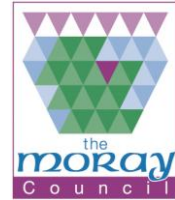




ELGIN NORTH AREA FORUM
Update Reports for Meeting on 1st June 2010



OLDER PEOPLE’S REFERENCE GROUP- LIVING LONGER, LIVING BETTER

Please detail here a short update of the following points:

- Key updates of your group / organisation **See Attached notes**
- Current priorities that your group / organisation is working on **Revamping, by omitting the overuse of the word “assessment”, in two letters sent out by senior care officers to the public.**
- Suggestions of how Elgin North Area Forum could work in partnership with your group / organisation on current projects **Members of ENAF are asked to attend an event in July to be held in Elgin called ‘Reshaping Care for Older People’ – see attached notes – and encouraging older people in the community to attend.**
- Any other relevant information that you think Elgin North Area Forum should be aware of

**Notes on meeting of Older People’s Reference Group
Held at
Spynie Hospital on 31st May 2010**

Items 1 and 2 on the Agenda were agreed. Unfortunately, most of the other items were not covered due to time restraints.

One important item was given a lot of time and that was the use of the word “assessment” in letters sent out by senior care officers. Two standard copy letters were handed to the group for comment. The Group decided that these letters needed to be given serious thought and rewritten. Each member has been asked to revamp the letters to their own preference and then forward to Sandra. These will be collated and discussed again at the next meeting.

Sandra and three members of the Group, who had attended an event in Aberdeen on the 24th May, entitled ‘Reshaping Care for Older People, National Public Engagement Programme’ gave a brief outline of this. The panel was made up with representatives from NHS Scotland, Local Authority, Scottish Government and the Voluntary Sector. The meeting was to inform on where money is spent and where it could be saved.

Those attending thought this was a very worthwhile session and due to the fact that Aberdeen wasn’t an easy venue for some OPRG members, Sandra made the suggestion that she would try and organise a similar event in Elgin for people in Moray. This would be some time in July, possibly at the Town Hall, with date to be notified.

She feels that as many interested parties as possible should be encouraged to attend this event, i.e. members from each Forum and older people in the community, to listen and give input to the event.

The Head of Community Care joined the meeting and gave a brief outline of what practical care is available to the aged and those with disabilities, whether physical or learning. This is a huge area and the Group have requested more in-depth information on these subjects. It was agreed and a separate session will be arranged to give a full breakdown of the services available together with leaflets and information packs, which are handed out to the public.

The next meeting of the Older People’s Reference Group will be on Wednesday, 25th August at Spynie Hospital at 2.p.m.

Report completed by: Sheila Hollis

Position held within group / organisation: ENAF member

Date report submitted: 1.6.10

ELGIN SOUTH AREA FORUM

Date of last meeting: 18.5.10

Please detail here a short update of the following points:

- Key updates of your group / organisation

The Elgin Allotments Association are delighted to have the use of a garden share on Wards Rd and it is receiving favourable comments from the public and surrounding community. However they are still seeking to obtain ground for allotments from the council.

- Key issues your group / organisation is currently facing

We are seeking to be made aware of the plans etc the Community Planning Partners have for Elgin South and are therefore using every other Forum meeting for themed speakers and discussion. On June 15th we will have a representative from NHS management to be our speaker and we have furnished them with questions in advance.

- Current priorities that your group / organisation is working on

We have sent a letter to the national Appeal Panel regarding a dispensing contract for Boots, Edgar Rd as their move to Glass Green has created a void for the housing immediately south of Edgar Rd. Repeat prescriptions are the main difficulty. We have also written to Grampian Health Board to enquire why the only community consultation conducted was left to those who have a commercial interest, namely Boots.

Report completed by: Louise Ellerby

Position held within group / organisation: Chair

Date report submitted: 31.5.10

ELGIN ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Date of last meeting: 19 March 2010

The council has just put through a policy for allotments in Moray, we are still focused on looking for sites in and around Elgin working with the council and private land owners. We have been given a piece of land in Elgin as part of a gardenshare scheme. We have 16 plots. This is a great way of showing the council just how little a space can make a big impact of the local peoples' lifestyles in a fantastic positive way. The Forum could just keep putting us on their agenda and keep us in mind when talking to councillors and community groups.

Report completed by: Dorothy Allan

Position held within group / organisation: Secretary

WAULKMILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Date of last meeting: 18th May 2010

As of our last meeting on 18th May 2010 our group has formally adopted a constitution thus forming "Waulkmill Residents Association"

One issue our organisation is currently facing is the park at Barlink Road. We are still in discussion with Tom Leggeat at Springfield with the options of removing trees around the park area. Tom has planned for a tree survey to be carried out. We hope to have more answers when he attends our meeting on 15th July 2010.

Another key issue is "Screen Autumn" Springfield's maintenance team. As each resident pays a £10 service charge monthly for this service, we expect work to be done. They make occasional visits to the scheme but nothing that justifies the £10 per month. We have requested our Housing Associations to address the issue.

A recent issue is the mini roundabout that exists at the entrance to the scheme. It provides no positive function and with two accidents last month we are calling on Springfield to address this safety issue. A letter is being drafted and supported by the Housing Associations and addressed to Springfield MD in attempt to get some progress.

Things are looking good for establishing our Neighbourhood watch group. I have registered us with the "The Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches". All that's required now is a couple of volunteer residents to take on the role of sub coordinator. Once two more volunteers have come forward I will contact PC Ray Walker to formally establish the group.

Waulkmill Residents Association with the assistance of Moray Councils Community Support Unit are looking to host an event for children during the summer holidays.

One issue that our group would be grateful for support on is tackling the mini roundabout at the entrance to our estate. This is a major safety concern for not just the residents but every motorist using the roundabout. If ENAF are able to provide any form of assistance or direction it would be gratefully appreciated.

At our last meeting Denise Gormley mentioned about the possibility of community notice boards. I believe councillor Russell might have been looking into this; it would be good if ENAF could back this as I believe it could bring benefits to many localised communities across the Moray area.

Our next meeting will be 15th July 2010.

Report completed by: Chris Savage

Position held within group / organisation: Chair

Date report submitted: 30th May 2010