



Press Release

Joint meeting of Grantown Initiative & Grantown Community Council

A joint meeting of Grantown-on-Spey and Vicinity Community Council (GOSVCC) and Grantown Initiative (GI) was held on Tuesday 17th of July at The Grant Arms Hotel.

The meeting followed the AGM and GOSVCC regular monthly meeting and was held to allow the two groups to update one and other on projects and to forge a closer relationship between the groups.

GOSVCC has statutory obligations and responsibilities to the town, however, crucially it cannot own community assets due to liability issues. This is where GI comes in. A company limited by guarantee, GI is set up to be able to own assets and where necessary employ people.

At its AGM this year, members of this community development company agreed that the company should seek charitable status which will open up a range of funding options not previously available.

The meeting was extremely productive and well attended by both groups, with a full complement of Community Councillors and apologies from two GI directors. The meeting was chaired and facilitated by Karen Derrick of VABS and kindly hosted by The Grant Arms Hotel. The following topics were discussed and agreed at the meeting.

Town PA System

Would like to upgrade/replace current system. GI to investigate – would own new equipment on behalf of community.

Grantown in Bloom

After successful scheme this summer, GOSVCC to set up committee to oversee floral displays in future. Emphasis on harnessing efforts of members of community and local organisations to maintain flowers throughout year.

Skating Pond

The pond located in Grant Park is in need of upkeep and will require significant funds to clear reeds, repair fencing and generally tidy up the area. Both groups will work together and in conjunction with Anagach Woods Trust to improve this area.

Cemetery Wall

Passed to GI four years ago by GOSCVV as a project desired by the community, the proposal was to construct an entryway to the Cemetery. Grantown Initiative progressed this project and has received one quote to create this entrance. GI will be seeking further quotes before this project can progress further.

Community Storage Facility

A storage facility is needed to store a range of community assets used for various events

<p>around throughout the year. GI has made considerable efforts on this but has yet to have any success. It is hoped, that with the agreement of Highland Council, the community may be able to make use of the underused space to the rear of the Court House in Grantown-on-Spey.</p>
<p>Mossie Playpark Upgrade The second project passed to GI four years ago by GOSCVV as a project desired by the community. GI is currently seeking funding sources for this project. GI has had difficulty in finding the relevant contact at the Highland Council. The biggest issue and reason for needing to contact Highland Council is liability.</p>
<p>Boules Court Twinning Association putting this in place in grassy area beside The Garth (along back wall). They will take responsibility for building and maintaining.</p>
<p>Parking GI had sent letter to the four Highland Councillors expressing concern that the new parking arrangements in the Square were dangerous, ineffective, and left Grantown short of parking spaces. GVCC minutes made clear that despite promises, the Highland Council had not consulted GVCC on the arrangements. GI and GVCC agreed this important issue – joint letter from both chairs to be sent as follow up.</p>
<p>High Street appearance Main concern Ritchies and Hydro shop. Both Chairs to make approaches to property owners with a view to improving their appearance.</p>
<p>Community engagement This is a perennial challenge for community groups. Two issues: involvement (eg in projects) and engagement (ie in current issues requiring views). As first step, raise awareness of what is being done by GVCC and GI by providing information to The Strathy. It was agreed that there would be 3 joint meetings per year, with the next scheduled for October.</p>
<p>Broadband Despite GI making contact and a case with Drew Hendry MP regarding the rollout of free WiFi across the Highlands and Grantown Society applying for funding from Digital Scotland, Grantown not selected for Free WiFi. Proposed to have meeting with businesses to evidence the level of demand, and then approach Highland Council.</p>
<p>Dementia Project GI working to get Grantown recognised as a dementia friendly town. Meeting to be arranged with interested parties – looking to involve church, Medical Practice, businesses - Alzheimier’s Scotland will deliver tailored training</p>