



## PROJECT UPDATE September 2015

### WIFI/QR Codes (DS)

Costs for Listed Building, Planning Consent and Wifi routers is being sought so a costed plan can be presented to the trustees for consideration. The Town Hall Trust/Mearns FM, the Friends of the Open Air Pool and the Harbour Hut will be contacted regarding the siting of the routers and wifi source.

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

### ALL WEATHER FACILITY (DS)

The All Weather facility was officially opened on 12<sup>th</sup> September by Jamie Hepburn the Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health accompanied by the Provost of Aberdeenshire Councillor Hamish Vernal.

The official handover from the contractors to the new management committee will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

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and a rolling programme for this starting in North Aberdeenshire was begun but unfortunately the money ran out (was withdrawn) before Stonehaven could benefit.*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

Martin Kitts-Hayes Chair of Aberdeenshire Council's Policy and Resource Committee, has asked for the reports from Aberdeenshire Council's roads and Legal Departments and DS is awaiting a meeting with him 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)

A public meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> August which was attended by groups with an interest in becoming potential tenants of the Court Building and some local residents to find out about the work that STP has been doing over the last few months and how they can get involved with the project.

Davy Jones from the Consultation Institute ran 3 sessions about public consultation on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. STP organised these sessions to ensure that when public consultation is



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required “Best Practice” is followed. The development day sessions were open for the public and other community groups to attend. The sessions were very informative and covered a wide range of topics, although it was unfortunate that not many people attended them. Course material is available on request.

*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 Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group met on 17<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the next steps. Aberdeenshire Council will update the action list with work that has been carried out and an agreed press release will be issued to show what work has been done over the last few weeks by local residents, businesses and Aberdeenshire Council. As part of STP’s involvement in the group JS will send Aberdeenshire Council information on the costs of a cherry picker and labour to clear out gutters and roofs so that residents and businesses will then be contacted to see if they are interested in getting the work done.

*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)**

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)**

Robert Rodgers (driver) has resigned. DS will write to him acknowledging his resignation and his contribution to the land trains success since it began operation last year.

The Land Train will be operating on weekends only in September and October finishing on the last weekend of the October holidays.

Chris Stirk will be contacted to see if the Christmas Extravaganza will be taking place this year.

The application 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 was not successful. Funding will be sought elsewhere for this report.



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£1,500 has been granted from Foundation Scotland's Asda Carrier Bag Community Grants Programme to buy equipment for the Land Train.

An application has been made to the CCF for additional funding to purchase an additional carriage for the land train together with salaries for drivers, conductors and the project development co-ordinator for the period May 12<sup>th</sup> to 31 December.

Anna Dudek is the new land train driver with Bob McAllan and Barry Foreman.

*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)**

Cllr. Clark confirmed at the last trustee meeting that there are budget proposals to be discussed to see if Aberdeenshire Council can keep the toilets open. He and Cllr Christie will report back on the situation at the next trustee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August and then a decision will be taken on this project.

*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)**

A meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> August presenting the report findings to the Stakeholders.

#### **Recommendation to trustees that this project is considered complete.**

*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.*



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### **CRUISE SHIPS (JR)**

Nothing further to report.

*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.*

### **HARBOUR ILLUMINATIONS (JS)**

Aberdeenshire Council Area Committee Budget form for top up funding has been completed and sent to Aberdeenshire Council, this will be heard at Area Committee on 27th October and additional funding is being sought from local businesses. JS has met with Aberdeenshire Council's lighting engineer and Stonehaven's Harbour Master.

*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)**

The application 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 has been unsuccessful. Funding is being sought elsewhere for this report.

#### **BOARDWALK (JS)**

There has been a lot of work had been carried out on the boardwalk over the last few weeks although there was still more to do. It has been suggested by Aberdeenshire Council that the costs of materials for replacing the board walk is estimated to be £35k with an additional £35k required for the labour.

Isabel Munn  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2015