

Fraserburgh Regeneration Development Partnership
Note of meeting held on 29 October, 6pm
At Fraserburgh Community & Sports Centre

Attendees:

Cllr Topping (Chair), Cllr Mair, Cllr Kille, Cllr Buchan
Angela Keith, Interim Area Manager - Banff and Buchan
Linda Hendry, Project Assistant – Note taker
Alastair Rhind, Strategic Regeneration Executive
Jan Emery, Banff and Buchan Area Project Officer
Pamela Neri, Enterprise Manager, Fraserburgh Enterprise Hub
Jill Smith, Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners
James Adams, Fraserburgh Community Council
Irene Sharp, Rector Fraserburgh Academy
Christine Webster, Regeneration and Town Centre Manager

Apologies:

Duncan Abernethy, NESCOL
Karen Paterson, Brown & McRae
Lynda McGuigan, Discover Fraserburgh
Matt Lockley, Service Manager – Economic Development

Agenda Item	Description
1	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed all and in particular JA and IS. Roundtable of introductions. JA and IS were both invited to become full Partnership members should they wish.
2	Note of previous meeting The note from the last meeting 27 th August was agreed. All other actions had been actioned or were in progress.
3	Principle Item: Mid-term Review of the Regeneration Action Plan Key business for the meeting was to undertake the mid-term review of the Action Plan. Various papers had been circulated well in advance to help partners to prepare for the session. AR presented the rationale for the review and key information on the current status of the delivery of the Plan. The presentation can be made available for those wishing it. AR gave an overview of more recent socio-economic indicators to help frame the discussion. This data gives a mixed picture of how the town is performing. In summary:

- Average household income in 2018 was £23,758. This is 2% lower than 2014. The average in Aberdeenshire is £36,220 (+10%) and Scotland £28,186 (+6%).
- Town centre vacancy rates October 2019 reflects with the Scottish and UK rate 11.6% which is down from 14.7% in 2017. Retail units have decreased during this period (13 less) with services increased (16 more) - Vacancy Rate reduction over last 2 years is pleasing, but many of the current vacancies are not habitable units – if they were usable, feeling that they would be taken;
- Fraserburgh is made up of mixed rankings in terms of Scottish Indicators of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Recent Brexit Vulnerability Indicators (BVI) also show a mixed degree of vulnerability to the possible impacts of Brexit;
- Unemployment rate August 2019 c. 2.9%, up from 1.4% August 2018. Still a reliance on manufacturing employment (26%);
- Population in 2016 = 13,180 – virtually unchanged from 2011 (13,100) – Static population is based on old information and with new housing developments, likely to not reflect the current position.
- Recorded crimes per 10,000 people – Fraserburgh 445, Aberdeenshire 169

The Partnership felt that the 2016 SIMD and some of the more recent 'evidence review' did not reflect how the town feels on the ground, disappointing as some of the indices appear. Fraserburgh has moved on positively in the last few years – some - not all - down to the focus on regeneration activities in the town.

Theme 1 The Economy – notional (original) allocation £433,000, five projects supported. Paper at Area Committee next week to support an extension on the Enterprise Hub. Balance £252,870 or £93,097 if the Enterprise Hub extension is agreed.

Theme 2 The Environment - £305,000, 7 projects support Balance of £133,000.

Theme 3 People & Communities, Health and Wellbeing - £399,000, 7 projects supported, however it was noted that the Fraserburgh Fitness Centre project was unable to proceed due to being unable to secure a funding package. With some disappointment, the Partnership ratified the Council's decision to de-commit funding of £150,000 from Fraserburgh Fitness Centre project. The Partnership wanted to acknowledge all of their efforts and appreciation of what they bring to the town. Balance £157,416 this includes the de-committed amount.

Outputs and outcomes we are over target already at mid-way point in the plan. The Partners are pleased with progress on delivering the Outputs in the Action Plan. We should always seek to push ourselves to do more. A more detailed breakdown on the outcomes would be beneficial. Each project completes an evaluation and we can seek to get more valuable feedback this way.

A general discussion around opportunities to engage the likes of the business association appreciating that it is still in the early days and do not currently have regular meetings. It was also noted that the Community Council is also moving forward.

Review Focus & Priorities

Everyone participated in the 'voting exercise' and were given ten dots and one star to place on the action plan according to what they feel is their priority.

Discussions on key issues and factors

- By carrying out this exercise it gave us a real sense of the need to **focus on a small number of impactful projects** and do them well. “Don’t be afraid to put all of our eggs in a small number of baskets”
- In being more focused, and subject to more testing and exploration, suggested that the priorities could be around a) The Beach area, b) Seafood Centre of Excellence and c) The Enterprise Hub and complementary business / skills support actions. PN noted that there seemed to be lots of opportunities for people to start their own business, confidence in the ability to do so is key.
- Though recognise that all aspects are important, and many are inter-linked and cannot be viewed in isolation.
- Community engagement with young people is key at this stage in the plan and getting their feedback on what they feel is important. **ACTION** – AR and IS to arrange further engagement with the Academy.
- Still a feeling that there is not very much ‘physical change’ to point to in return for our investment and efforts. Lots of good things happening and been and gone, but to what extent do some of the ‘softer’ activities really have an impact and leave a legacy?
- Slow pace in terms of physical change in town centre e.g. F2021. Reasons understood but need to quicken speed where we can.
- The Action Plan is not ‘pure regeneration’ and it was recognised that community and locality planning functions can also complement or contribute to regeneration outcomes. Important to remember that this function also holds a budget provision. There is a need to focus on structural change through regeneration and support other service areas with driving the ‘softer’ community development ambitions. Important not to duplicate (or contradict) efforts. Accept that we ‘defined’ regeneration in 2016 by the breadth and scope of the Action Plan.
- Understanding that we need to be realistic with the budget available. Never going to deliver massive and widespread transformation with £1.137m.
- Legacy can be measured by both ‘see and touch’ projects but also by supporting the longer-term development of a strong, resilient, sustainable, creative and empowered community who take responsibility and a leadership role in delivering lasting change, with support from the Council and other agencies.
- Capacity building is key and this needs to be reinforced all the time – the Council cannot do it all and there is a collective responsibility. No magic solution to this – takes time and consistency of message.
- Engaging in the community and building confidence on how to promote the good things. Feeling that most people on the streets would not be aware of the Regeneration Plan or what has been achieved. Communicating to a wider audience to show where Regeneration money has been spent and the improvements that have come with this.
- There is still a lot of negativity in the town, though in some respects this is slowly beginning to improve. Important to engage the future generations – i.e. through links with the Academy (pride of place is key agenda currently) / College etc. Perceptions of the young people are shaped by the older generations and become embedded. Time to look at wider Partnership and involving youths.
- “Fraserburgh is swimming with opportunity”.
- The Area Manager is keen that the Faithlie Centre is recognised positively as a community building and not solely a Council building. There is a genuine ambition that the building is seen as a community resource and something that local residents

	<p>can be proud of. The Enterprise function will have a real position impact on this and it will be important that the opening event includes the community and businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are a big part of the overall plan; they give time and money to make improvements where other avenues fail. Without them many of the activities would not happen. Partners around the table are champions and ambassadors for the regeneration activity (in the ToR for the group) and can do more to shout about it in positive discussions with their stakeholders. Partners were asked to widen the debate outside of the Partnership and feedback to Officers.
4	<p>Time Permitting Regeneration of the Beach Area</p> <p>No time for this Item. Paper to be issued in its place.</p>
5	<p>Proposed dates of 2020 meeting(s) were agreed:</p> <p>Tuesday 28 January 2020 Tuesday 28 April 2020 Tuesday 30 June 2020 Tuesday 27 October 2020</p> <p>All from 18.00-20.00 at Fraserburgh Community and Sports Centre</p>