

## STROMNESS COMMUNITY BUSINESS FORUM

31<sup>ST</sup> Oct 2007

7.30pm @ CESS

**Present:** M Craigie, I Richardson, R Gauld, G Kirkpatrick, M Swanney, K Scott.  
M Frier (OIC), Jim Robertson (OIC)

**Apologies:** J Schofield, B Muir, S Crichton, Ian Johnstone, James Stockan

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August, were read and adopted (Prop: R Gauld, Sec: M Craigie).

### **Matters Arising**

#### **CD-ROM**

Sales were progressing slowly, had another order for “5” from Northlink, with posters!

#### **Pierhead Planning Update**

Jim Robertson gave update on his future plans for multi-function use at Pier head centre as possibly library, child care, health improvement centre, etc. He was still fleshing out the proposal before they go out to tender for the architectural brief.

SCBF still have to issue formal copy of the Design Brief with covering letter and outstanding invoice. Preferred option specification delivered to council by SCBF defining the type of use, facilities, style required for the Pier Head with associated caveats and conditions and a statement of the wider strategic vision for Stromness.

#### **Costs to Date:**

MC had invoiced OIC for work carried out to date on Design Brief (£10,000) with several sub-contract invoices for work waiting to be paid.

#### **Heritage Lottery Funding:**

Though not yet 100% approved, they had indication of £1.44 M for HLF under their “Townscape Heritage Fund” with 10 year ‘sustainability plan’.

Fund would be split into:

1. Acquisition of dormant properties
2. Training
3. Shop front upgrades (50-80% grant), which would tie in with 60 year anniversary of Shopping Week.
4. Etc.

Plans would again be fleshed out to meet key criteria within HLF remit.

#### **Renewables Project Update**

Issues regarding ownership of land still need to be addressed and resolved before things can move forward. Georgette Herd was close to submitting the final draft of Community “Right to Buy” on the land and JB and RG had been in Skye and HICEC Conference last week.

Scottish & Southern Electric had confirmed SCDT would have study done and funding £5,000 + VAT had been agreed with HICEC. HICEC then retracted their support in wake of Merranblo enquiry, saying they could not fund our project with nearby enquiry ongoing, but Richard said these issues had been resolved with HICEC at recent meeting in Skye.

SCDT had agreed as result of consultation and public meeting to oppose the plan at Meranblo as it contained "NO" public benefit of substance and Malcolm Macrae seemed to have been unmoved by our various representations (i.e. initially through private meeting and more formally through a lawyers letter).

### **Community Council Rep**

RG agreed to continue as SCBF rep when available and we assumed MD would deputise when he is available.

RG would approach Neil Brown to act as the SCBF rep on External Transport Forum if he is back in town again.

George K would ask Brian Muir if he could co-ordinate the Christmas lighting with George Argo and Stuart Crichton.

### **Membership**

New membership forms were issued back in March, with only 34 subs so far received and £8,030 in bank A/C, MC suggested lack of enthusiasm was mainly due to lack of follow up with individuals by committee members.

MC proposed that since we were reasonably sound financially we try harder to sell new Street Map to 2008 membership and Karen suggested some members may be somewhat upset if they thought others were getting on the street map for nothing.

IDEA: We could perhaps issue double invoice to those who had not paid this year and wanted to remain on street map next year ?

### **Member Visits**

MC had been liaising with OFS and Orkney Herring and suggested Nov/Dec for the factory visits, but with so much else happening this may still have to wait.

### **Wind turbine on Pierhead:**

Richard had spoken to Gareth Crichton at Northlink and he had passed him on to Bill Davidson who did express some interest in the 'cold ironing' option of switching to more limited shore power at nights. Bill had been very interested and had now completed their own feasibility study. RG to arrange follow up discussions with Northlink.

Power could also be delivered to the Marina, etc, with wind turbine mounted on Pierhead at the end of the breakwater, as they have installed at Blythe Harbour, Liverpool Docks, Antwerp, etc.

### **EFSA Open Boat Championships 2008**

KS agreed to help establish a working group to set up stalls, with themed exhibition (Shoal+ Sheaf), arts & crafts, etc.

MC had met with EFSA coordinator in Sept and she had indicated they expect 130-150 anglers (- July 2009). Most of the 2003 arrangements were to be same, but they again stressed that the reason for past success was based on SCBF's enthusiastic participation and support!

MC would speak to Stewart Crichton about setting up working sub group.

### **Stromness Bonanza and longer term Stromness Shopping Card**

KS agreed to progress discussions on establishing a long term Shopping Benefit card system such as they have in Lerwick.

41 businesses were being approached, with fee of between 1.5 -2.5 p in the £ which covers operating cost of the scheme, software, hardware, etc.

**Pierhead Parking**

The problem of cars not actually parking at pierhead spaces around ferry terminal seems to have back-fired, after years of waiting for OIC legal department to implement Traffic/Parking Order at ferry terminal nobody was now actually using the limited period pay parking.

RG suggested using similar scheme to that used in Lerwick where member of Business forum have own stickers.

Agreed to investigate matters further in consultation with Community Council.

**Date of Next Committee Meeting**

To be arranged as convenient, probably in Dec after STP meeting 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.

It was also agreed to invite the new MP to come along.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.