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

**Zoom Meeting 1000 27 July 2021**

**Present:** Cllr**.** Gordon Adam (Highland Council and BIP),Jon Palmer (BIP), Julian Paren (Minute taker and BIP), Helena Macleod (Kessock Kindness and Residents Association of North Kessock), Ann Jefferson (Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council), Anne Mackay (Killearnan Community Council), Anne Phillips (Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council), Peter Ratcliife (Cromarty Community Council), Helen Charley (Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust), Vanessa Halhead (BIP), Cllr. Jennifer Barclay (Highland Council) and Megan Mackenzie (Black Isle Cares)

**Agenda 1: Minutes of the BIP - Black Isle Communities Meeting on 20 July 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting on 20 July 2021 were adopted.

**Agenda 2: Update on The Black Isle Festival, Think Health - Think Nature 31 July- 1 August 2021**

**Promotion:** Helena Macleod reported for the North Kessock events she had used Facebook, a message to 700 residents and the North Kessock posters.

Helena said that all the village events were listed together on the dedicated webpage on black-isle.info using a Teamup application <https://teamup.com/ksgtyhxz1qob97ukd8> and that it was possible to register for some events directly from there.

Julian Paren reported that he had sent a press release to both the P&J and the Ross-shire Journal and had targeted additionally the Health and Wellbeing Reporter for the P&J. He had set up the webpage for each village. Gordon Adam said he would directly contact Suzy Macaulay who wrote for the P&J, and Helena said she would make contact again with Louise Glen who had written about the events earlier to see if she would do a follow-up story.

**Practicalities:** Helena reminded all of the need for food hygiene and the need for disposable cutlery and cups, and for contact details of those taking part for Track and Trace reporting. She reminded all for the need of social distancing at events, a maximum of 15 in any group, and asked that all study the documents provided by Paths for All in the Health Walk Leader training, which included a Risk Assessment template.

Helena Macleod said that the coordinator of Think Health - Think Nature for our region of the Highlands, Toni Clarke, would be attending some events and would like the local leaders to invite her to their events.

**Agenda 3: Update on Tourism Pressures/Chanonry Point**

Ann Jefferson said long queues on the approach to Chanonry Point were such that emergency vehicles would have great difficulty arriving quickly after a call. Signs to inform people that drones were not to be flown because of the disturbance they caused to wildlife were being routinely removed and replacement signs had to be erected. Despite Highland Council saying they could quickly install CCTV at the point, four weeks had passed without any outcome.

Ann called the conditions at Chanonry Point chaotic. Rangers had begun to put up their own signs – No Parking for Motor Homes and Camper Vans. However Shane Manning (Principal Traffic Manager at Highland Council) did not feel he had the power to ban such vehicles because there was no legislation in place.

Jennifer Barclay said she was unhappy that a one-way traffic system in Rosemarkie was not in place but mentioned that Ian Moncrieff was still trying to get an overflow car park on land owned by Tulloch.

Ann Jefferson wanted there to be further action on the illegal overnight parking on Marine Terrace and along the front at Rosemarkie, because motor homes were parking up overnight, and social media were promoting this location for free parking. She said that the Access Ranger had advised that the illegal overnight parking be from 8.00pm, any later than that time they would not be available to enforce. The promised bollards from Highland Council for creating an organised layout for parking along the front at Rosemarkie had not arrived. She admitted her attempts to get any progress with Highland Council was just causing continuous frustration.

Gordon Adam said he would talk to Phil Waite (the reporting officer of the Highland Rangers) to argue for another Ranger for Chanonry Point and to discuss the car parking problems as a whole.

**Agenda 4: New funding stream: Community Ownership Fund**

Gordon Adam mentioned the Community Ownership Fund – a UK Government Fund that was available to Community Trusts (and not Community Councils). There was an early deadline of 13 August and another round in December. The fund was available to renovate Community Assets at risk, and Gordon wondered if the Cromarty Court House was a potential candidate.

ACTION: GA to circulate a link to the UK Ownership Fund

Helen Charley mentioned a newcomer to the Black Isle, Marion Bamford who was interested in community-led housing. Marion Bamford saw that a number of more elderly people were “trapped” in houses too large for them, because they could not find smaller-scale housing that would fit their requirements. If the right housing appeared then it could free up larger houses for families who needed the room. She wondered if the fund could help in any way to adapt housing for the more elderly into smaller units.

Jon Palmer said that Sinclair Browne was also in touch with Marion Bamford, and Jon noted that in Cromarty there were some large properties with owners looking to downsize locally. Jon said he would bring up the issue on his THTN Cromarty Walk.

**Agenda 5: Update from the Communities**

**Black Isle Cares:** Megan Mackenzie said that the group had now six or seven new befriending clients but only four volunteers. Black isle Cares were still operating the Meals on Wheels service.

**Cromarty Community Council:** Peter Ratcliffe reported that Cromarty was busy which was good for the town and it would be so different in the winter. There was no lack of motor homes in the area, and he was able to report the sand conditions on the beaches was good

**Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council**: Anne Phillips reported concerns about the proposed activities at Ardesier where the yard had a new owner and was being opened up again. Dredging the channel could lead the Moray Firth dolphin population to relocate .

**Munlochy**: Julian Paren had talked to John Stott about THTN. Julian’s main concern was the lack of progress with Highland Council on the conditions that had to be met to ensure the future of the proposed Avoch to Munlochy multi-purpose path.

**Killearnan Community Council:** Anne Mackay reported that preparations for the THTN walks were going well. However she was in conflict with Highland Council on another issue that was serious and needed a resolution.

**Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust:** Helen Charley reported that the toilets were running well and that on August 16 they would also have electricity. Currently donations were covering costs but there needed to be a reserve before the winter. Helen did wonder what needed to happen to get more people involved in community activities. Helen had recently been to Dunbeath and found the village immaculate, and this could only have been possible by individuals taking a real pride in their neighbourhood. The same spirit was needed on the Black Isle.

**Agenda 6: AOB**

**Criticism of Highland Council:** Jennifer Barclaysaid she had listened carefully to the meeting and was saddened at how much criticism was directed to Highland Council. She said there were a lot of positives too that had not been emphasised.

**Black Isle Committee of Highland Council:** Gordon Adam reminded the meeting that the inaugural meeting of the Black Isle Committee of Highland Council was scheduled for 1030 on Thursday 5 August. The Meeting would be streamed and he said he would send a link to all those on the e-mail list for the Tuesday Meetings. Besides the normal business of an area committee, he had asked Jon Palmer to speak on the role of the Black Isle Partnership.

The meeting closed at 11:11.