

## **Zoom Call – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Present:** Cllr. Gordon Adam (Chair), Neil Cameron (Resolis CC), Peter Ratcliffe (Cromarty CC), Jill Stoner (Cromarty Care Project), Nigel Shapcott (Cromarty Development Trust), Helena Macleod (Kessock Kindness), Anne Mackay (Killearnan CC), Angela Morris (Culbokie Development Trust), Cllr. Craig Fraser, Julian Paren (BIP), Sarah Macdonald-Taylor (Avoch & Killen CC), Jenye Monkton (Black Isle Cares), Vanessa Halhead (BIP), Jon Palmer (BIP), Diane Agnew (THC), Cllr. Jennifer Barclay, Helen Robinson (Fortrose & Rosemarkie Toilets), Anne Philips (Fortrose & Rosemarkie CC), Hanah Macsween (Muir of Ord Hub), Asia Cielecka (BIP), Rebecca Richmond (BITT)

### **1. Gordon s key points from THC Covid update session (Mon 29<sup>th</sup> March):**

Black Isle is in the Tier 1 bracket and the hope is we may go straight back to that on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

There are currently 12 people in hospital, 3 in ICU.

All those eligible have been vaccinated in the Highlands. This is above the national average. Asymptomatic testing is starting.

THC is making additional funding available to support summer holiday activities for young people.

Toilets. The 'Comfort Scheme' is being continued from last year. A financial incentive is offered to businesses who open their facilities for public use. Last year the scheme had a take-up of 8 for the whole of the Highlands.

Concerns about Easter weekend: a resilience meeting has been programmed to take place.

There is an Easter payment for low-income families of £100.

10,000 children have benefitted from this with 1750 households receiving support.

Domestic Violence rates have sharply reduced since Christmas.

Travel within Scotland should be possible from 26<sup>th</sup> April.

The Eilean Dubh Care Home is opening this week. Manager Ron Taylor of Parklands has confirmed that respite care may be offered. More detail to follow but it seems promising.

### **2. Discussion on Nature Scot funding (to help alleviate tourism issues):**

Nigel Shapcott suggested additional toilets was an urgent candidate for financial support. Cromarty have identified the need for Portaloos in two locations. Chanonry Point might be another location. It was pointed out that this is contentious and discussions going back over many years are well documented.

The new site for campervans in Cromarty required an additional amount of money to lever extra funding from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. This has been met from the Ward Discretionary Fund.

## BIP Strategic Partnership

Vanessa Halhead suggested a strategy for path renovation across the Black Isle should also be considered.

Becky Richmond will take the lead on coordinating the Nature Scot application. Anne Philips and Sarah Macdonald-Taylor will help to pull the relevant people in. Chanonry Point has urgent and very specific needs – signage for water safety, parking, and footpaths. Ideally a system for diverting traffic before it heads down the Golf Course road, especially motor homes. The promotion of the point for dolphin watching on social media is not helping.

### 3. Jon updated on the A9 'Case for Change' report

284-page document has been published. In summary, it backs up the residents' concerns with hard data – but doesn't offer any specific proposals for either immediate or longer-term action. Interesting fact: 50% of us are breaking the law because the average speed recorded on the Munloch section is over 70 mph.

Gordon has arranged a meeting with Superintendent Conrad Trickett of Police Scotland on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The hope is to get them 'on board' with implementing emergency measures as a short-term solution. Community representation will be invited to join the meeting.

### Community updates:

**Culbokie** Sharing Shed continues, steadily - people donate seeds, plants and craft items. Volunteers have tidied up the area around it, and pocket orchard planted by Findon Hall.

**Tourism Team** networking event on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Timed to be before people are free to travel. Intention is to provide a forum where everyone feels confident we're all facing the 'season' as one. Lots of practical ideas for how communities can be pro-active.

Keep Scotland Beautiful has applied on our behalf for 5 ranger posts across Highlands.

**Muir of Ord** delivering a wellbeing programme, Looking at Community Jobs Scotland rather than Kickstart for supporting employment.

**Black Isle Cares** is looking after the community garden by Fortrose Leisure Centre. Meal deliveries continue and Easter home baking/Easter cards included as a special.

**Avoch** The sharing shed benefiting from Coop food share programme, shed very busy. Noticeable increased uptake towards end of month before pay day. Litter Survey results being collated and will be shared shortly. Beach clean and spring clean will be conducted when regulations allow.

**Rosemarkie and Fortrose** toilets are being repaired and Fortrose finally has electricity but there is an added problem with the roof which has meant drawing from the contingency fund.

**Beach Cafe** has 2 sets of litter picking equipment. The stock has been distributed to Sheds. Ann Jefferson has been researching Coastal Erosion at Chanonry point, where there are serious problems.

## BIP Strategic Partnership

**North Kessock** held a 1st-anniversary online cafe. Nature Scot joint application for extra bins and recycling bins, and signage to the village by Harry Gows. The ticket office bid has been successful and a new beautiful path will be created. Community Land Purchase is also being progressed.

### **Other Notices**

**Julian** has been approached to write an article for Chatterbox about the Sharing Sheds. Will be contacting those involved and welcomes any input/anecdotes.

**IMDFP** deadline for feedback has been extended to the end of April.

**Tourism** newsletter sent last night. Jon highlighted the idea of a leaflet asking visitors to 'pledge to be sustainable tourist'. Feedback welcome and needed if this is to be taken forward.

**Craig** referred to a document about sustainable jobs that are related to coastal areas. Will share.