

Portlethen Edible Trail

Meeting 14th June 2017

Present: Nikki Lorimer (Mearns and Coastal HLN), Ed Garrett (Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action), Ken Watson (Portlethen Moss), Laura Watson / Kate Turner (Portlethen Primary), Helen Young (Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service)

Apologies: Bernie Dawks (Mearns and Coastal HLN), Lynn Buchan (CLD), Claudia Stuerck (Aberdeenshire Council)

1. Feasibility report

Ed went through the report on the proposed trail in Portlethen. The report outlines a proposed route and addresses issues such as community support, sustainability and funding. It should provide the basis for future funding applications. Ed explained that his role with the project would now change with the completion of the feasibility report but he was happy to continue to support the steering group in the development of the trail.

2. Steering group

It was agreed that those present and any apologies should form the steering group to lead on the development of the trail. Carolyn Lamb should also be invited to join the group. Ed to do. Ed also to contact Ron Clark at the community council to keep them informed.

3. Lead organisation

It was agreed that it would be good to have an organisation leading on the development of the trail and applying for funding. Nikki said MCHLN would be happy to take this on but would need some funding to do this. Nikki also wondered if another local group might be interested in taking this on. Ken said that the sports hub might be interested and this would fit in with the development of the Go Portlethen website. Ed to discuss with Fraser Govan at the council and Ken.

4. Funding

Ed suggested as outlined in the report that there could be two phases to the funding of the trail. The first phase would involve employing a development worker to lead on the development of the trail. The second phase would look at funding for setting up the trail – signage, plants and so on.

Nikki mentioned Community and Food and Health Scotland as a good source of funding for the first phase. Also mentioned were the Health Improvement Fund and Meikle Carewe windfarm community fund. The community council, area committee top up budget, community planning, developers' obligations and Paths for All were other possibilities. Laura also to explore Asda community fund as the school has existing links.

Once it is established who is going to lead on the development of the trail we can look at who is going to apply for the funding. Ed to explore with Nikki/Ken/Fraser

5. Promotion

The trail will be promoted as part of the Go Portlethen website which is being developed by students from RGU. It would also be good to promote it through other social media.

6. Information app

It was agreed that the development of an information app for the trail would add to the experience and involve other people in it. It was suggested that this could be developed with support again from RGU students.

7. Date of next meeting

10th August 2017 10am. Ed to book room. Ken suggested this meeting should happen before Portlethen gala on 19th August where the trail could be promoted.