

Assynt Resilience Group

Assynt Development Trust, Assynt Community Council Community Care Assynt, Connect Assynt working together

Minutes of the meeting Monday 1st June 2020 4:00pm held via Zoom

No	Item	Action
1	<p>Attendance: Willie Jack & Sarah-Ann MacLeod (ADT), David Slator & Bill Wardley Smith (CCA), Jane Young (CA) and Liam Taylor (ACC) (from Item 5),</p> <p>Observing: Adam Pellant, Ewen McLachlan (ADT)</p> <p>Apologies: Andy Summers Volunteer co-ordinator Not present: Roddie Kerr (CA)</p>	
2	<p>Any conflicts of interest? None</p>	
3	<p>Newsletter:</p> <p>JY asked about donations and whether donations could be made in cash instead of online and also whether cash donations could be made at AL on the Monday & Friday food drop off days. WJ replied that online is safer & quicker but of course cash is acceptable. At present when banks are closed it would require a transfer from a personal account to ADT's bank account.</p>	
4	<p>Hot meal provision:</p> <p>WWS advised that Nicky & Stewart at Inver Lodge Hotel had told him that the Hotel would not be reopening this season and therefore the hotel kitchens would not be available. In discussions with the board, staff & volunteers at CCA it was felt that at present there does not appear to be a need for additional hot meals. DS said that CCA do not wish to move away from the present model of occasional provision of weekend meals for which there is a charge made. SAM said that she felt that the initial demand may have passed. The ARG agreed to not consider hot meal provision further unless we are approached with a request .</p>	
5	<p>Food bank:</p> <p>a) Update. WWS advised that last week food boxes went out to 29 households for the benefit of 52 people. This included some new recipients and there will be further new recipients this coming week. The feedback tells us that the contents need a bit of a tweak to ensure the contents are the most appropriate. WWS feels that the volunteers are doing well and the provision is developing all the time. A Fair-Share food delivery arrived via Dornoch last Friday and SAM & WWS visited Bookers in Inverness last Friday to bulk buy dried & tinned goods; further trips will be dependent on demand. Williamsons fresh food delivery is expected tomorrow morning (June 2nd) and the next food box delivery will be on Wednesday (June 3rd). WJ asked how the provision of food boxes is likely to develop and WWS replied that he felt it could increase week on week but more importantly the demand will continue for a longer period.</p> <p>b) Albyn Housing Association Hardship Fund. Albyn HA have introduced a £200k hardship fund for the 2,500 tenants of their properties. In addition all those who are claiming Universal Credit will receive an additional £90pm during the Covid19 crisis. Pre Covid there were around 12 Albyn tenants who were recipients of food aid. Letters were believed to have been sent out by Albyn to all their tenants about the hardship fund, but it seems some may not have received them. SAM said there is a perception that some people are receiving food aid when their financial situation hasn't changed as a result of Covid. Meanwhile there are others whose hours of work have been cut, and/or income levels reduced who could fall through the safety net as they are not requesting food aid. LT feels that ARG should review the provision of food aid so that aid is seen to be delivered fairly to those in need and yet not miss people out who need assistance and will benefit. WWS felt that it was time to commence a review of those who receive aid. AP expressed strong concern in principle against any proposal to review the need for receipt of food aid as the SCF money should not be means tested in any way. WWS said that he felt we should give an opportunity to those who</p>	WWS

	<p>receive food aid to say if they really need the aid. It was pointed out that the UK & Scottish Governments are providing food aid to all individuals who are being shielded whether or not they have requested food aid and to our knowledge this is not being reviewed. LT agreed to produce a draft written explanation of the ARG's approach to food aid and to email it to group members for agreement.</p> <p>c) Morrison's Supermarket have offered charities and those working with food poverty to buy supplies at wholesale or cost price. WWS agreed to find out more and report back.</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>WWS</p>
6	<p>PPE:</p> <p>a) SAM told the meeting of Bacoban anti-viral spray disinfectant. LT advised that ACC have supplies of an anti viral cleaner which is diluted and used in a spray bottle. Local toilets – only Lochinver, Rhiconich & Durness HC toilets remained open through Lock-down but SAM believes that all HC toilets are about to re-open. LT advised that ACC continue to press HC for answers about anti-Covid19 hygiene in toilets.</p> <p>b) Guidance on cleaning protocols for the toilets at Little Assynt and Stoer Head: There appears to no guidance coming out from HC or SG in relation to protocols for public toilet cleaning protocols.</p>	<p>LT</p>
7	<p>Masks:</p> <p>WJ advised that approx. 700 masks have now been made and are being distributed throughout Assynt by local volunteers. A further 300+ were now being finished off and will soon follow. WWS asked if there were now smaller masks for children – WJ advised that there was a box of 30 available in the latest batch. WJ proposed that the meeting agree to call a halt to mask production until the present masks were distributed. The meeting agreed.</p>	<p>WJ</p>
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) WJ has received a request to pay fuel costs for someone to visit a terminally ill relative. The meeting agreed that while ARG is desperate to help in such a case we cannot pay anyone cash, so practically arranging this is difficult. As an alternative it is possible for ARG to help with food aid and soon electricity & mobile phone top ups.</p> <p>b) Mobile Phone Top Ups. AP has had a request from Highland New Start to ascertain which mobile phone providers' top ups would we expect to be needed in Assynt The meeting advised that the vast majority needed in Assynt will likely be EE.</p> <p>c) WJ received an email asking if a scheme could be started where residents had a permit on their vehicle stating that they lived in Assynt and were not a tourist or visitor. The meeting disagreed with the proposal and DS advised that the most important advice is to socially distance and maintain good hygiene.</p> <p>d) LT asked if the weekly newsletter could be changed into a series of bullet points. WJ advised that it could and possibly it would be better as a series of individual news-stories rather than one longer publication</p> <p>e) LT asked if the meeting could receive regular finance updates like the one sent out last Friday. WJ agreed and will send out pdf/ excel documents prior to each meeting.</p> <p>f) WWS asked if more logs/ coal could be bought to go out with the food boxes. The meeting agreed</p> <p>g) LT advised of changes in Coronavirus support for self catering holiday business owners that need to be publicised.</p>	<p>WWS</p> <p>AP</p> <p>All</p> <p>WJ</p> <p>WWS</p>
9	<p>The meeting ended at 5:45pm</p>	
10	<p>Date of next meeting: Friday 12th June 2020 2:00pm</p>	