

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Banchory & District Initiative held at Cruachan, Ramsay Road, Banchory on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

**Attendance:** Sue Edwards, Tony Brown, Margaret Paterson, Jean Henretty

**Apologies:** Henry Allen, George Mennie, Anne Lamb, Matt Merchant

**In Attendance:** Eveline Crossan

**Absent:** John Petts

**1. The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, were ACCEPTED**

**2. Matters Arising**

**a) Meeting with Councillors** - SE reported that she had met with the three councillors for the ward. As a result, a meeting has been called for 14<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the town's facilities with NBC, Aberdeenshire Council, KGV, Squash Club, Bands swim etc. SE, TB and EC would attend on behalf of BDI. The key projects from BDI's perspective were to be discussed and how BDI's objectives could be met. These should be projects achievable in the next 2 – 3 years, and then others planned for up to 10 years. It was noted that the Marr Area Plan already contained KGV, Town Enhancements and the Town Hall.

SE had given all three councillors a pack outlining BDI's work. The Councillors had indicated that they had concerns about fragmentation of effort in the town.

The Facilities meeting was to include Banchory Community Council. It was hoped that it would become a regular meeting, approximately three times per year.

**b) Continental Market** - no feedback had been received from Banchory Business Association.

**c) Feedback form** – JH confirmed that it had not been issued.

**d) Town Hall Screening Study** – TB reported that he had received few responses, notably BCC and Jazzercise out of 40 issued. A request had been made to the BCC for TB and SE to present the study to the BCC on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**e) Planning for Real** – SE, JH and EC had had a meeting with Keith White of BCC and Judy Aylett of the Marr Area Partnership to take forward Planning for Real. KW would inform the Community Council of its potential role. EC and TB from BDI and John Greene and Wendy Sadler of BCC would take part in PfR training, dates to be confirmed. It

was expected that following the training, themes would have been identified, a wide variety of organisations could be targeted for their views and sources of funding to carry out the study were to be followed through. TB would investigate funding with Jill Sowden and Judy Aylett for a February/March 2008 consultation. **Action TB**  
SE would arrange a meeting with Keith White of the BCC following the September training. **Action SE**  
EC would send the Making it Real document to TB **Action EC**

- f) **Car Boot Sale** – EC reported that the Lions had decided to do their own Car Boot Sale at Hill of Banchory. Following discussion, it was agreed that we should continue with the idea of a Community event and pilot it over a few months to gauge interest. An article would be written for the Newsletter. **Actions EC**  
MP suggested that Friends of Home-Start Deeside could offer refreshments on the morning of the Sale. Her offer was gratefully accepted. **Action MP**
- g) **Affiliate Marketing** – SE reported that it was progressing, together with an online credit and shop facility.
- h) **Weekday events for older people** – JH reported that there would be a pilot on the first Friday of each month of October, November and December in the Town Hall, to link with the bus timetable. **Action JH**  
MP suggested that JH contact Andy Bruce at Banchory Academy. TB and JH would also investigate showing films in the Town Hall.
- i) **Mid-Year Review** – SE said that no response had been received, which had been taken as approval.
- j) **Accounts** – TB reported that the accounts had been forwarded to the accountant for preparation.
- k) **Community Forum** – It was noted that the next one was due in September at Crathes Hall.

### 3. Administration/Organisation/Finance

TB spoke to his previously circulated reports, attached to the main copy of this Minute. He noted that the donation from PGL had been received and would maintain the Development Officer until December.

He asked about the criteria for becoming part of the Towns Partnership. This support was missing from Banchory, Turriff, Portlethen and Westhill, to name only a few. Concern was expressed that Banchory was becoming disadvantaged.

TB's paper on Community Planning in Banchory was briefly discussed. There was lack of funding and disparate groups which highlighted the fragmentation of planning for the community locally. He would forward it to Les Allan, Marr Area Manager, for his information.

He had circulated documents with revised wording for Charitable Status, but had had only two responses, which were both positive. After brief discussion,

approval was given for going ahead with the change in Status. However, TB wanted each Director to forward their approval in writing as several were unable to attend the meeting.

**Action ALL**

He would then liaise with Andrea Hauxwell of VOICE to clarify the process and follow through with Companies House.

**Action TB**

There were no outstanding invoices, but several awaiting payment, amounting to about £1000. TB & EC would pursue these.

**Action TB & EC**

**Office** – EC reported that Banchory Community Council had made an approach about using the office. The WRVS had experienced difficulties in marketing their open session, but EC had advised several ways of making their presence known.

It was noted that Aberdeenshire Council had circulated information about a fund dedicated for the purpose of rural partnerships seed funding projects which would generate income.

#### **4. Project Register**

- a) Bandswim – TB estimated that the capital costs would be £4-5M, not £2M as presently thought. It was noted that a planning application for Auchattie included a public pool. The application had been refused, but would now go to appeal. The outcome was awaited, and if there would be any impact on ongoing local initiatives.
- b) KGV – MM, JH & EC had met with Scolty Centre, Squash Club, Banchory Amateur FC, Boy's FC, Brazilian Football and a local Nursery to update and inform them of developments. MM & JH were now looking at the development of revenue streams and a project paper incorporating the development timeline. JH indicated that money was needed to develop the business plan.

#### **5. Priority Projects**

After discussion, it was agreed that each project had to be described in terms that were comparable: project description, content, timeline and cost. SE would put together a project template.

**Action SE**

The priority projects were agreed as follows:

KGV

Town Hall Development

Composting

Bellfield Park

Swimming Pool

TB suggested that the Scolty Hill Paths should be on the Community list. The evidence was that upwards of 120,000 visitors per annum were using the existing paths, creating erosion and damage. Many routes were in need of replacement and repair. This was a major area for recreation and a focus for visitors to the Town. Its inclusion on the list was agreed.

For the meeting, the division of priority projects briefs was as follows SE – template; JH & MM – KGV; TB - Town Hall & Scolty; Composting – EC; TB - Pool and other sports facilities. Each brief would answer what is it, who supports it, who will it benefit.

Approval of the Sports Complex on the Hill of Banchory was expected in early September. TB noted that it could not and would not solve all of Banchory's problems.

## 6. Community Planning for Banchory

TB spoke to his paper, which had been previously circulated for comment. In response to feedback, he would refine the paper to leave structure and function of each element. The paper would be sent to Councillors, Community Councillors, Aberdeenshire Council officers, Banchory Business Association and other interested organisations and individuals.

The way was open to develop a Town Forum with BCC as the lead. Discussion followed on the role and function of the Community Development Group (CDG). TB noted that it had been difficult to obtain comprehensive and understandable information about its plans.

## 7. Applications for Membership

Ian Stewart, Richard Simcox, Robert Sadler, Wendy Sadler, Andrew Marshall, Steve Fulford, Jack Simpson, Richard Taylor, KT Black, John Meaden, Robert Pollard, Ian McRae and Gary Grant were all accepted for membership of BDI.

## 8. AOB

- a) **Continental Market - EC** reported that we had been given a date in November. She would try to get a date in October.
- b) **Resignation of George Mennie** – SE reported that she had received the resignation of George Mennie. He had been unable to give BDI the attention he felt it needed and deserved, so would leave a space on the Board for someone who could give it the commitment required. She expressed regret at his resignation, reiterated by the rest of the Board. Discussion followed on the need for further directors.

## 9. Confidential Items

There being none, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm. SE would contact the Board when a booking was confirmed for the Town Hall for the AGM, and to arrange an interim Board meeting prior to the AGM.

*See  
October 2007*

## Banchory & District Initiative Ltd

### Development Officer's Report to Board Meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Since the last Board meeting in June, I have been working on funding applications and research, networking, economic development, developing town enhancement, Banchory Calendar, Autumn newsletter and administration. There are emerging community projects for older people both locally in Banchory and in Marr.

#### **BBA**

- Website development has been progressed to merging with BDI's Site
- Content of BBA meetings has been remitted to members
- The Town Enhancement group will meet in September, having gained support from BBA, BDI, BCC and the Horticultural Society
- Banchory Calendar in final stages of print readiness
- Article for Community Newsletter re BBA & Calendar

#### **BDI**

- Exit administration for St T 2007; early research for St T 2008
- Newsletter advertising
- Support to new volunteer Wendy Sadler to set up newsletter
- All office volunteers now have dedicated projects - updating Banchory Directory, newsletter, inventory of information for Community Information Point
- Ready to instal SlapMap
- Continue to develop policies/administration
- Early work on two emerging projects for older people; locally a befriending/support project with VOICE and Rotary, and linking with a food access funding application for older people throughout Marr. This is a three year project under which Banchory would link in year 2. The project will address the difficulties and inequalities of access to food and choice of foods in the area. It will focus on Huntly, Strathdon and Braemar/Crathie initially, drawing the problems older people are facing in the remainder of the Marr Area. I see the local project dovetailing with the second as it develops.
- Car Boot Sale developing; planning on inaugural event in September
- Continental Market being planned; difficulties in bringing a suitable date and venue together

#### **KGV 2000**

- Next meeting planned for September; intention to invite Andrew Brauer of Lottery for advice and guidance
- Raised idea of benefits of legal structure
- MM & JH – joined them on several evening meetings with potential partners; excellent response

### **Office**

- BCC have investigated the possibility of using the office for local surgeries to increase the accessibility of the BCC and to encourage local people to air their views
- One volunteer recruited for Car Boot Sale, possibly one other
- Two computers donated by Total E&P through Scottish Business in the Community; Federation of Small Businesses may be able to donate software

### **Other meetings**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> June – WRVS Midj Falconer
- 25<sup>th</sup> June – Finance Sub-Committee BDI
- 26<sup>th</sup> June – KGV Squash Club
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – Slap Map
- 6<sup>th</sup> July – Karen Thomas, Senior, CLLD
- 9<sup>th</sup> July – Horticultural Socy, Town Enhancement
- 7<sup>th</sup> August – Big Lottery Primetime Application meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> August – visited Masonic Lodge
- 21<sup>st</sup> August – Slap Map
- 28<sup>th</sup> August – Referee for Scolly Job Action application
- 29<sup>th</sup> August - TTF