

- **Note of meeting of the RURAL SOUTH WEST AREA FORUM held in BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL on MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2018 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT:

Balfron	Alistair Chalmers, Balfron Community Council Robert Dick, SAAP
Buchlyvie	Margaret Sparkes, Contact the Elderlyl
Fintry	Michelle Bennett, Fintry Community Council
Killearn	Margaret Harrison, Killearn Community Council
Strathblane	Grace Edmonds, Strathblane Community Council Marian Lever, Strathblane Community Council Evelyn McDougall, Strathblane Community Council Margaret Vass, Strathblane Community Council

Officers

Elaine Bannatyne, Balfron High School
James Burns, First Group Ltd
Cllr Robert Davis, Stirling Council
Ian Denvir, Stirling Council
Christina Feaks, Active Stirling
Liz Francis, Active Stirling
Fiona Jackson, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park
Jessie Anne Malcolm, NHS Forth Valley
Janet MacCallum, Stirling Council
Steven MacDonald, Stirling Council
Fiona Rough, Stirling Carers Centre
Tracy Patrick, Balfron High School

Apologies:

Cllr Graham Lambie, Stirling Council

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ian introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining housekeeping procedures.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Neighbourhoods of Care, dated 13 August 2018 and the RSWAF, dated 21 May 2018 having been circulated were accepted by Margaret Vass, seconded by Michelle Bennett

3. Matters Arising

No items identified other than those that will be covered in the Agenda. However praise was given to the first class service by Stirling Council to the community of Strathblane during the Commonwealth Games Cycle Race.

Fintry wished to note that they had received a grant of £15k towards a generator required as part of their Resilience Plan. It was noted that Awards are also available via the Scottish & Southern Energy website.

4. Engaging Young People -

Tracy Patrick noted that following the review by Senior Community Prefects a form has been designed by the school.

- Form was circulated and to be completed by all Community Council representatives.
- Completed forms to be returned to Tracy Patrick
- Tracy noted that the pupils and school are also keen to engage with community groups. This form is to be sent out separately
- If any of the groups have a specific project then please let the school know and prefects could then work with the group.
- The school are keen to get volunteering underway.

Community members noted the following

- P5 at Strathblane and Strathblane Community Council had worked together on the topic of speeding and had produced a video and queried whether it would work in communities further afield?
- Fintry Community Council queried whether senior pupils would be interested in helping with their Action Plan?
- Bus Company had a campaign in the Eastern Villages on anti-social behaviour, when senior pupils mentored behaviour of primary pupils, which proved very successful.

Health and Wellbeing Pilot Project – Fiona Rough

- Currently being run by Stirling Carers
- 6 week teaching block period
- Activities free
- Work in teams
- Period 2 – Care homes – 11am -12 noon – assistance from lunch club
- Evaluation of the Project in December but volunteering could be extended if the student has a desire.

5. City Region Deal – Steve MacDonald

Steve updated the meeting on the City Deal, which had been signed and sealed on the 31st May 2018. Steve noted the following

- £90m awarded for Stirling Council
- £123m inclusive award for the University/College and Clackmannan and Stirling Councils.
- It was anticipated that £600m could be created by 5000 new jobs as inclusive growth was part of the deal.
- Improved skills and employability, local companies and businesses benefit.
- Working closely with Procurement to ensure that local companies benefit as much as possible.

Key Projects:

- New Scottish International Environment Centre – University of Stirling
- New Aqua Culture Centre at Stirling University

- Digital Centre – Codebase – former Municipal Buildings – companies have located to Stirling.
- Introduction of Digital Hubs in the Rural area.- wanting to co-locate digital companies in current premises, which could give an opportunity for Balfron School to accommodate a hub there.
- Culture & Tourism – National Tartan Centre, Stirling, based at Forthside
- Capital Funding to invest in culture projects
- Significant money to invest in training.
- Funding required to unlock the former MOD site for business and residential.
- Kildean also to be unlocked and developed.
- Public Sector hub at Forthside – walkways, cycleways to link in with Clacks.

For things not taken forward money will have to be raised through other sources. City Park Development is still an option but will require to be funded.

Comments were raised on Transport and Infrastructure:

- Any development for public transport?
- Local transport needs to be included in any of the future plans/events
- Footpaths in this area need to be upgraded as walking is a key part of tourism.
- No funding from City Deal for bridges, footpaths, car parks despite the need for these to be improved as tourism is increasing.
- No 'Welcome' signs for tourism despite these being requested.
- Strategy for Tourism needs to include footpaths
- Former Killlearn Hospital site – a contaminated site – but could be developed if money was released.

Steve expressed his willingness to work with Communities in addressing outstanding issues, e.g. signage/planning.

Capital funding is being used for Business Hubs. Steve noted that a Business Hub was launched in Aberfoyle, Strathard Community Council two weeks ago with companies co-locating to the Hub. Companies are charged for business use.

- Balfron Community Council expressed an interest as they have a Council building suitable.
- Keen to roll out to all Communities, if you would like a Hub contact the Economic Development Team – macdonaldst@stirling.gov.uk
- Broadband in all area should be improved
- Business Support – Gateway Contract – managed by STEP for the Council who will attend Hubs to give advice.
- Funding – Project Support – support is on offer
- Other Agency – Support available as and when required.
- Is there any money from City Deal for roads and infrastructure?
- Where are the public conveniences for the influx of tourists?

It was noted that this particular Forum should not be bidding against each other and should meet and work collectively for a strategy that will bring all amenities required together.

- Project Delivery/Strategic Delivery Group
- RSW Forum – Sub groups can be formed, e.g. Neighbourhood of Care
- Commercial Partnership Agreement

Stirlingshire is a rural farming area, what does the Council do to support farmers?

Steve informed the group that Stirling Council has a Food and Drink Officer, the necessary paper going to Council in November.

6. The Big Conversation: - Ian Denvir

Ian gave a summary of the paper and the rationale behind this.

- How do we tackle inequality and make Stirling a better place to live?
- How do we reduce costs and increase income?
- FROG – developed and funding given by business.
- Digital Platform – Health and Well Being – 1 year free access to FROG - £150 thereafter.
- Groups are responsible for updating their own information on FROG

Website details for FROG the new Digital Directory for Stirling are Stirling.frog.net and for FREE uploads you can use a voucher code Stirling100. Developed in partnership with Glasgow based Frog Systems, Frog.net brings together health, wellbeing and social care service providers in addition to businesses, groups, visitor attractions and local activities. For the first time ever in the UK, these will all be found in one single, easy to use digital directory. FROG due to be launched at the end of September

- Method of engagement is very important as survey monkey does not appear to be working.
- Better to have straightforward question, e.g. do you want (a) or (b)
- Second phase to Conversation – communities to be invited to meet with Council
- Basic infrastructure is essential in tourist communities
- Each community has to be told what their share of the budget is in comparison with council tax paid.

Ian noted that the conversations will not take place before the Community Council elections.

Date of next meeting scheduled for Monday 18th February 2019