

STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

PROJECT UPDATE

May 2015

QR CODES (DS)

Still awaiting response from Alan Craig on his discussions with Susan Hayward, Manager at Clashfarquhar House.

This project was brought to the attention of the STP by a resident of Stonehaven.

ALL WEATHER FACILITY (DS)

Construction has begun and organisers of the events that use Mineralwell Park informed. Another meeting was held with Meg Findlay and Charlie West of the Folk Festival at the site with the site manager George Reid present re their requirements in relation to the use of the car park. Hunter Construction gave assurances that they would do their best to meet the needs of the Folk Festival.

STP become involved in this project due to the Planning for Real (PfR) exercises which took place in 2012, where comments were made that Mineralwell Park could be improved and used more regularly by the inclusion of an all weather pitch. Also, for a number of years it was Aberdeenshire Council's intention to provide an all-weather surface for every town in Aberdeenshire and a rolling programme for this starting in North Aberdeenshire was begun but unfortunately the money ran out (was withdrawn) before Stonehaven could benefit. As part of the so-called "100 Days" funding, the council allocated £320,000 to the project to be brought forth by a community group.

BERVIE BRAES ROAD (DS)

Nothing further to report.

The Bervie Braes Road Project is mentioned in the STP's Business Plan 2012 – 2015 and was also included in the Community Plan. Furthermore, the economic impact study carried out as part of our attempts to prevent the closure of the Bervie Braes road indicated that Stonehaven was missing out by not doing more to attract castle visitors to the town and this is the most direct route which offers a view of the harbour and bay that is likely to encourage people to visit the town. There was also a comment in PfR that there should be better access for walkers and cyclists on Bervie Braes.

PLAN B (DS, WE, DF, MW)

Nothing further to report.

*The Plan B Project has been initiated as it was in STP's Business plan **SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES AT THE RECREATION GROUND SITE** – investigating the possibility of improved facilities at this site, alongside reviewing alternative locations. There were also a number of comments made by residents in the PfR exercise about this area of Stonehaven.*

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FUTURE OF STONEHAVEN COURT HOUSE BUILDING (DF)

Nothing further to report.

This project falls into a number of STP's charity criteria. For example, to assist in the regeneration of the area through the improvement of the physical, social and economic environment in order to:

Manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the Community and the public in general;

Advance Community development, including urban or rural regeneration within the community;

Advance environmental protection or improvement including preservation, sustainable development and conservation of the natural environment, the maintenance, improvement or provision of environmental amenities for the community and /or the preservation of buildings or sites of architectural, historical or other importance to the community.

IMPROVING OUR TOWN CENTRE (JS)

The hawks visit Stonehaven for two half days a week initially to discourage seagulls from nesting. Once nest have been established the hawks will return later in the summer once the young gulls begin to emerge.

The Town Centre Improvement Group will hold its next meeting on Thursday 28th May at 2pm at Viewmount.

This project commenced due to comments that were made by residents at the PfR exercises about Town Centre signage, the appearance and upkeep of some of the buildings in the Centre and the seagull nuisance.

FORMER GAS WORKS SITE (MW)

Nothing further to report.

This project resulted from comments made in the PfR exercises about the lack of parking in Stonehaven in general and specifically the lack of parking in the Auld Toon during busy times.

LAND TRAIN (MW)

The Land Train has operated at weekends only during May. The rain protection covers have arrived and were fitted in time for the weekend of the 23/24th. We are grateful to our friends at the Stagecoach depot for their assistance in fitting the covers.

As above this project came about by comments that were made during the PfR exercises that the STP undertook in 2012. It also fits in well with the STP's SCIO objectives by assisting in the regeneration of Stonehaven by bringing tourists into the Town from Dunnottar Castle and was mentioned in the STP's Business Plan of 2012 – 2015 to ease parking congestion in the town. Furthermore, the economic impact study carried out as part of our attempts to prevent the closure of

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the Bervie Braes road indicated that Stonehaven was missing out by not doing more to attract castle visitors to the town.

BEACH TOILETS (MW)

Nothing further to report.

Improving the Public Toilets was one of the projects mentioned in STP's 2012-2015 Business Plan. One of STP's charity objectives is to assist in the regeneration of the area through improvement of the physical, social and economic environment in order to:

Manage Community Land and associated assets for the benefit of the community and the public in general.

HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY (WE/MW)

The draft Feasibility Study will be discussed at the May meeting.

Aberdeenshire Council asked STP to carry out a Harbour Development Feasibility Study and have assisted with funding for this project. One of the reasons the approach to STP from Aberdeenshire Council was made was that STP can apply for grant funding for the Feasibility Study which would reduce the cost to the council tax payer.

Comments were also made during the PfR exercise that the Harbour could be developed and facilities improved for locals and visitors alike. The main actions that the Council is requesting through the SLA that this project falls under is (i) Help groups in their area with information, implementation, and community engagement, to build inclusive and sustainable projects.

ENERGY CO-OPERATIVE INITIATIVE (WE)

Colin Addy has been invited to give feedback at the May meeting.

This project falls under the STP's Declared Charitable Purpose for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement in the reduction of energy use in Stonehaven and the reduction of CO2 emissions. There will also be a financial benefit to Stonehaven as there is the possibility of money becoming available to STP for disbursement through the savings made in energy use.

CRUISE SHIPS (JR)

Draft of invitation letter to cruise ship operators to be discussed at May meeting.

This project was brought to the STP by a Community Group and is being looked into jointly by an STP trustee and a member of the Rotary Club of Stonehaven.

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OTHER RELATED MATTERS

CARAVAN SITE

Sources of funding for proposed evaluation to ascertain the economic benefit to Stonehaven of the Queen Elizabeth II Caravan Site are being sought.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

A draft project form was circulated prior to the meeting for approval and for this project to be formally adopted.

BOARDWALK IMPROVEMENT

A draft project form will be circulated at a later date.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

STP has been asked to complete the annual monitoring form as all Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) grant holders are required to complete an annual monitoring survey at the end of each financial year to provide a snapshot of what the CCF programme has achieved to date. The information provided helps them identify the extent to which we have been able to achieve our economic development outcomes, and to identify any key successes and challenges. It also helps CCF to measure the extent to which the CCF programme is achieving the outcomes forecast, to reflect the key learning points about what has been funded, and report on the difference the CCF is making. The form has been completed in draft and will be submitted by the deadline.

Douglas Samways
18th May 2015