NOTE OF PETERHEAD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, 16th April 2019

Chamber, Buchan House, Peterhead


Christine Webster (via skype).

Apologies: Craig Finnie and Clair Harwood.

Welcome and apologies

Councillor N Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Eleanor Morris was welcomed to the Team as the new Buchan Area Project Officer and John Pascoe attended the meeting on behalf of Clair Harwood from Rediscover Peterhead.

Apologies were received from Craig Finnie and Clair Harwood.

Note of Last Meeting held on 22nd January 2019

The Note of the meeting held on 22nd January 2019 was accurate.

Peterhead Campus – a large scale consultation was recently carried out. Lots of questions were raised, including what will happen with the current site. There is still a way to go before the site for the Peterhead Campus is agreed.

Martin raised concerns regarding moving the Campus out of the town centre. There are already issues with pupils from the town centre attending school, this could possibly worsen if the Campus is moved.

Councillor Calder asked for a full Impact Assessment on the town centre to be completed.

6-Monthly Action Plan Update

A copy of the 6-Monthly Action Plan Update was circulated prior to the meeting. Nick confirmed that we are halfway through the 4-year Plan and to date £850,000 has been committed. There are several completed projects (highlighted green) and none of the projects in the Plan have not been started yet. Most of the projects are in the development phase (highlighted yellow). Within the Plan there are approximately 25 lead Officers and a concerted effort from both Council Officers and Partners has been put into the Plan.
Action Theme 1 – Peterhead Economy - Open To The World : considerable action has taken place within Theme 1 with little financial effort, therefore there is currently an underspend at the moment.

Action Theme 2 – Integrating Communities – Celebrating Peterhead’s Differences : this part of the Plan is generally on target. The recent Poverty Summit was an example of good value for little money.

Action Theme 3 – Connecting, Reinforcing and Rediscovering Peterhead’s Town Centre : we are currently just over 50% spend. Cycling initiatives, Drummers Corner, Property Investment Fund (PIF) enquiries, Invest in Peterhead and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS).

Peterhead Poverty Summit Report

The Peterhead Poverty Summit Summary Report was circulated prior to the meeting. The interactive session was aimed at operational staff and tried to find some solutions and priorities. General conclusions were there are a lot of people trying to address the same issues, but they are poorly co-ordinated. This event is likely to be repeated in the future.

It was agreed we all need to be proactive and reactive, and early intervention/education are all very important. The one-stop-shop concept was mentioned a lot throughout the event.

There is currently a review of the Compass Point, Here for You Centre and The Hot Spot. The report findings will be shared once concluded.

Drummers Corner Update

The Drummers Corner works went out for tender in February, with a deadline of last week, via the Public Contract Scotland (PCS) system. Unfortunately, no companies bid for contract, which is very disappointing, but not unusual. Contractors will now be re-approached, and this will hopefully have some success.

A meeting was held to look at the detail of the works following the last Development Partnership meeting. Nick was pleased to report that the good idea from Craig to have slots in the seats to allow them to be moved has been incorporated into the designs.

Work on planning events will be looked at, however, there may be issues with licences. Buskers, however, do not require a licence.

The Buchan Area Manager’s Team have agreed to co-ordinate the use of the electricity, with Economic Development continuing to be responsible for repairs and maintenance.

The artwork for the back of the drum and the seats highlights “always looking outwards towards”. The images on the drum will work from left to right through time. The seats will be individual images and will not be in any particular order.
Councillor Beagrie congratulated the Team on the artwork designs, which was agreed by everyone at the meeting.

John Pascoe raised concerns regarding the procurement elements of the work. There is no guarantee that PCS will get any tenders returned and the programme of works will be slipping.

No works will be carried out in Drummers Corner until after Scottish Week, and it may be that a phased approach will need to be developed to fit around the planned events during the rest of the year.

Loose cobbles between Drummers Corner and the shopping precinct beside Argos were highlighted. Chris and Nick will discuss further and pass the information to the Road Service.

Robert Emslie queried whether the cables for town centre wifi could be installed while the works are being carried out. It was agreed to pass the specifics to Peter Fraser to enquire whether this can be achieved.

**Clerkhill Shops Update**

An application for external funding from Sustrans has been submitted, with the assistance from Chris Menzies, Strategy Team Leader. It is hoped to hear back soon if the application has been successful or not.

The contractor has been appointed and ready to start the works once they get the go ahead. Christine will ask James Black, Principal Roads Engineer, for an updated timetable for the works. Once the timetable has been received a copy will be circulated to the Development Partnership.

**Peterhead Area Community Trust (PACT) Update**

The number of Trustees has increased at PACT. The contractor for the works at Barclay Park have been appointed, unfortunately no local companies bid for the work.

Phase 2 will include the Victoria Park, which will be affected by the Peterhead Campus decision.

PACT were commended for their hard work to date.

**Invest in Peterhead**

Invest in Peterhead is a proactive group with representatives from Aberdeenshire Council, Rediscover Peterhead, Landlords and Key Agents within the town. A commissioning team have been appointed, Alan Jones Associates. Key buildings are currently being looked at which have failed to shift in the past. The group are hoping to reposition Peterhead in terms of marketing.
Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) / National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

The town centre regeneration is a priority. Debbie Burroughs, Shaun Norman and Nick have been looking at the CARS for Peterhead. The Scheme was last formally looked at back in 2005, however, is still robust. Councillor Calder has identified a few additional buildings, which Shaun is currently looking at.

CARS are not taking any formal schemes at the moment, and this is likely to be the case until April 2020. NLHF have recently rebranded and a new scheme has been unveiled which Debbie is currently investigating. A seminar will be held in Inverness shortly and an informal approach will be made to them to get their views.

Match funding would need to be found, landfill tax could be a possibility.

Community engagement, education and training would need to be carried out along the journey of the project. Public expectations will need to be carefully managed as the funding may not be successful.

It was agreed this was a great step forward for iconic buildings through the spine of Peterhead town centre.

Updates will be provided on a regular basis to ensure everyone is aware of the latest progress.

Town Centre Fund

The Scottish Executive awarded £50 million across Scotland for town centre projects. Aberdeenshire Council were allocated £3.2 million. There are several conditions attached to how the funding can be spent. The Scottish Government are looking for transformational projects which will need to be well advanced to fit within the tight timescales.

Accessibility to the Arbuthnot Museum was suggested as a possible project.

A.O.C.B.

Robert Emslie reminded everyone of the economic need to be supporting the regeneration of the town centre.

Councillor Norman Smith thanked everyone for their hard work on the Peterhead Development Partnership over the past year which he has Chaired the group. Councillor Stephen Smith will be taking over the role of Chair from the next meeting for the next year. Councillor Anne Allan will also be returning to the Development Partnership, replacing Councillor Stephen Calder for the next year.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Peterhead Development Partnership will be held on Tuesday, 2nd July at 12noon in the Chamber, Buchan House, Peterhead.