



PROJECT UPDATE August 2015

WIFI/QR Codes (DS)

The following buildings have been identified as being best to site the long range WIFI routers: Clashfarquhar House, The Open Air Pool, Town Hall and the Harbour Hut to give good WIFI coverage in Stonehaven. The SDCC have been approached and asked if they will be able to apply for Listed Building Consent and Full Planning Permission for the installation of the WIFI routers as they get a reduction of 50% of the fee.

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

ALL WEATHER FACILITY (DS)

There has been a delay in the progress of the all-weather facility caused by fitting the shock absorber layer to the pitch. This is expected to take a further 2 – 3 weeks as it is a specialist job.

The lease is almost finalised.

The new management committee are scheduled to meet on 13th August for their inaugural meeting. The official opening will take place on 12th September with the Scottish Governments Sports Minister to officiate.

This project came about 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 Councils 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and a rolling programme for this starting in North Aberdeenshire was begun but unfortunately the money ran out (was withdrawn) before Stonehaven could benefit.

BERVIE BRAES ROAD (DS)

George Strang has commented that artificial foliage could be used to cover the barriers as an alternative to painting them.

Ds has written to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee of the new Aberdeenshire Administration, to ask if they would be willing to meet to look again at opening the road all year round, doing something about the unsightly barriers and revisiting the weight limit exemption for the land train.

The Bervie Braes Road Project is mentioned in the STP's Business Plan 2012 – 2015 and was also included in the Community Plan. 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.*

FUTURE OF STONEHAVEN COURT HOUSE BUILDING (DF)



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The sub group have been very busy in the last few weeks having weekly progress meetings and have met with a number of consultants and professionals covering community involvement, surveying, financial modelling and conservation. There will be a public meeting on 20th August, at 7pm in St James Church Hall. All are welcome to attend and find out about the work that's already taken place and how people can get involved in the future of the building.

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)

WE has been asked to look at the time line of the Improving our Town Centre Improvement Group's meetings and the letters that were sent out by Aberdeenshire Council and this will be reported to the Trustees on 25th August.

This project commenced due to comments that were made by residents at the PfR exercises. Comments were made 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)

Willie Munro has not reported anything further on this project.

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)

VSO application was granted and the land train has run 7 days a week until August and is now running 5 days a week due to lack of drivers. It has been well used when it's been running especially on sunny days. Sponsorship was sought from local businesses but none wanted to advertise on the train this summer. Income and expenses for April, May, June and July and the estimate for August will be discussed at Trustee meeting.

An application has been made to the Big Lottery's Investing in Ideas fund for a report to be commissioned to show the economic benefits the land train has brought into the Town's businesses. A survey form has been handed out to the passengers using the train to establish where they come from, what other attractions they will be visiting in Stonehaven and their estimated spend in the town, to help with this report. Passenger numbers and whether passengers are local or visitors is also been recorded. See Caravan Site report below

The CCF now has additional funding available and an application will be made for an additional carriage from this fund.



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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

BEACH TOILETS (MW)

There has been no further interest shown from the retailer who was initially keen on using part of the beach toilets as a retail outlet. Action is required to decide whether to contact STP member groups to see if any of them are willing to take this project forward.

Improving the Public Toilets was one of the projects mentioned in STP's 2012 -15 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.

STONEHAVEN HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY (WE/MW)

The final Stonehaven Harbour Development Feasibility report has been received. The project is proceeding as decided by the STP Trustees at the Special meeting on 4th August.

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)

Nothing further to report

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 for disbursement through the savings made in energy use.

CRUISE SHIPS (JR)

The first two correspondence from STP have been followed up with the cruise companies. A presentation has been prepared and sent to them to see if they are interested in using Stonehaven as a destination port. The companies have already finalised their 2017 destination ports and shore trips. If the companies are interested they will contact STP to organise a port assessment.

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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HARBOUR ILLUMINATIONS (JS)

Aberdeenshire Council Area Committee Budget form for top up funding has been completed and sent and additional funding is being sought from local businesses. JS has met with Aberdeenshire' Council's lighting engineer and will set up a further meeting with him, the Scotia animations Engineer and Charles Sands to take the project forward.

STP were approached by Stonehaven Business Association to assist with Christmas lighting in the old town and the harbour area.

OTHER ITEMS

CARAVAN SITE (DS)

An application has been made to the Big Lottery's Investing in Ideas fund for funding for an evaluation of the economic and social impact on the community resulting from an increase in sustainable tourism from Stonehaven Town Partnership's (STP) activities and how they benefit Stonehaven economically and socially. This will focus on the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the Queen Elizabeth II Caravan Park (QEIIICP) from Aberdeenshire Council by Stonehaven Town Partnership (STP) and to also show what the benefit has been to Stonehaven of operating the Land Train which has been funded by the Coastal Community Fund (CCF) and the Big Lottery Fund (BLF). This would benefit any other groups who are thinking of doing something similar. See Land Train report above,

COASTAL COMMUNITY FUND (DS)

CCF have informed STP that HM Treasury of Coastal Communities Fund budgets for 2016/17, are now in a position to commit the remainder of funds within the portfolios in Scotland. STP have been invited to make an application for additional funds from existing projects which will enable STP to extend or expand the current Land Train Project in order to deliver additional outcomes against the CCF indicators. Decision is required by trustees on whether application for an additional carriage and extension to Project Coordinators contract should be made, funding for both is currently in place until May 2016.

BOARDWALK (JS)

Nothing further to report

Isabel Munn
12 August 2015