

## Transition Black Isle Meeting - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Date: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at Glachbeg Croft.

Present: Bob Bull, Helen Bull, Hugh Collins, Maggie Dove, Penny Edwards, Wendy Price, Anne Thomas, Daniel Thomas, Sue Varley, John Wood - facilitator.

- 1) Apologies for absence were received from Martin Sherring, Anita Murray, Vanessa Halhead, Catriona Ross, Chris Scatchard.
- 2) The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted – prop. John, sec. Wendy.
- 3) Constitution. Changes agreed at last meeting were incorporated, CVS suggested a few minor amendments, these will be incorporated and a further draft posted to the forum. Any comments from the membership should be made before the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July when it is hoped to adopt the constitution. There will be no membership fee but members are encouraged to make donations, either one off, or a small monthly donation. Bank account details are available from Penny for anyone wanting to do this.
- 4) Sub-groups
  1. Food. There has been no report and no further meeting of the food subgroup. Bob is to reconvene the group during July.

The Cromarty allotments group has been constituted and has several members but so far no land for allotments. Shared gardening is being encouraged.

Maggie is very interested in pursuing growing fruit and nut trees. This may be possible on a council estate in Cromarty, and particularly getting the households on the estate to take an interest in the trees
  2. Raising Awareness. Good locations for films are Cromarty, Fortrose, Culbokie, Glachbeg, and North Kessock. A film with a “negative” message (eg. Age of Stupid, End of the Line) can be turned into a positive event by discussion afterwards. A positive film (eg. Power of Community) should be shown soon after a negative film. Vanessa Halhead is willing to run workshops to tie in with films. A range of titles are available from various sources, and partners eg. the Greenhouse can be found to share the cost of buying a licence. There seem to be two versions of Power of Community, Anne is to look into this.
  3. Energy. Changeworks are happy to work with TBI on the 5<sup>th</sup> September open day. Daniel is working on a website which will accept meter readings and for monitoring energy use - [www.readyourmeter.org](http://www.readyourmeter.org)

John has discussed community wind farms with Fraser MacKenzie, getting a project funded needs a plan and a landowner. Penny suggested the Forestry Commission, they are willing to clear trees in forested areas to allow turbines to be installed. Much suitable land in the Black Isle is listed by Highland Council as “Presume against” (no reasons given) which means identifying the land may be the biggest problem. 4 or 5 big turbines could power the whole of the Black Isle.

Supply is a problem with chip fat – Anne is trying schools. Rape seed oil is also a potential source of road fuel, already used by one Inverness farmer.
  4. Others. We need ideas for other groups, and people to work in the groups. We should start a list of projects we would like to undertake, with an open invitation either to suggest new projects or to join/start any other projects. This needs to be on the website. Daniel and Hugh are to discuss further development of the website. Transport is a high priority for new projects. It would be helpful to have a person or small group of people

acting as liaison with the council. Administrative support could well be needed for several of the groups, and may be best provided by an admin. group. A separate group for fund raising might be helpful as we take on more projects.

#### 5) Activities and Events

1. The display panels have been very well received, TBI thanks the sponsors – HAEL, and Glachbeg for the loan of the boards. TBI also thanks Bob and Helen for the continued use of the facilities at Glachbeg.

There has been good feedback from the various events attended, particularly the ward forum which signalled to the council that TBI is well organised and taking a strong interest in climate change.

2. Social event will be at Glachbeg on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August
3. The open day is to be called “Greening Homes and Gardens” and will be from 10.00 till 4.00 on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The TBI logo will feature on any publicity items, so the words Black Isle need not be in the title, also at least one of the sites is not on the Black Isle. RoWAN are to advertise the event. The “Doors Open” day later in September will have some attractions featuring sustainable energy, Bob suggested that these be advertised at our event, John is to liaise with Doors Open to promote joint advertising and to get a “sustainable energy” symbol added where appropriate to the attractions at Doors Open. The sign-up form is available and around 10 people have committed to the day.
4. Door to door energy surveys. Joint action with Changeworks, and will be done in last two weeks of August. Changeworks are finalising the survey to use and areas to be surveyed. The Open Day can be promoted as a chance to see the technology operating.
5. REAP workshop. REAP-petite is a software tool which can be used to help communities calculate their carbon footprint and could be a valuable tool in surveying a baseline energy use for the Black Isle. Sue is to attend the workshop in Stirling on 29<sup>th</sup> July.
6. Future events.  
TBI will not take a stall at the Black Isle show but Changeworks will be there. Wendy is to ask if they will display our panels and/or carry our leaflets.  
St Boniface fair, Fortrose is usually Thursday in late July. Maggie will inquire about a stall here.  
Cromarty Regatta is 25<sup>th</sup> July, John will find out whether there will be stalls available.  
The Black Isle Gathering is in October in Fortrose. Sue will find out who organises this.
7. Film showings – covered in 4.2 above.

#### 6) Finances – Penny Edwards

1. Climate Challenge Fund application. Penny has done a lot of good work on putting together documents as the basis for an approach to CCF. John suggested asking for more information on what their rules are, what they are particularly keen to fund, would they consider providing funding for an employee, and listing initiatives we would like to pursue rather than attempting to cost these before going ahead with the application. Transport should be included as an initiative, one idea was to consider putting cycle racks at all/some bus stops, and a car park at Tore.
2. The bank account is now open and has a small balance. Any spend must now be accompanied by paperwork if reimbursement is required. Any expense members do not wish to claim back should be notified to Penny as this is effectively a donation to the group.
3. Plan and budget covered in 6.1 above. Members are encouraged to offer more feedback.
4. CCF covered in 6.1 above. Highland Council have been approached and have asked for

the bank account details which Penny has sent on. HAEL are sponsoring the display panels. Hugh will approach Scotnet to see if they are willing to be our IT sponsor.

5. Insurance and SCVO. We can become members of SCVO free of charge and the meeting agreed this should be done. Public Liability insurance is needed, through SCVO this would be £250, Penny is to seek quotes from other organisations including Co-op, National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (used by Forres) and brokers. BTCV have not yet responded to an enquiry from Wendy.

- 7) Date, place and facilitator for next meeting.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm Glachbeg, Maggie to facilitate.

Other meetings set today are as follows:

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30pm Glachbeg with Changeworks to start the energy surveys.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August is a dry run for the “Greening” open day, to be followed by a social event at Glachbeg, this will close the energy surveys fortnight. Bring food to share.

Open day is 5<sup>th</sup> September.

TBI members are reminded that Agric can use any volunteers for the community garden at Netherton, on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Wendy is to ask Agric for more information on what tasks are being carried out on a monthly basis.

- 8) Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.20pm.