

Minutes of TBI Meeting held in the Hugh Millar Institute, Cromarty 18th October 2010

Present: Maggie Dove Penny Edwards Karin Kramer Grant Macfarlane Ken Naismith Wendy Price Richard Robinson Teen Ross Martin Sherring Anne Thomas Christopher Voisey John Wood

Apologies: Frank Kremer

Item Number	Action
<p>2) HEN conference joint venture - TBI will not be involved as joint members in this conference.</p>	
<p>3) Summary of projects Grow North: an average of 20 people has been attending events but only 3 attended the Fortrose meeting. Positive feedback has been received regarding the work done by Grow North. Highland Food Challenge: 42 people have signed up for the Challenge, 13 people have completed the survey. John reported that there may be a problem with accessing Survey Monkey. Community Gardens: Loch na Mhoid has 6 regular participants and Netherton has 6-9 regular participants. North Kessock Market: going well, the school hall was a less suitable venue, continuity of venue is important.</p>	
<p>4) Membership List Distribution: some members' computers can't cope with multiple email distribution. Possible options are to have either a Google list or a list on the website which would be updated by Mary.</p>	<p>Teen to look into possibility of incorporating list on website and any data protection issues.</p>
<p>5) Treasurers report: Penny is currently trying to compile management accounts. Draft sent to members.</p>	<p>Penny to compile management accounts</p>
<p>6/7) Project Managers Report/Spare Funds: Rebecca Eavis(?) was pleased with how the CCF funded projects are being managed but highlighted the need to send in final claims by 31st March, which could mean that projects may have to terminate towards the end of February. A budget review presented by Richard indicated that there is a predicted under spend of 12%. New works (within current budget allocations) proposed by Richard would reduce this under spend to 6% (an acceptable safety margin). Reallocation of funds to new initiatives would be subject to approval of CCF and unlikely to be viewed favourably. Penny asked whether a 2000 pound grant awarded by Highland Regional Council specifically for public events and outreach work had been used.</p>	<p>Penny and Wendy to clarify status of HRC award</p>

<p>Project managers report (contd) activities identified to reduce the under spend included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a public debate relating to EDAP - develop 3 /4 potential allotment/community garden projects (these projects will be given impetus by the fulfillment of the short term contract currently being advertised) - film nights <p>All of the proposals contained in Richard’s review were approved.</p>	
<p>8) Funding for 2011: Wendy posed 2 questions: How do we access more money? and Is it needed? Richard suggested that the group has to decide on future areas of activity. He went on to identify possible sources of funding: ‘Culture Scotland’ SCVO (written to but no reply yet). Sainsbury Trusts are an unlikely source of funding as they don’t accept unsolicited applications.</p> <p>General comments relating to this item included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no response from a recent email regarding priorities (MD) - the number of active members in the group is not atypical (KN) - income is needed for large projects (KK) - there is a need to establish costs of undeveloped activities (MS) - reskilling could be self financing (PE) - be mindful of other projects/initiatives (eg oral history project) and consider engaging with other organisations (TR) 	<p>Wendy to email sub groups to establish priorities for next year</p>
<p>9)Energy Descent Visioning: Penny has posted the minutes of the recent meeting on the forum. In summary, there is an appetite to go forward but we don’t have a coherent plan. The Totness EDP could be a good model for the Black Isle EDP. There is scope for a workshop/training session in February possibly funded from the communications budget.</p> <p>There is a need to consider the steps beyond the initial visioning day, we need to input what we want from the visioning day. Martin suggested that activities could be ‘stand alone’ events but be incorporated into a general plan leading towards an EDP.</p> <p>The Black Isle Ward Forum will be discussing transport at their next meeting on 11th November. Members are encouraged to attend.</p>	<p>Teen to liaise with Jenny McKeown(?) re workshop in February</p>
<p>10)Joining Black Isle Partnership: After a general discussion about the nature of the Black Isle Partnership it was decided that TBI members may wish to join as individual members but the group as a whole should maintain a</p>	

<p>‘watching brief’ on the activities of the BIP.</p>	
<p>11) Becoming a Company with Charitable Status: Martin summarised the benefits and disadvantages of becoming a Limited Company versus becoming a charity and concluded that the costs/workload were similar. Martin proposed pursuing both paths, which may necessitate having annual accounts drawn up by a professional accountant (costing 1000 – 1500 pounds). Once the memoranda and articles had been proof read, they can be submitted as a draft to OSCAR and Companies House. If approved, a new company could be formed. An EGM would have to be called if a new constitution is drafted. The meeting agreed that Martin should continue to work towards TBI becoming a company with charitable status.</p>	<p>Wendy to ask Sue Varley if she would be willing to proof read the memoranda and articles</p>
<p>12) Response to Highland Council Local Development Plan: the Ward Forum on 11th Nov will discuss this plan. Individual members of TBI are encouraged to attend but the effectiveness of a group representation is questionable. A meeting should be organized in early December to allow members of TBI to discuss the Plan with the Planning Team.</p>	<p>Wendy to write to Planning Team to arrange a meeting</p>
<p>13) AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental quiz night, 10th November: 3 members have volunteered but more would be welcome. Contact Tommy - HBS ring has organized a wind farm survey and identified 4 potential sites (none on Black Isle); HBS member could be invited to give a talk to TBI; HBS would like a TBI member to join steering group – Martin willing to be put forward. - Penny is happy to receive any expense claims. - Transition Gathering, Edinburgh 19th November, volunteers invited. 	
<p>Meeting closed at 22.00</p>	