

YES Highland na Gàidhealtachd

Business Meeting
Sat. 9 September 2017

InverYESs Hub
Inverness

Sederunt – 17 reps

Aye2Aye Lochaber: Iain MacEacharn, Sharon Trish

InverYESs2: Alison Fraser, Kathleen Maciver, Kay Frew Harris, Monica MacDonald, Sheena Coyne, Stuart MacDonald

Nairnshire Yes2Indy: Aidan McCormack, John Robertson

Ross & Sutherland: Alison MacLeod, Anne Searles, Graham Bell, Ian Vallely, Lorraine Carson, Peadar Morgan

Skye & Lochalsh: Carole Inglis

Group Apologies: Badenoch & Strathspey, Forres, Moray

Meeting chair: Graham Bell

Meeting minutes: Peadar Morgan

Minutes 11 March 2017

Approved at the proposal of Alison Fraser, seconded by Ian Vallely.

Agreed: **That attendance and apologies need be minuted by group only.**

Inverness report – led by Kay Frew Harris

- Hub opened, furnished wholly through in-kind contributions.
- Wild-stalling at events e.g. Durness; mapping of future shows being considered.
- Fund-raising quiz night planned, 20 October.

Lochaber report – led by Sharon Trish

- Visit from National Registry tour.

Nairnshire report – led by John Robertson

- No independent Yes stalls held over summer due to election commitments.

Ross & Sutherland report – led by Graham Bell

- Mobile hub & stall in Alness, Dornoch, Inverness, Rosemarkie, Black Isle Show.
- Sub-group expected to form in Sutherland following success of Dornoch stall.
- Bus for Glasgow march 16 Sep.; Wee Ginger Dug returning to Dingwall 19 Sep.
- Canvassing app developed & awaiting trial run with a mass canvass of Alness.

Skye & Lochalsh report – led by Carole Inglis

- Yes stall barred from local shows.
- Visit from National Registry tour.
- Common Weal talk & No Bridge Too Far crossing of Skye Bridge, 23 September.

Agreed: **Alison Fraser to seek an update on the second homes bill from Jim Farquharson.**

Promotion – led by Graham Bell

- Demand was reported for Yes material, in particular car stickers & wristbands.
- Pro-indy graphic artist Colin Dunn (IndyPosterBoy) is prepared to produce artwork if Yes groups carry costs, supply content & organise distribution.
- Ideas included cards with localised content & Chris Cairns cartoons, screen displays, online Yes Radio.

Agreed: **Ian Vallely to head up a Yes promotional team with representation from each group.**

Canvassing App – led by Ian Vallely

- The app was demonstrated, and is available from the Ross & Sutherland website.
- App permits all-weather off-line collection of data, for later uploading to a remote database; data protection is not considered an issue.
- Questions are hard-wired, but change of these for specific activities is feasible; consideration of additional fields to record observed details of respondents such as gender & age were suggested.

Scottish Independence Convention – led by Kay Frew Harris

- The value of a broad campaigning focus with respected co-leaders was recognised, but there was concern at the lack of democratic origins & financial accountability.
- Proposed for additional representation included a rep for the network of hubs, and a rep for each region of Scotland.

Agreed: **Involvement in SIC to be sought, ideally with participation from across the groups.**

Data resources – led by Peadar Morgan

- Large-scale mapping of Census data on domestic Polish users was presented.
- Local election mapping also illustrated the potential of data in campaign targeting.
- Suggestions for demographics to be explored included age and second homes.

Agreed: **Data on second homes to be sought, then matched with voting rolls.**

National Registry – led by Ian Vallely

- The NR app was considered good for locating groups, but poor for communication.
- WhatsApp is better for chat; the NR group forum had potential, but was unused.
- Colin Dunn is in contact with NR about a possible switch to a web-based system.

Highland groups name – led by Peadar Morgan

- It was suggested that Yes Highland would be a good campaigning label for the Highland Yes groups, if it could be made available.

Agreed: **Graham Bell to approach yeshighland.net on future cooperation and use of the brand.**

Next Meeting

Agreed: 10.30–13.00 Sat. 2 December 2017, InverYESs Hub.

Agreed: **Lorraine Carson to consider No Bridge Too Far for Kessock & Gregg St Bridges 23 Sep.**

Agreed: **Consideration to be given to holding an annual event in conjunction with a meeting.**