



# Easter Ross Community Partnership

equality and opportunities for our communities

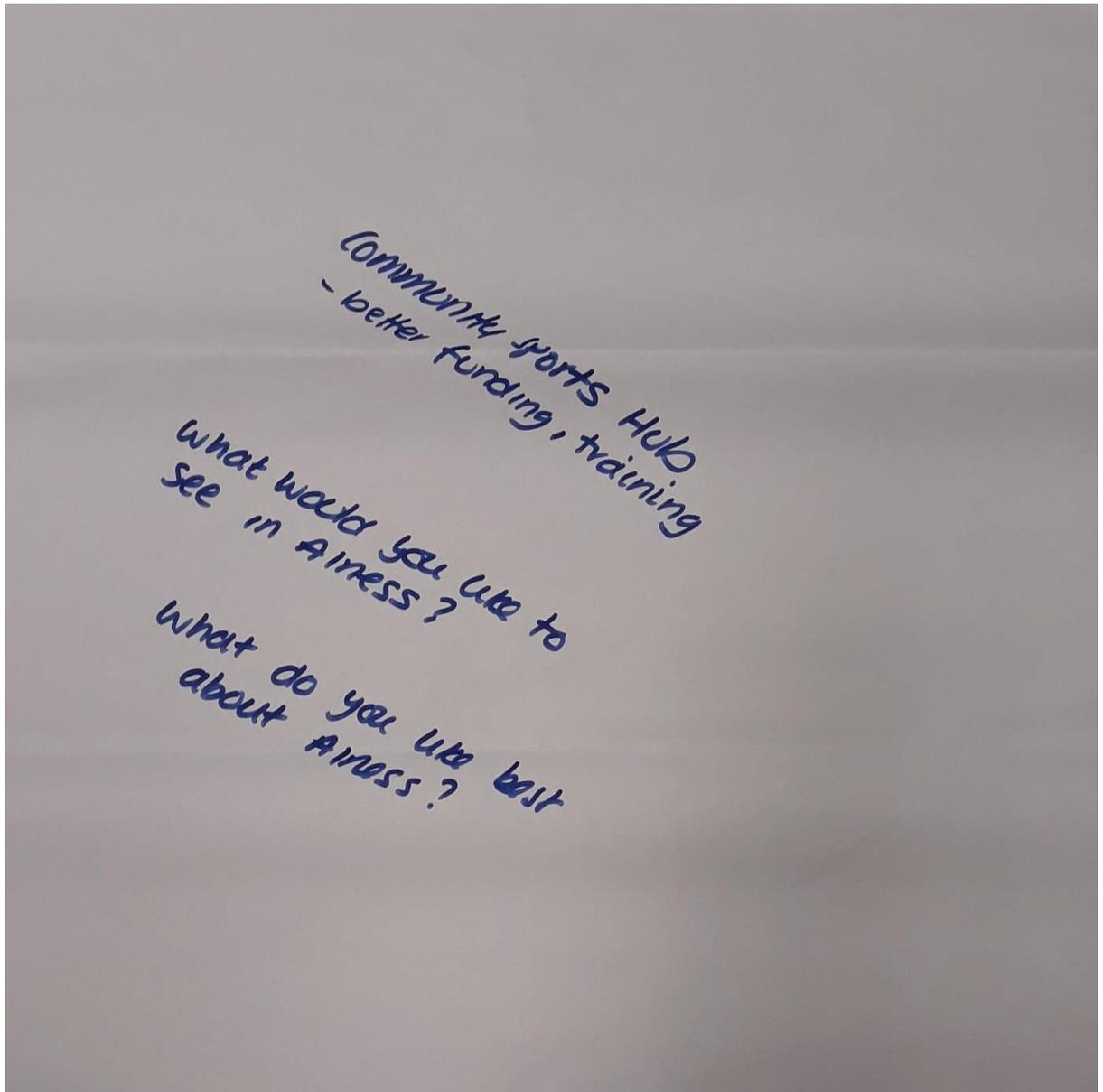
## Notes from the Meeting

### Meeting in Public, 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, Alness Academy, Alness

**Present:** Ricky Dibble (SFRS and ERCP Chair), Maria Dixon (NHS Highland), Nigel Brett-Young (Highlife Highland), Jamie Wilson (Police Scotland), Helen Ross (Highland Council), James Turner (East and Mid Ross Community Engagement Officer), Calum MacMillan (Rosskeen Free Church), Robert Frank (Alness Baptist Church), Councillor Mike Finlayson, Donna Manson (Highland Council), Councillor Carolyn Wilson, Maria Clarke (Invergordon Development Trust), Helen Houston (Invergordon Development Trust), Mary MacDonald (Ross and Cromarty Citizen's Advice Bureau and Alness Community Council), Cairmen Maclean? (Ross and Cromarty Citizen's Advice Bureau), Morven McAndrew (Alness Academy), Gillian Johnstone (Alness Academy), Nicky Grant (Alness Academy), Steve Henderson (Age Scotland), Dominic Corcoran (Police Scotland), Karla Urquart (Active Schools), Katie Christie (Bridgend Primary Parent Council), Rhys Campbell (Youth Development Office).

- 1. Open and Introductions** – The Chair of Easter Ross Community Partnership Ricky Dibble introduced the Partnership and explained a little its origins and purpose. The members of the Partner agencies also introduced themselves. Ricky then spoke about some of the work the Partnership has already done, such as the Locality Plan for the Seaboard communities.
- 2. The Alness Community Survey** – James Turner and Maria Dixon ran through the findings from the survey that was recently conducted in Alness. Concern was expressed as to how representative the findings could be if there were only 99 responses with some present expressing shock that people saw Alness as negatively as the findings suggested. There followed discussion about how the survey was not an end point and was not regarded by the Partnership as representative of Alness as a whole, rather it was a start point and could form the basis for identifying who else needs to be engaged with and how and where this could be done.

An activity had been planned to capture thoughts about the findings from the survey from those present, however given the concerns expressed it was decided that rather than focusing on the survey results it would be better to gather thoughts about further engagement with Alness. Those present were invited to discuss this in groups and to record them on the flipchart paper provided. You can read each group's thoughts below:



Community sports Hub  
- better funding, training

What would you like to see in Alness?

What do you like best about Alness?

School + Youth Workers <sup>Nicky +</sup> H.H.

Athess FC - Tommy Regan + assistants

Fyrish Gymnastics - C.W

Kensall Hall - ask Lorna Simpson

Flower Club ?

Groups who use Perrins Centre -

Boating Club - Meg McDonald

Fishing Club ? Gillian Unger

Averon Centre ask SDS - local Job Club + Job Centre +

Churches

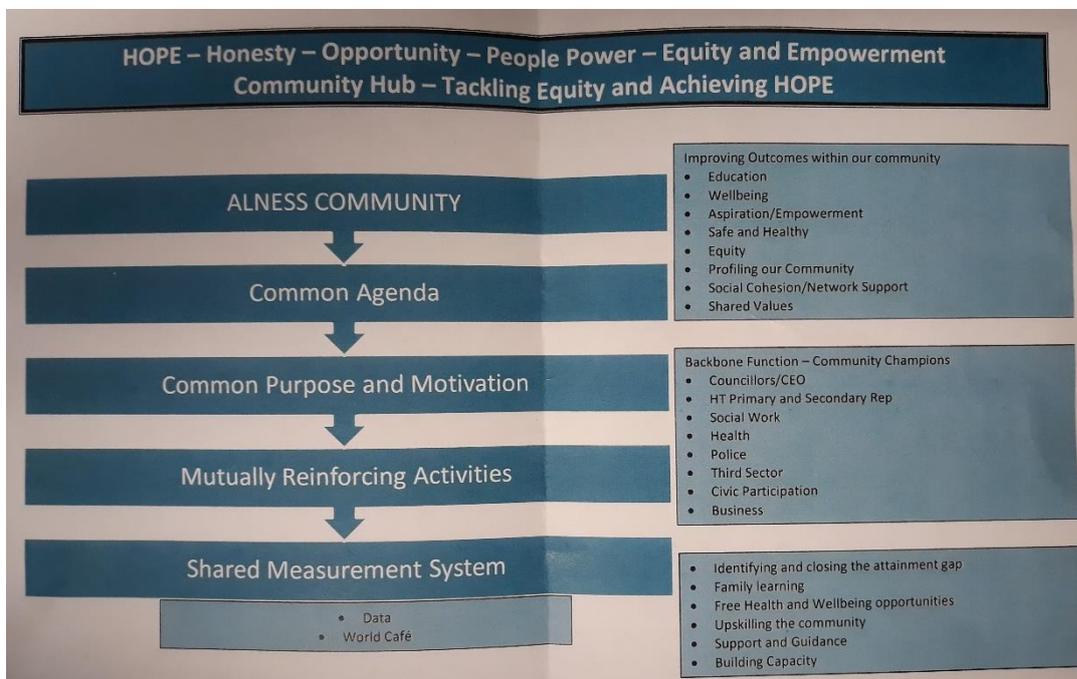
Capstone

Local employers - eg Goodfread,  
Morrisons  
- we could support via James





3. **Guest Speaker - PC Dominic Corcoran** from the Sutherland Community Partnership joined the meeting to discuss a project he is working on as part of the Partnership called Sutherland Sustainable Food. The project is still in the planning stages but aims to gather waste food from supermarkets for distribution to 'Community Larders' which would be accessible to anyone. While one of the aims of the project is to try to help address food poverty in Sutherland, the core aim was to prevent food being wasted.
4. **Guest Speaker – Nicky Grant Alness Academy Head Teacher** shared a plan for the development of Alness Academy and how this can help to deliver improvements for the wider community as well as the students. The plan is reproduced below:



5. **Close** - Ricky drew the meeting to a close, thanking everyone for their time and their input into the discussions about a possible way forward in developing an inclusive engagement strategy that can lead to a community led Locality Plan in Alness.