

**Banff Development Partnership
Deveron Community & Sports centre, Banff
20/03/2018 at 1900 - 2100**

Attendees: Cllr Glen Reynolds – (Chair), Cllr John Cox, Cllr Michael Roy, Christine Webster- Regeneration & Town Centres Manager, Jan Emery – B&B Area Project Officer, Naomi Mason – Project Office, Phil Hemsley (Banff Harbour), Morna Harper – Service Manager, Business & Community, David Locke (Churches Together), David McCubbin – VisitAberdeenshire, Dave Acton – Motive Offshore, Richard Cormack Corrigan VisitAberdeenshire Cruise Project Manager, Doug Finnie TURF, Karen Wiles Acting Area Manager

Note Taker: Linda Hendry Project Officer

Item	Description
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>All were welcomed to the meeting, introductions were made.</p>
2	<p><u>Note of previous meeting / Call to Action</u></p> <p>Note of meeting was agreed.</p> <p>Call to action – CW thanks to all that have circulated last call to action.</p> <p>Daymarkers – We are still waiting for an update on the questions that we have asked from the charity organisation.</p> <p>Harbour – The options around mater plan are still in progress. The application will be submitted to NESFLAG by 20 April 2018.</p> <p>JE – Digital update surplus ipads have become available and these will be available for use in Homestart.</p> <p>Note of previous meeting was agreed.</p>
3	<p><u>Tourism/TURF</u></p> <p>RCC – Thanked the group for the invitation to meet with everyone.</p> <p>VisitAberdeenshire Cruise ready. Free cruise ready workshops have already taken place with more to follow. Details of additional workshops will be circulate when they become available. Everyone should forward details to their contacts.</p>

	<p>The days of large excursion tours arriving at destinations has turned and what the operator and traveller want is smaller packages, more bespoke to individuals and group's needs. So what we would ask is what has Banff to offer the traveller? Stunning costal routes which is suitable for the smaller cruise boat. Art décor features, places of historic interest.</p> <p>Can we re-explore the option to look at small cruise boats in Banff bay which would allow tourist to enter Banff Marina? – Visit Scotland to be advised.</p> <p>There will be a new Tourism strategy which will be launched in due course. This is for the City and Shire.</p> <p>MR – in the past small cruise ships have anchored in Banff Bay and passengers brought on shore at Banff Harbour.</p> <p>Action – MH/DM to provided details of Banff Harbour to RCC</p> <p>Research has shown and from personal experience that a market for high end retail would be beneficial. Also key would be the training of Blue Badge guides currently there are only a handful of person trained. Tour guides, North East 250, Sea Safaris, Ancient Tour guides, Story tellers are all key aspects of taking advantage of cruise opportunities.</p> <p>TURF DF – TURF met earlier today to discuss what they can do to help Banff be cruise ready. JE is currently working on mood boards to help see what is required. Richard will be meeting with the group next week along with North East 250 to look at the best way to move forward. Looking to attract business and locals alike to attend an information event on May 24th.</p> <p>ACTION – DM to send link to the tourism strategy for circulation.</p> <p>Call to Action – Visit Aberdeenshire would encourage business working groups to develop tourism products with a unique selling point.</p>
4	<p><u>Banff Plan Overview</u></p> <p>CW – The plan is progressing well with a total amount of £207,000 committed to date.</p> <p>Theme 1 Diverse Economy Budget commitment £137,500 to raise income a funding application will be submitted before the 19 April to NESFLAG for 50% match funding. Tenders have been advertised on Public Contracts Scotland.</p>

1.3 Town centre business support - Enterprise Challenge Fund has been launched to promote business to work together £7,000 has been committed. 2 successful applications have been received with a total of 14 business working together. NM ran a course for business on website development due to feedback from previous feedback. This was well attended.

1.7 – Banffshire Tourism product development. A Heritage Trail project has been developed in Banff and Macduff funds of £16,243 secured from both Banff and Macduff and with external funding of £14,451 from CARS.

Total budget agreed to date for Theme 1 £174,346.

JC- If possible could timelines be added in where possible. Also if no money has been committed can this be noted?

KW – It might be of benefit if percentage complete is used to give a better indication. CW – Responded that they are numerous actions in each part so this would be difficult.

JC/DL – What about setting some SMART targets to be considered both to allow business reasonable basis for their planning and to facilitate assessment of the success of the plans.

DL – Diversity is this mention under community organisations. Are we doing enough to encourage them to expand? CW – This is very much part of what can be done and is something we can work on as this relies on volunteers. Community Council raised an issue of Aberdeenshire Council employing larger companies on contracts with local businesses missing out. EU law governs procurement processes. MH - However course are run for local business to attend training to help with the process of applying for tenders. Main supplier is encouraged to explain sub contracts to help local business. JC – Could a course be run locally? CW – is looking into placed based procurement.

Acton – Organise one of these for the evening?

Theme 2 Infrastructure and Connectivity budget committed £33,164
A project is currently been worked on by NESPT to develop Bridge Street.

Conservation renewal scheme – the group were advised that scaffolding is now in position around the Tolbooth hotel and the Candy Box shop.

	<p>DL – Concerns with regards to the A947. JC advise that all wards councillors agreed to meet to arrange a member officer working group.</p> <p>Theme 3 People and Community</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing – Deveron Community Centre initial utilisation of the centre has exceed expectations at 98,000 users for the period April to September 2017. Banff and Macduff Active Aberdeenshire membership has increased and are 3rd in volume in Aberdeenshire. There are also an additional 18 users groups at the Deveron centre.</p> <p>Due to reduced resources this has limited some of the work to help move some aspects of Theme 3 forward.</p> <p>DL – mentioned that a lot of people had commented that by simply lighting up key buildings creates a different atmosphere in the town. A suggestion was made up about lighting up the Bridge? Could this be looked into further? Concerns in the past that the reason was due to the lights not been alighted correctly.</p> <p>PH – The lighthouse would need to be exempt as it is a navigation tool.</p> <p>Call To ACTION – Sharing goodness, such as Banff Academy attainment level is one of the most improved in Scotland. Over 1 million invested in Banff Coop refurbishment.</p> <p>Action – Send out working document with DRAFT to all. – Linda</p> <p>JC – Could a report of potential Town Centre be created for vacant units?</p>
5	<p><u>Heritage Trail</u></p> <p>NM - Phase 1 was a digital treasure trail project from Banff and Macduff primary school, 93 pupils worked with Global Treasure Trail. Where they learned about their towns, digital skills and how to write questions.</p> <p>In December there was a launch of the digital app at Duff House with a formal launch hoping to take place end of May beginning of June.</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland were late joining the trail programme but it's been good having them working in Partnership. Feedback from the teachers was excellent. The children commented on how they have enjoyed mixing with the other school. A large number of children had never been in Duff House.</p>

	<p>Phase 2 of the Heritage Trail we will be looking at a combined physical, interpretation and digital trail throughout both towns. An invitation to quote will be submitted early next week with work starting at the end of April 2018. The trail will incorporate the current markers that are in place from historic trails.</p> <p>Lots of local and national press coverage has happened to promote the walks, Historic Environment Scotland will be promoting in their members magazine.</p> <p>CALL TO ACTION – Details on how to access the app will be sent to all and all to send to network's to increase awareness and encourage use.</p>
6	<p><u>Silversmith Discussion</u></p> <p>JE – The works for the Silversmith are nearing completion. At this time we are unable to give an official opening date as there is still some funding to be secured for the internal fit out of the building.</p> <p>JE gave a brief insight as to the functions, responsibilities and output that we can expect for the project once it is opened.</p> <p>Education and training – workshops and evening classes for all abilities and ages. Possibilities of Post-Graduate course becoming available. Talks are underway with Robert Gordon's University, Gray's School of Art and NESCOL.</p> <p>Commercial – Creation of larger pieces of jewellery for sale locally. Commissions from individuals/companies, online sales to tie in with Banff for both consumer and trade.</p> <p>Cultural partnering – Exhibitions in various venues for example Banff Castle, Duff House and the opportunity to visit various locations in Banff and Buchan. Collaborate with other creative groups across the North East.</p> <p>Tourism – Tourist will be able to visit a working silversmiths, purchase items, creative commission items with the possibility of attending courses.</p> <p>MR – An aim is to re- introduce the Banff hallmark. This can be done once silver is being made in the town.</p>
7	<p><u>Welfare Reform</u></p> <p>JE – A number of iPads have become available within Aberdeenshire Council. At this moment the project is just getting underway but the plan is for the iPads to be made available through partners in suitable locations to help people access job sites etc. It was agree</p>

	<p>that the use of the iPads will be much need with the role out of Universal Credit due at the beginning of June 2018.</p> <p>The group felt that it would be worth talking to other areas to see how the role out of the new changes has effected them.</p> <p>Action – KW to look at this at Area Committee level.</p> <p>There will be workshops which will be made available to officers so they can offer the correct advice. After the role out it would be beneficial if they could provide us with an update.</p>
8	<p><u>Invites to next meeting</u></p> <p>Agenda item ... David Acton – Business perspective on the economy Invite Claudia Cowie - Climate change - Environmental Impact – renewable energy</p>
8	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 19 June 2018 @ 1900 Deveron Community and Sports Centre</p> <p>Proposed dates for the next meeting Tuesday 18 September 2018</p>