**Black Isle Partnership (BIP) – Black Isle Communities Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting 1000 22 June 2021**

**Present: Cllr. Gordon Adam (Highland Council and BIP),** Julian Paren (Minute taker and BIP), Cllr. Jenifer Barclay (Highland Council), Helena Macleod (Kessock Kindness and Residents Association of North Kessock), Ann Jefferson (Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council), Ann Mackay (Killearnan Community Council), Sheila Currie (Transition Black Isle), Neil Cameron (Cromarty Community Council), Penny Edwards (Culbokie Community Trust), Peter Ratcliffe (Resolis Community Council), Nigel Shapcott (Cromarty Development Trust), Helen Charles (Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust), Vanessa Halhead (BIP)

**Agenda 1: Minutes of the BIP Black Isle Communities Meeting on 15 June 2021**

The Minutes had been received.

**Agenda 2: Black Isle Rangers**

Gordon Adam promised to provide an update from the Black Isle Rangers at a later date.

**Agenda 3: The Black Isle Festival funded by Think Health Think Nature**

Helena Macleod led on this topic without the support of Becky Richmond who was unavailable for the meeting.

She reported that resulting from last meeting there had been significant developments both by e-mail and in meetings. The Residents Association of North Kessock (RANK) had met to discuss how they might contribute. Helena had met Becky and the decision had been reached that the Communities loosely on the South of the Black Isle would have Helena as their chief contact:

North Kessock, Munlochy, Avoch, Fotrose and Rosemarkie

those loosely in the North would consult Becky

Killearnan/Tore, Ferintosh, Resolis, Cromarty.

Each community would need one lead person to consult and organise locally.

**Fortrose and Rosemarkie**

Rosemarkie’s focus was the beach and café while Fortrose was the cathedral area. Helen Charley offered her rewilded garden as a feature of a Rosemarkie tour. Helen thought a walk of Old and New in Rosemarkie would be easy to plan.

Anne Jefferson agreed to investigate the possibilities for events at Rosemarkie with Helen Charley

As for Fortrose the suggestion was to ask Sarah M-T to see if she would take the lead. Alternatively would Black Isle Cares be persuaded to find a lead from their volunteers if Sarah M-T and Helen actually led the walk.

**Cromarty**

Nigel Shapcott and Sheila Currie agreed to share responsibility for Cromarty

**North Kessock**

Helena Macleod explained the village walk would be entitled “Our community, past, present and future”. They would identify a key person for the historical aspect, but also bring to the fore issues like litter, recycling bins, and signposts. They intended to use the detailed village map from the Visitor Map and cycling maps from Transition Black Isle.

**Killearnan**

Ann Mackay said her idea was for one walk at Milton of Redcastle with parking by the Killearnan Church Hall. It would not be arduous with the seashore being a recognized UK Nature Site for Marine Life. Douglas Willis was the expert and she would see if he was available. The Killearnan Community Council gets no responses to information on its website, so advertising would be by leaflets.

Ann mentioned again the possibility of a walk along the railway line but saw crossing the A832 to be a problem.

**Munlochy**

Julian Paren said he was happy to research local walks around Munlochy and get in touch with the Knockbain Community Council.

**Culbokie**

Penny Edwards asked if for the event it might be possible to borrow some of Cromarty’s trikes. She saw the one-on-one of a short cycle ride as being very attractive and encourage buddying up. Penny also mentioned Cycling without Age Scotland. https://cyclingwithoutage.scot/

**General**

Sheila Currie could not see how a walk as short as 30 minutes could do more than scratch the surface. There was so much that could be distilled into a walk. There could be no level of detail. Four walks over a weekend could introduce different ideas, but could only be a start in getting folk better acquainted with their village.

Penny Edwards said the concept was based on successful village walks in Culbokie run by Becky Richmond and herself. The non-historical walks took up to 1.5 hours, but despite extensive publicity attracted 9 or so people each. She gauged that might be the level of support even if advertised as a Black Isle Festival weekend. However the legacy from Culbokie is now a series of leaflets outlining the walks, so that they can now be self-guided.

Ann Jefferson asked about insurance. Helena was pursuing this as she gauged it necessary, but Gordon Adam was sceptical that such simple walks would need anything.

Helena pointed out that the maximum size at the present was 15 for such outdoor activities. Whatever walks were possible she thought that breaking it up into 30 minute segments with a stop and refreshments could provide the minimum level of activity that some felt comfortable with. This format could provide the social interaction which was at the heart of the initiative.

Penny reiterated her experiences. The walk had many ten-minute stops with a rest on an appropriate bench. The walks took longer than had been expected at the outset. The leader needs to think through beforehand what is interesting fot the walk.

Sheila stressed that the concept of the funding was to get people who struggle outside. That was the prime purpose. Other aspects like resolving inter-community problems or providing tourism resources were nice, but the very people whom were being primarily targeted were not in these two groups. It was difficult to achieve every village objective in one short walk.

Ann Jefferson agreed. The funding was for the isolated. Everything else should be secondary. The fundamental problem was to find the people who were isolated and to successfully reach out to them. How do you find them?

Nigel Shapcott asked about the funding for catering. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggested that £3 a head would be possible. Nigel reaffirmed that the concept of a Black Isle weekend with each community contributing in their locality was very appealing.

Helen Charley came back to the point- How do you get the folk, for whom this funding has been allocated to help, actually learn about the event, and how can they be motivated to participate. The audience would probably not use Facebook or other digital media. Fortrose already had a small walking group (15 or so), meeting at the Leisure Centre. She would try to get them involved.

Helena Macleod summarised that all needed to pull together to find a way of getting the word out and contributing to publicity for the Black Isle and for each village.

Jennifer Barclay said she would inform Hector Mackenzie at the Ross-shire Journal to get his interest and support. Vanessa Halhead agreed that Hector would print any text you sent him on this topic.

Gordon Adam said he would contact Louise Glen, a local journalist, to see if she could be interested in promoting the event.

Ann Mackay said she would talk with Susan Bound (Killearnan Minister) but she was currently on sick leave. People without private transport could easily become isolated. So a newsletter would have to be delivered to all

Vanesssa Halhead said Resolis also had a large number of elderly living alone and isolated. But she was at a loss to know how to find them, and thought the Community Council might need to become proactive to find them. Neil Cameron (Resolis CC) wondered if any of the funding could be used for that purpose.

Helena Macleod hoped a legacy of the funding would be the training of 15 Health Walk Leaders who would learn about Risk Assessments and other issues. The training is scheduled for mid-July.

She concluded the meeting by saying that there was a printing budget for each community together with a budget for a wider promotion of the weekend. She would meet Becky Richmond during the week, and report back later.

The Meeting ended at 1124.