



Speyside Area Forum  
[www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org)

Tuesday, 22 November, 2016  
Edinville Hall  
7-30 pm

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Apologies  
Present – Sandy Henderson, Hugh Fraser, Nick Craven, Chris Packham, Andrea Fuller, Margaret Grant, Jean Grimshaw, Ian Todd, Bill Burgess, Fiona Toovey  
Apologies – Bunty Campbell, Pearl Paul, Jean Oliver, Gordon Morrison.
2. Minute of previous Meeting for approval – 6 September, 2016  
Approved Andrea Fuller, seconded Margaret Grant
3. Matters Arising  
Speyside way – Jean confirmed forms received re extension. Island for crossing is getting looked into.  
Moray Forum meeting re transport was successful with 80-90 attendees.  
Allahoy junction – low bridge sign was erected but damaged shortly after ...
4. Police Matters  
Hugh attended a meeting with Pam Winchester. Apparently we are only area not receiving a police report. At the meeting they said they would generate the report.  
Jane Martin community liaison police officer agreed when she gets report she would circulate to Speyside area if any relevant issues. We appear to be getting overlooked.
5. Community Issues and Update from Community Groups  
(please also see Diary [www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org))

**Budget shortfall consultation** – Andrea attended meeting in September re cuts. There were 8-10 groups (eg over 60s, sports, communities etc.) with aim of feedback of where cuts should be made. Officers from council were explaining only the discretionary spends could be cut. It appeared that those making the most noise would avoid the cuts and a lot of fighting between different groups in the community would be the outcome.

People attending stated that school closures needed to be revisited. Other discussions were Speyside swimming pool, lollipop crossings etc. Council were explaining communities would need to take more on themselves if they wanted the services to continue.

There was also an online form and that data is getting analysed for passing to elected members to assist them to make right decisions. Concern is that decisions may be made by councillors not standing again as 2/3 of elected members are standing down in May and so an admin group of opposition to councillors has been reformed. It's anticipated that drastic cuts won't be made, but will be proposed for new members to make the recommended cuts once elected hence it appears unlikely to be major cuts short term.

Hugh had meeting with a senior councillor and it appeared the council is passing the blame to community members to make the cuts. Hugh also elaborated on a public toilets vandalism incident where the council procurement policy was adding unnecessary costs to simple jobs and it needed fed back to the Council their system was not working.

### **Area Forum / Moray Community Planning Partnership**

Ian Todd explained that the community planning partnership historically would go to area forums who work on behalf of them to get communities views.

Ian added that he had prepared a discussion paper which has been circulated to the Moray Forum. This report highlights that of the initial eight Forum members (Speyside being one), now only four are in operation – the three in Elgin and one in Keith have ceased. With national changes ie the Community Empowerment bill this is asking community planning partnerships of best way to engage with communities. Ian felt there is a danger that some decisions may be made that Area Forums are unaware of.

There was discussion that out minutes could get circulated directly to the Community Engagement Group as it reports directly to the Board (Chief execs of Moray Council, Health, Police and Fire depts). Moray council are one of the 5 partners on the CEG. Andrea confirmed that our minutes do sit on the web site and so are available.

Meeting scheduled on 5 December re responding to the discussion paper.

It was felt that we should consider how best as a forum we could influence the CEG/community planning partnership and also how best we should represent Speyside. Ian added that he thinks this is a golden opportunity for the forums however Andrea added that as we're all volunteers we struggle to input the necessary time to do this effectively whereas there are paid persons who are not actively getting community views – the role of Tsi Moray was mentioned.

Bill Burgess felt it was important that if there were paid staff that they should accurately be recording what is said in the meetings rather than just ticking a box that have carried out community engagement.

6. **Treasurer's Report** presented by Hugh Fraser  
Proposed Bill Burgess, seconded Margaret Grant

### **7. Any Other Business**

Expo – to highlight Speyside as a tourism destination. Laurie Piper offered stand at Expo in Glasgow involving the 4 visitors centres of Tomintoul, Rothes, Aberlour, Dufftown. This was agreed in principle to do it, but the idea was pulled when the costs increased to 2500+vat. Laurie is recently appointed and there is still scope for getting her to a meeting here and then explain how to promote Speyside. Hugh said we would need information from the other communities of what needs pushed that isn't already getting promoted – eg walks/ cycle runs, artefacts – items of interest, heritage sites etc. Once identified it could be passed to Laurie to forward to the relevant organisations.

At recent federation of halls meeting, Karen Delaney did a presentation on the community learning and development plan – it was explained that once communities identify the training needs of an area she would come and deliver them. They received a government grant and council premises for providing the courses. Andrea added it appeared TSI was getting involved with health and social care as they were mentioning child protection etc.

### **8. Date and Venue of Next meeting**

Rothes Cottage 7 February 2017, 7.30pm