

TRANSITION BLACK ISLE MARCH 18

Present:

Wendy Price; Vanessa Halhead; Maggie Dove; John Wood; Christine; Agric; Kathryn Logan; Tommy; Teen; Anne (+son); Grant Low; Sue Low, Frank Kramer,

Apologies:

Sue
Hugh
Penny Edwards
Martin Sherring
Bob Bull
Mary Bowers
Ken Naismith
Karen Kramer

Minutes of last meeting

Approved by Agric
Seconded by Maggie Dove

Past events

Avoch film

Good film but only 10 non-TBI people attended. Good discussion

HEN conference

Maggie attended, and reported back.
Suggestion of TBI and Eco-schools working together

Black Isle Ward Forum

TBI presence (who?).
Useful topic but limited outputs.
JW reported on problem of finding land for allotments – THC not prepared to compulsory purchase land.

TBI Ceilidh

This was a very successful event. 40-50 people came. There was good music (Wall to Wall), food and dancing. It was recommended that this should be repeated at least once a year, possibly with a summer event also.

Group reports

Food Group

Grow North Project

Put out to tender for development and delivery. 3 bids were received to be scored. Will reply next Tuesday. Then have to involve TBI centrally to discuss a contract with the successful tender. Need to develop a contracting mechanism, including formal contract document, insurance liability and cover. Agreed that the food group should develop the draft contract. Take advice from SCVO / CVS on main elements to be covered.
Contract management: Responsibility lies with the group, but there will need to be one person as the main contact for the contractor. This should normally be the convener of the group. Future role of the projects manager will be focussed on the administrative aspects rather than the content.

Highland Food Challenge

5 people have done the survey to date. Members encouraged to do the survey. More likely to get a larger number of people doing different aspects, rather than all. The new website will be important to success. The Google Group is not really working for this purpose.

Community gardens

Agric to contact the people who volunteered last year:

- Netherton
- Loch na Mhoid Muir of Ord

Anne reported that a crofter near to N. Kessock is interested in a future community garden.

Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Society

Cromarty still finding problems in availability of land – several options being pursued:

Sandilands – Albyn Housing – looking at a short term lease pending housing being developed

Some allotments will be available from Balmungie farm on a commercial basis, but at a high rental.

Cromarty Primary School – have some land and are looking for assistance in helping the children.

Cromarty Produce Fair on April 11 – Sunday after Easter.

North Kessock Market

Happy with the success so far.

Scottish Farmers Markets – want to get existing markets signed up to the County Markets scheme. Charge 2.5% of turnover for this, which covers insurance etc. It was felt that this was not necessarily an appropriate arrangement, and that we should consider our own solution.

£500 approved by THC Ward discretionary budget.

Proposed food demonstration on Indian cookery using local ingredients. Maximum of 30 participants, who will also get a meal. This could not take place at the same time as market, but the market will be used to promote it. An evening event was thought to be best. Anne to do further work on this.

Anne was thanked for her work to make the market a success.

Energy Group

Community wind farm

No further progress to report. The last action was to produce a map for THC, showing high wind areas and power lines. There has been no feedback from the Council on this.

Community Energy Scotland are involved, but do not want to pay for a feasibility study until a site is identified.

Energy Prospects – a new co-op being established to raise funding for the initial stages of projects. Anne has made contact, they may be able to assist in future.

Smart meters

Looking for more volunteers to take smart meters. The first round will end at the end of March. There will then be a publicity drive to identify new volunteers.

Awareness Raising Group

Events

The next event is Weather Matters with Alex Hill – March 31 (7.30) at Culbokie Primary School.

Weaving magic – April 10-11 (10.00-4.30) at Glachbeg. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a free training workshop (funded through Climate Challenge Fund) on effective management of the group, including group purpose/ roles and tasks/ running meetings/ conflict management/ decision-making/ collaborative communication.

Need to firm up the system for distributing posters – in communities and also through e-networks.

Website

Teen reported: Structure in place and the site may be live very soon. Photographs are coming in. most urgent thing is to identify 1 or 2 people from each sub-group to be responsible for the pages for their section. These people are to be trained by Plexus in content management, before April 1 or after April 13. Friday March 26 at 11.00 proposed - Wendy to confirm date with Plexus. Important that there is a consistent approach and style. Agric volunteered to manage the establishment of the discussion forum on the website.

Newsletter

Next newsletter is with the printers now – to be delivered to Anne.

Distribution system:

- Paper copies to be sent to the main organisations / community groups / venues.
- Local dissemination by hand.

Mailing list – Wendy to look into this.

Containers to display the newsletter and other flyers – Christine offered to organise as a project for Nansen Highland arts and crafts group. Christine to speak to Penny about a contribution to Nansen Highland for arts and crafts materials.

Sustainable culture pilot project

Group approved project proposal for £7000 and application for LEADER funding.

Finance report

£500 in the bank to be spent by end of March.

proposals for how to spend this:

- folding 2m screen - £445 – not approved - too expensive – needs to be bigger
- hand held HD video camera - £100 (approx) – approved
- tripod – approved
- money for crafts – approved
- money for printing – approved

AOCB

Election

Discussion about TBI role in relation to hosting political debate / hustings revealed differing views. Lack of time and resources was also an issue. The conclusion was that TBI will not take action on this, but that individual members can take up issues at hustings organised by others.

Date of next meetings

Monday 12 April

Thursday 13 May

Saturday June 12 – AGM and bar-b-que