

Minute of Meeting of Buckie and District Community Council

Date	Monday 28 th February 2022
Time	19:00
Venue	Online Microsoft Teams meeting
Chair	John Stuart (JS)
Minutes	Stephanie Lindsay (SL)
Attendees	Christine Allan (CA), Stephanie Lindsay (SL), Beverley Wood (BW), John Stuart (JS), Cllr Gordon Cowie (GC), Cllr Sonya Warren (SW)
Apologies	Ann Mitchell (AM), Cllr Tim Eagle (TE),
Not present	Alison Durno (AD), Ross Ingram (RI)
Public	nil

Agenda point	Discussion	Action point	Who?
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The Members met to discuss the Buckie Town Centre Improvement Plan 2021 and the Buckpool Development
CA – Reported that there had been various concerns raised regarding the housing plans for Buckpool. Hilda reported that there was not as big a response as originally hoped.
Concerns in regards to the Square parking. The timing of the consultation was not ideal as it was felt by the community that there was not sufficient time to look through the documentation and lodge comments. Community members also highlighted that if you are not online then you are not able to access or know about things that are happening.
JS – Agreed with this point
SW - mentioned that the Local Community Council Elections are soon, and there will be a period of preparations for these.

Cluny Square Enhancement

JS – The loss of parking beside the North Church
Limitations to the proposals

- Concerns regarding events such as weddings, funerals at the Church if this parking spaces are taken away it will cause difficulties with parking.
- The tendency within the community is to park as close to the place you are going as you can.

CA – Limited parking in current state, raised concerns in regards to community members with disabilities not being able to park sufficiently close to the amenities in town.

JS – Asked if there was a reason why there were no disabled spaces in the main street. Is aware that there is the parking at Newlands Lane but still a walk for those who are not fit.

GC – Reported that all current carparks have disabled spaces in them. In regards to JS question, it had been discussed approx. 10 years ago and it was decided that marking in main street were not needed.

SW – Mentioned that due to lack of Blue badge Holders – conditions which are not covered i.e. heart/cardiac conditions may struggle to get parked in a suitable space. Also had concerns in regards to older people and parent and child friendly spaces within the main body of the town.

CA – Agreed with points raised by SW

SW – Also had concerns in regards to those living in Sheltered Housing, the need for them to take a car, or be taken by car and have shopping/supplies to take back home. Buses are irregular and can be disorientating to older people or those with disabilities.

JS – Linage parking in the main street is not currently marked – no disabled or family friendly spaces. Due to poor parking, some car will take up considerably more space as individual spaces are not currently marked. Shops have to currently put out traffic cones for deliveries. The free parking in the main town facilitates and promotes businesses situated in the main town area.

JS – For purpose of response – We as a Community Council do not feel that we can afford to lose parking and there needs to be improvements to the current Town Parking.

SW – Mentioned that areas such as Elgin have designated areas for borrowing/lending members of the public disability friendly aids such as wheelchairs.

CA – Agreed with SW point that there is provision in Elgin for this.

JS – Suggested the possibility of purchasing Buckie and District Council branded aids such as trolleys to facilitate disabled and older people to be able to get their shopping and take it home.

CC Consensus – We do not want the parking to be taken away as we feel it is too valuable

BW – Asked if there were benches within the proposed area for improvement within the Square.

SW – Reported that this wouldn't be an issue if the parking is taken away, mentioned that the parking area in the Square could be a good place to have a viewpoint over the Moray Firth.

JS – Advised that there may need to be transformation and removal of parts in the Square for this to happen.

SW – Mentioned that there is a telescope which could be relocated to make better use of it, possibly the East Church Street Gardens bit and the addition of information panels would make the town more informative and friendly to tourists.

GC – Mentioned that there used to be a carpark at Struan House opposite the North Church.

JS – Spoke through the narration of the text in the plan – there is already investment in bus stops to keep the maintenance costs low.

CA – There was meant to be Walking and Cycling Board erected in the town centre, query whether the money was taken out of the treasury for this as she cannot recall.

BW – Gordon Campbell completed the works

CA – Doesn't recall any cheques being made to Mr Campbell.

JS – To check with Morag re. if the planning permission to the panels for information maps were actually approved or not.

Public Realm Strategy/Lighting

JS – Read through the information verbatim

War Memorial – there was proposals for this to be lit up, i.e. red for Armistice Day etc.

GC – Spoke about the Darling up by Tesco – Christmas Committee were asked by the Moray Council to provide and fund LED lights for this. He reports that the Christmas Committee are currently waiting for a price. Reiterated that the Christmas Committee currently pay the Christmas lights, and if the Darling will not cost much more they are happy to fund this. The lights should be up within a couple of months.

CA – Has nothing against the proposal

SW – Mentioned that St Peters School is not well lit up

If the plans increase accessibility and appearance of the town, members are quite happy for this proposal of highlighting the towns heritage and encourage active travel.

Vacant & Derelict Buildings

JS – Acknowledged the need for affordable housing

CA - ? about decontamination in OPP3 site

GC – Doesn't know if the site has been decontaminated enough for housing

SW – Questioned how this can be included in the plan if the areas of land/building are privately owned.

CC Members under the impression that Cruickshank still own the lemonade factory OPP2 – and are aware that Howdens currently store kitchens in there. Also that the Christmas lights are store and repaired in there. Question raised if Moray Council has actually approached the owners in regards to the selling of these properties/land. The group discussed the possibility if it is not suitable for housing could allotments be put there instead of some sort of green area/viewpoint.

JS – The CC needs further representation of whether the buildings/land are privately owned and if so have the owners been approached. We need more information in order to make an informed decision.

SW – Comparatively there are areas in Keith which have been landscaped which had contamination issues.

Shopfront Improvement Scheme

JS – Coop side of the street - ? as to where they are with businesses in terms of updating derelict buildings into vibrant additions to the town.

GC - £750,000 set aside to buy buildings under this scheme – unsure of what criteria is included in this money

JS – Mentioned that the 5 year lease was putting potential or current applicants off of renewing their leases due to increasing costs/challenging economic conditions.

Environmental concerns also mentioned.

Digital Infrastructure

JS and SW both mentioned issues with connectivity and concerns over poor signal.

SW – Highlighted that even if the board etc. for tourism had QR code these may not work due to the poor signals/connections. Limited the use of digital/virtual information.

As a CC, we feel that the connectivity is a significant issue, and there needs to be work done between agencies to improve the connectivity issues

EV – Charging Points

SL – 4 in Tesco

JS – 2 either side of the library

SW – Needs to be more EV points within the town centre area, reports that there had been complaints from Windfarm workers about lack of charge points.

Public Realm Improvement – Speyside Way

SL – proposed this area for rewilding – planting of wildflowers etc.

JS – Mentioned the idea of getting Buckie Bombs – pots of wildflower seeds that visitors can plant and come back and see how they are growing etc.

GC – Agreed that the idea of rewilding was a good one

SW – Could have butterfly and bee friendly plants to make a nice garden area/viewing point

Members unsure if the £750,000 is exclusively for the improvement of the Harbour or if this includes areas in the proposal.

SW – Improvement of appearance – highlighting a nautical theme down at the Harbour.

Members unsure if the harbour area is classed as Buckie Town as not mentioned in the proposals

Gateways

SW – Mentioned the Moray Coastal Trail as being within Buckie E and W

SW/GC – both mentioned having features on the roundabouts as very grey and concrete focussed. JS in agreement

School capacities – Millbank 2/3

High School at capacity

Cluny School also at capacity

GC – Mentioned that due to the increasing traffic through Buckpool that there may need to be a another route over the burn done to try and alleviate traffic

GC – Left Meeting at 2030 hours.

Members discussed the lack of infrastructure to support the proposed houses, and questioned whether there is a matrix that is used to calculate the need for all of these houses.

Lack of timely resources – Infrastructure is needed sooner to facilitate a thriving network.

Date, time and venue of next meeting – online Microsoft Teams meeting on 15 March 2022 at 7.00 pm