

# YES Highland Groups

## Buidhnean na Gàidhealtachd

Delegate Meeting  
Sat. 11 March 2017

Spectrum Centre  
Inverness

Groups: **Inveryess** Apologies: **Skye** (due to local showing  
**Nairnshire** of London Calling film)  
**Ross & Sutherland**

Meeting chair: Graham Bell (Yes Ross & Sutherland)

Meeting minutes: Peadar Morgan (Yes Ross & Sutherland)

Minutes 12 Nov. 2016

Approved at the proposal of Keith Aitchison, seconded by Jim Farquharson.

Inverness report – led by Alison Fraser

- ◆ constitution formally adopted.
- ◆ bank account established.
- ◆ study group formed.
- ◆ public talk held by Paul Kavanagh (Wee Ginger Dug).
- ◆ strategy meeting to be held on 25 March, one representative per group.
- ◆ Yes Shop to open in April.
- ◆ contacts made with a view to establishing an Inverness College student group.

Agreed: **That the various interests and concerns of potential Yes voters be mapped out.**

Nairnshire report – led by Jim Farquharson

- ◆ several meetings and activities held.
- ◆ finances were currently healthy.
- ◆ new member had brought video production skills and ambitions to the group.
- ◆ Moray now has two Yes groups, but tensions may ease after the local elections.

Agreed: **That Highland Yes groups engage with Nairnshire to produce promotional videos.**

Ross & Sutherland report – led by Graham Bell

- ◆ constitution formally adopted.
- ◆ difficulty in establishing bank overcome – problem may be general not political.
- ◆ structure proposed with local informal affiliated groups.
- ◆ multinational participation – Polish language materials under preparation.

Agreed: **Alastair MacDonald to circulate by email details of his background notes.**

Agreed: **That the political message had to be relayed by a wide and varied range of media.**

Political Update – led by Dave Thompson

- the single market & freedom of movement ahead of EU membership may balance the appeal to EU migrants on the one hand, and to anti-EU Yessers on the other.

- farmers and crofters, if not fishermen, were beginning to appreciate the threat of Brexit to the rural economy, in what could be the final stage of the Clearances.
- a conditional approval of a Section 30 request for a referendum could be a trap set by Westminster so as to divide and rule the Scottish electorate.
- local elections likely to produce a majority vote for the pro-indy parties; voters listing all indy party candidates was best way to suppress the unionist vote.

Agreed: **That given the potential for them to participate in an administration in opposition to indy parties, no support should be lent even to pro-indy Independents.**

Highland Action – led by Keith Aitchison

- a virtuous cycle exists of activity > activists > resources > activity etc.
- Hilton and Merkinch are Inverness targets.
- Inverness street markets can accommodate additional Yes stalls from outwith city.
- local leaflets to be shared through the Indy Register app, once function is added.
- locally produced Polish-language leaflet nearly ready for use.
- 200 copies of London Calling, on BBC IndyRef1 bias, distributed at the meeting.

Agreed: **Graham Bell to provide immediate social media responses on behalf of all groups.**

Agreed: **Colin Dunn, Cromarty, to be approached by Graham Bell to provide graphics support.**

Highland Polish Community – led by Marius Flaszka

- EU migrants now solidly Yes, with IndyRef1 lies & use as Brexit bargaining chips.
- Polish media widely accessed & message getting through, if occasionally warped.
- many considering leaving, and fewer coming over; but also families settled here.
- though expulsion unlikely, concern that medical support etc will eventually cease.
- most registered to vote, but wary of drawing attention by being politically active.

Agreed: **That a small, possibly nominal, team of EU migrants be sought for campaign support.**

Agreed: **That Peadar Morgan research and map census data on the Polish community.**

Agreed: **That flags & badges be used for marketing. Graham Bell to get details of Wee Flag Co.**

Agreed: **That a discrete Yes stall be at Black Isle & local Shows – list from Angus MacLennan.**

Agreed: **That Alison Fraser prepare a Highlands & Islands banner for the Hague indy march.**

Next Meeting

10.30–13.00 Sat. **9 September** 2017, Graham & Peadar to administer again.

Agreed: **That Saturday meetings start at 10.30 am to allow for travel from West and North.**