the pier since May. The repairs have been postponed until a thorough assessment of the integrity of the structure is made.</p> <p>An additional inspection was carried out at the end of August by the contractors under the instruction of AECOM (consulting engineers appointed to assist in the Railway Jetty Repairs) and they have verified earlier concerns raised by the contractors. In their opinion the end section of the pier has failed and is in danger of collapse.</p> <p>The end section of the pier has been closed to the public due to health and safety concerns.</p> <p>AECOM, the consultant engineers are actively looking into possible repair strategies and we will be seeking advice from contractors to establish the feasibility of such repairs.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how these works would impact the harbour? They are likely to direct attention from projects in the business plan to emergency repairs.</p> <p>NESFLAG – The slip way compound extension is a key part of the longer term plan, however there is a lot more in the plan that could be taken forward.</p> <p>JC expressed concerns that the recommendation as agreed at the last meeting was that someone from harbours should have attended the meeting. He was also concerned that the next steps for the harbour should be reviewed in light of recent developments. Also that the economic issues were changing and this may necessitate a review of the programme. A theme by theme review was suggested to take place throughout the meetings in 2019.</p>
6	<p><u>Invites to next meeting</u></p> <p>RGU libraries pilot project presentation.</p> <p>GR asked Des Cheyne what he felt can be done to energise the private sector? Des felt that there was a lot of apathy and a lack of confidence in the business community. This had led to the private sector not wanting to work together.</p> <p>DL suggested that we need to re-envisage what the future might be. For example, could we remove business rates and instead provide subsidies to attract businesses to come into towns and that this could be discussed at a future meeting.</p>

	DC - disappointed in the lack of progress from Aberdeenshire Council on the Regeneration Plan.
7	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Tuesday 8 January 2019 @ 1800 Deveron Community and Sports Centre

AGREED