



Speyside Area Forum

www.undiscoveredspeyside.org

Meeting
Tuesday, 21st November 2017
Dufftown, 7.30 p.m.

1. Welcome

Present: Sandy Henderson, Chair (Friends of Feming Hospital), Bill Burgess, Hugh Fraser (Aberlour Community Association), George Mackenzie (Aberlour Community Association), Andrea Fuller, Vice Chair (Edinville), Margaret Grant (Edinville), Bunty Campbell (Glenrines), Nick Craven (Carron), Patricia Grant (Tomintoul)

In attendance: Harry Officer (Scottish Fire & Rescue)

2. Apologies

Jenny Herschell (Tomintoul), Fiona Toovey (Braes of Glenlivet), Brenda Cooper (Craigellachie), Jim Hart (Archiestown), Jean Grimshaw (Rothies), Andy Cherry (Rothies), Patti Nelson (Cabrach), Bruce Milne (Grampian Fire & Rescue), Ian Todd (Moray Council), Cllr. Wilson, Cllr Ross, Cllr Laing.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

Craigellachie Minutes (revised) Proposed: Hugh Fraser, Seconded Bill Burgess. Approved.

Carron Minutes – subject to amendments (revised minutes to be circulated) Proposed: Sandy Henderson, Seconded Hugh Fraser

4. Future of Area Forums update

Andrea advised that the Community Planning Board agreed that Area Forums, Community Councils and MFCHA are to continue to be used as a means of consultation and that all the organisations have a role to play within community engagement. It was also accepted that the role of Forums is to be included within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

5. Issues concerning areas covered by the Speyside Area Forum boundaries

- a) Ownership of Craigellachie Bridge
- b) Mothballing of Inveravon School
- c) Reduced gritting within Speyside

It was noted that no representatives from each of the communities affected were present at the meeting and that none of them had raised any issues/concerns with the Forum. It was also noted that reduced gritting only applied to the Speyside ASG area. Disappointment was also expressed about the recent “move house” comment which had been reported in the press. The Forum felt that party politics should not exist at local government level.

6. Feedback on Inveravon School “mothballing” open evening

Representatives from Speyside Area Forum had attended the open evening. It was not noted that none of the Speyside Cllrs were in attendance, nor were they any Cllrs (particularly from the Children & Young People’s Services Committee) present from Moray Council. The Forum noted their disappointment about the lack of attendance from Cllrs. It was also noted that Moray Council Officers present seemed ill-prepared and that they had been unable to provide any costings which may arise following mothballing or able to advised the number of pupils required to render the School viable to facilitate future use. There was no demand/desire shown for the school to remain as an educational establishment but concerns were expressed by the local community that the closure of the school resulted in the loss of its use as a community building. The Council Officers were adamant that approval had never been given to use the School for Community Leisure activities.

7. Tourism strategy

Hugh expressed his concern that despite numerous requests to Laurie Piper, Moray Speyside Tourism, to assist with the promotion of Speyside that no meetings had taken place to further this. It was accepted that Laurie's reason for non-attendance at this meeting due to weather/transport issues was valid however as Tourism was one of the main priorities of the Forum that progress must be made. The Forum has already approved to fund the cost of holding a local Tourism Seminar.

The newly launched NE250 was also discussed. Whilst this is a privately developed initiative, it was noted that no consultation with surrounding Councils or Cairngorm National Park appeared to have taken place. It was also noted that no pre-warning/discussions with local communities had taken place prior to launch. Patricia commented that a "passport stamp" could be obtained in Tomintoul yet the route did not directly pass through the village.

8. Lack of attendance by Cllrs

It was not noted, with disappointment, that none of the Cllrs had been present at the AGM, nor was there any representation from CSU. The Forum felt that Speyside in general and the Forum in particular were "cut off from Moray and left to fend for ourselves." No update had been provided by Cllrs on the Moray Growth Fund ([see mymoray.co.uk](http://mymoray.co.uk) for latest updates).

9. Transport Forum

Andrea advised that she is now the Speyside representative on the Moray Forum Transport Steering Group. She had attended her first meeting today and encouraged Forum members to feedback to her on any transport related issues. An update had been given on the Moray Sports Centre – Travel Plan.

10. Transport Scotland Low Carbon Travel & Transport Programme (European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020)

Andrea advised that she had had a meeting with Nicola Moss, Transportation Manager Moray Council, to discuss the above Fund. The Forum members believed this to be a positive move. Andrea to invite Nicola Moss to our next meeting.

11. Update from Scottish Fire & Rescue

Harry Officer provided an update. The Community Action Team are now carrying out home visits (as opposed to fire safety visits) and are working alongside the NHS – this initiative is funded by the Fire service and is a good example of Partnership working. The control centre for local fire crews is now based in Dundee. A "bank" for potential new recruits is in operation.

12. Date & Time of next meeting

Venue: Speyside Visitor Centre. Date to be confirmed.