

Minutes of TBI Online Admin Meeting: Tuesday 28th February 2023

Present: Julian Paren (JP) (convener), Peter Moffatt (PM), Anne Thomas (AT), Julie Gibson (JG), Alaine Macdonald (AM)
 Minute taker: Martin Sherring (MS)

| Item | Discussion | Action |
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| 1. Apologies | Rose Grant | |
| 2. Approval of Minutes of meeting 17 Jan 2023 | Minutes of previous meeting accepted subject to AT checking the wording of item 21. | AT |
| 3. Place Plan - Becky Richmond | <p>Committee delighted to welcome Becky Richmond who introduced Opportunity Black Isle - the Black Isle Place Plan. BIP has £30k funding for a plan involving land and the community. Community-led, and done in conjunction with THC. Becky is P/T project manager, and Nick Wright has been taken on as consultant.</p> <p>Priorities to be established by a series of drop-in events, one in each CC area and 2 in Knockbain, plus targeted engagement with special interest groups, and a small amount of digital engagement. A proposed Young Ambassador programme too difficult just now because of school timetable.</p> <p>Involve relevant organisations to develop proposals into a draft plan which can be considered at 2 community assemblies, one on the N side and one on the S. Consider the mechanism(s) to deliver the plan. Has to engage with climate change parameters - transport likely to be a big issue.</p> <p>Revised draft plan then to go through statutory consultation.</p> <p>Aiming for activities which can start as soon as the plan is finalised, plus other actions in the medium- and longer-term. Recognise the need to take on paid staff to deliver the plan professionally, rather than rely on the goodwill of volunteers.</p> <p>Themes to be used for consultation are based on previous feedback from community and CCs.</p> <p>CCs were initially concerned that BIP were taken on to do this, but are now all being very constructive, eg helping to distribute publicity. Initial concerns by residents are being voiced about Green Freeport (concerned we could be stuck in the middle of a big industrialisation) and transport.</p> <p>If organisations want to have a presence at community engagements, they are very welcome. Where groups have a presence across the BI, the BIP team are happy to consult</p> | |

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| | <p>directly. TBI recognised as one of the most respected and relevant groups.</p> <p>AT noted general distrust of Cromarty Firth Ports, and concerns about the possible outcomes from the Freeport.</p> <p>Engagement drop-in events will be over last 3 weeks in March, plus further consultations in April and May. BIP happy to help with consultation for TBI to hold with members - and facilitate an event if that was requested by us. Ideally that would be just before or just after Easter. Alternative would be for TBI to engage at a later stage, concentrating on aspects of specific interest.</p> <p>AT mentioned previous TBI visioning exercise and offered to provide the response from that.</p> <p>Output from the Landscape Partnership work has already been picked up, but it would be worthwhile for TBI to re-examine it. (Becky left at this stage) JP to speak to Richard Robinson to discuss whether it would be worth re-engaging those who were involved in that. Others to consider next steps and share by email. The coming newsletter to encourage engagement at BIP events.</p> | <p>AT</p> <p>JP</p> <p>All</p> <p>AT</p> |
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4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (not covered elsewhere)

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| | Visitor map - being launched with BIT next week. Tuesday March 14th at Fortrose Golf Club, trustees and other helpers will be invited. | |
| | Slow tourism booklet - 24 pages, to be lodged with accommodation providers. Climate hub has agreed to seriously consider a funding application, and won't have any bearing on further applications. JP to apply for funds for launch of map and booklet. | JP |
| | Far North Way - poor material used on the Visit Scotland website. JP taking this up. | JP |
| | Sharing sheds leaflet - welcomed. No further action needed. | |
| | Composting project at Rosemarkie - no further info. | |
| | H&I Climate Hub - confirmed we have joined. | |
| | Community Learning Exchange - some interest in working with other groups using this scheme, to develop promotional skills. MS to discuss with RG | MS |

ITEMS FOR DECISION

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| 5. Market managers' pay | Proposal agreed. MS to follow up. | MS |
| 6. Avoch - Munloch | THC's position is difficult to understand. The TBI working group is considering the possibility that TBI should apply for planning consent asap. Board was supportive of continuing with current approach. | AT |
| 7. ZWS Fridges offer | Sharing sheds already have the info. Anne happy to be TBI contact point for sharing sheds. | |
| 8. Films | Agreed not to pursue Platform film, but all to look into Story of Plastic for a possible showing (see https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/the-story-of-plastic-documentary-film/). HCWP team to consider films more generally. | All MS/ RG |
| 9. TBI visit to Forres. | PM noted that TTF seems more active now. Also other active groups in the Forres area - Moray Wastebusters, Forres Friend of Woods and Fields, and others. Maybe a general interest trip to Forres? PM to make enquiries. | PM |
| 10. Regenerate Our Green Spaces | Too early to discuss a new building at this stage, but in principle there are a lot of public buildings already available, so the argument for a new one may be challenging. MS to speak Rose to see if ROGS needs any support, particularly for growing. | MS |
| ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ INFORMATION/ UPDATE (KEEP ON RADAR) | | |
| 11. Markets report | MS confirmed an article had been sent to Chatterbox - the response was that the regular free advert for the markets would be re-instated, but not clear whether the article would also be used. | |
| 12. Membership | Nothing to report. | |
| 13. Food and Growing | Tattie Day is all on track - 59 varieties, 26 or 27 volunteers, Laura, Seeds of Scotland will be at the seed swap stand. Growing Guide - now down to about 5 or 6 copies, so reprint is imminent. PDF of text and front cover has been found but spine and back cover may be more difficult. JG to report back with costings. | JG |
| 14. Farmer Clusters | Maybe worth engaging with Jo Mackenzie (Black Isle Dairy and journalist). PM to sound her out. A bit premature to promote the idea more widely just yet. Agreed to use HGFP text in newsletter. | PM AT |

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| 15. Finance report | Income and expenditure continues to be in line with expectation. Payments are all up to date. | |
| 16. Newsletter editor report | Aim to include article about Opportunity Black Isle. Newsletter is likely to be a little late this month due to other pressures. Hoping that Rose may be able to add some content. | AT RG |
| 17. Local Larder support | John Tuach has agreed to take on the Local Larder website, and has been in touch with Julie Shortreed. | |
| 18. Fair Trade | Agreed to invite Fairtrade rep to come and attend markets - or take a stall and sell some Fairtrade produce? JG to revert. | JG |
| 19. Allangrange Gardening Course | Approx 20 people attended the pruning course JP attended. Significant demand for Growing Guide. Experience seemed to be that people valued things they have to pay for - maybe a lesson for Grow North - although Grow North tutors tend to be less experienced. | |
| AOCB | AT keen to have Grow North programme for those on low incomes. | AT |
| Dates of next meetings | Tuesday 18 April 2023 venue TBC Tuesday 30 May 2023 venue TBC | |