

NOTE OF PETERHEAD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, 27th June 2017

the Chamber, Buchan House, Peterhead

Present: Councillors Anne Allan, Dianne Beagrie, Alan Fakley, Norman Smith, Stephen Smith, Iain Sutherland (BID Co-ordinator), Alison Gardner, Iain Laidlaw, Elaine McCarron, Robert McGregor, Christine Webster and Chris White.

Apologies: Martin Danziger, Robert Emslie and Phyllis Mundie

Action

Welcome and apologies

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Martin, Robert and Phyllis.

Appointment of Chair

Chris sought nominations for the position of Chair.

Councillor Stephen Smith was nominated by Councillor Anne Allan. Councillor Norman Smith was nominated by Councillor Dianne Beagrie. Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Stephen Smith would Chair the group this year and alternate with Councillor Norman Smith the following year.

AG

Peterhead Key Developments Plan

A copy of the Key Developments Plan and map was circulated at the meeting. Christine advised that it was time to take stock of where we had come from. There is a lot of work ongoing and the top four issues for Peterhead at the moment are – the Education Campus (including Catto Park in the wider picture), new housing developments, town centre and Peterhead Port redevelopment.

Councillor N Smith added that Longside Airfield should also be added to the Key Development Plan as there are lots of businesses using the space and links needs to be strong.

North Connect works and Buchan Deep (five turbines in the North sea) have both started and are very exciting projects. Elaine will enquire about future intentions for Peterhead Power Station.

EMcC

It is hoped that the Aldi Development will start soon and this will resolve some of the concerns regarding supermarket options in Peterhead.

Peterhead Action Plan

The Peterhead Action Plan was circulated. The timescale for the Action Plan is generally 5 – 10 years.
A number of Action Plan projects are currently being worked on, for example –

Peterhead Business Improvement District (BID) – the BID process started three years ago across Aberdeenshire. The Peterhead vote will be concluded in September, hopefully with a positive outcome.

Energetica / Simplified Planning Zone - £30,000 Scottish Executive Funding was secured to take forward plans to create a simplified planning zone to the south of Peterhead.

Town Centre – Developer Obligation contributions were removed from town centre properties; the Town Centre First Principal; Property Investment Fund; Retail Plus is onto its second phase; Choose Peterhead – Drummers Corner, Broad Street and Rose Street; the Heritage Trail and the annual commitment to try to reduce the number of seagulls.

Your Voice Your Choice - £49,000 was contributed towards the Participatory Budgeting vote at the end of June to enable the town to develop and allocate funds to community regeneration projects.

Skills Hub - £150,000 has been allocated to the new Skills Hub “Compass Point” which opened on Back Street on 26th June. A visit to the Compass Point will be included in the agenda for the next Development Partnership meeting. Robert will circulate contact details to the group for information.

AG
RMcG

Clerkhill Shops – Aberdeenshire Council’s engineers are currently working on plans to redesign the Clerkhill shops area. Robert will send a briefing note to the Group for information.

RMcG

Cultural Hub / Community Café – Modo are investigating the need for a Cultural Hub / Community Café in Peterhead. They have established a temporary venue in Drummers corner and have been running successful youth engagement events three nights a week, called *Encounter* and hosting events such as the Craigewan Photography Club annual exhibition and a weekly young people’s employability and careers drop in with Skills Development Scotland. The Scottish Opera are currently visiting with their touring theatre.

The Action Plan is currently following three main themes – local economy, community integration and reinforcing and rediscovering Peterhead town centre. The themes are wide enough for everything to be included under the headings – for example Sports would be included under Community Integration. The Action Plan is a working document and items can be added to document/amended as time evolves.

ALL

Christine reminded the Group to ask about any of the items if they require further information.

AG

Councillor S Smith queried about the possibility of a taxi rank, the former Drummond building and the Chapel Street bus stops. It was agreed a town centre walk around would be arranged before the next Development Partnership meeting to list items which need addressing. Quick wins would be good for the general public to see something happening.

EMcC

The proactivity of the various Brownfield Sites in Peterhead was discussed. It was agreed that letters would be sent to the owners to remind them that the Economic Development Team are able to assist with developing their sites.

Councillor N Smith felt that one of the problems is the lack of signage in Peterhead. Maps could also be installed in each of the car parks directing members of the public. The Shopping Trail could be updated and reinvigorated to bring people back into Peterhead Town Centre. Quarterly magazines and annual brochures would also help promote what Peterhead has to offer.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference, which were agreed at a past meeting, were circulated for information.

An additional "business" person will be invited to join the Development Partnership as unfortunately Kenny Watt from the Palace Hotel has been unable to attend any meetings to date. Chris and Christine will have a think and bring suggestions back to the next meeting.

CW /
CWeb

The Health and Social Care Partnership Locality Manager will be invited to the Development Partnership meetings as and when required. It was suggested that as representatives from Health, Police, Fire etc. already attend the Buchan Local Community Planning Group (BLCPG), copies of the Development Partnership minutes will be circulated to the BLCPG for their information.

AG

Consultation on Future needs for Community Sports and Culture

Rachel Boal, Sports and Leisure, joined the meeting via skype and gave an update on the consultation currently being carried out on the future needs for community sports and culture in Peterhead. Staff are trying to engage with as many sports people and groups as possible via Facebook, our website, groups who hire our facilities and by speaking to members of the public. The questionnaire is via Survey Monkey and asks which facilities they use, timings, type of activities etc.

Rachel will be collating the responses for Tim Stephen, however, it has not been decided how the results will be presented.

It was felt that the timeframe for the consultation was too short and should be extended, queries were raised regarding the feeder primary

school areas into Peterhead, a press release should be issued promoting the survey and the Group suggested a public meeting should be held also. Rachel will feed the comments back to Tim Stephen. An update will be reported back to the Development Partnership once the consultation has closed. It is important that the results are shared with members of the public also, preferably at a public meeting.

RB

RB

Town Centre First Principle

Councillor Allan attended the Town Centre First Principle launch at Woodhill House on 23rd June. The three guest speakers were very interesting. This was the Aberdeenshire launch, it was suggested to arrange something at a local level. Town centres are a key element of the economic, social and environmental fabric of Scotland's towns. Aberdeenshire Council will put the health of town centres at the heart of best value decision making, seeking to deliver the best local outcomes regarding investment and de-investment decisions, alignment of policies, targeting of available resources to priority town centre sites, and encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity.

It was suggested that we should try to broaden what the town centre has to offer – good quality accommodation, retirement flats etc to integrate people.

The Super Saturday events at Fraserburgh were noted to be successful and the question was asked could these be reproduced for Peterhead? Councillor Sutherland advised that the BID Group are looking at arranging 3 major events in the town during year 1 and possibly the BID Manager could co-ordinate these. Marketing will be key – giving people a reason to visit Peterhead.

Cruise Ships – information on Peterhead should be sent to the cruise agents well in advance of their arrival to the port. Heather Barclay, the Peterhead Town Centre Project Officer has been on the cruise ships handing out information regarding Peterhead, however if the passengers had the information beforehand there is more chance of them spending time in Peterhead instead of going on a bus tour to Deeside etc. Christine will look at options. It was noted the Port arrange taxis and/or bus to the town but that these are not always used by passengers. The dates of the cruise ships visits will be sent to the Development Partnership for their information.

CWeb

AG

Property Investment Fund

The Property Investment Fund is a scheme to assist property owners to bring properties back into a beneficial use. The properties must be privately owned properties which have been vacant for a minimum of six months. The scheme is available in Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Banff and Macduff. There are two sections – (1) up to £10,000 or 50% of development costs or (2) up to £100,000 or 25% development costs. Property owners are encouraged to get a feasibility study and have detailed plans and costings. At the moment there are a few applications for both sections of the scheme in Peterhead, including a few iconic buildings in Peterhead.

The Development Partnership were asked to encourage owners to get in touch with Elaine to discuss the scheme further as it would be good to promote the scheme well in Peterhead.

ALL

A.O.C.B.

Peterhead Port – Ian L advised that works are progressing well. The dredging works are ongoing in the south harbour. The abutment for the Queenie Bridge has been removed. Steel work on the fish market has also started. The old fish market building will be demolished. Both projects are planned to be finished by April 2018. The footpath behind the Freshcatch building will be reconsidered.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Peterhead Development Partnership will be held on Tuesday, 19th September at 12noon in the Chamber, Buchan House, Peterhead.

ALL

Ian L submitted his apologies for the next meeting as he will be on leave.

AG