



Elgin North Area Forum
Tuesday 1st December 2009
Elgin Town Hall.

Present: Kieron Green (Chair), Malcolm Stewart (Secretary), Alistair Fulton (Treasurer), Alistair Kennedy, Harry Torry, Alex MacMillan, Heather Park, Sheila Hollis, May McGarrie, Elsie Scott, Vera Gaskell

In Attendance: Cllr Barry Jarvis, Cllr Graham Leadbitter, Cllr John Russell, Cllr Mike Shand, Katie Corsar (Minute Secretary)

Apologies: Ed Brumby, Beth Simpson, Cllr John Divers, Ronnie Sim, Cllr John Sharpe, Eilidh McLean

1. Welcome

Kieron welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes from last meeting

With the last set of minutes being the minutes from the Forum's AGM they were not adopted at this meeting.

3. Matters Arising

i) Barlink - Denise has organised for a risk assessment to be done at the play park. Doug Reid (Senior Health and Safety Advisor, The Moray Council) attended and indicated there were specific issues in the area. A report reflecting this is being drafted to reflect the issues. It has been suggested to hold a meeting in the area and to invite professionals and residents with the view of ensuring a common understanding of what is happening and what the Tree Preservation Order procedure is. Residents are keen for this to be positive between them and professionals to ensure future development in the area. This meeting would allow the residents in Waulkmill Grove to become involved (if they wished) as requested by Cllr Russell at a previous meeting.

Action: Denise to develop.

ii) Vandalism at Churches on Lesmurdie Road - Denise has tried to find out more information relating to this and has discovered that agencies are already working with groups of young people in the area

such as youth team and schools. Denise has suggested an alternative approach around the theme of the Community Champions initiative and the official launch of the play area in the woods. Denise suggested that perhaps a large press release highlighting the play area and the good work of the young people involved and also detailing the different ways that the local community can report anti-social behaviour would be beneficial.

Action: Denise to develop.

iii) Litter bins on Morriston Road - It was suggested that the litter bins were on the wrong side of the road at Duff Place and that there need to be more bins on Morriston Road between the schools and the shop.

iv) Letter to Doctor's Surgery - following concerns at recent meeting re difficulties accessing the new doctor's surgery at Glassgreen via public transport, it was suggested that the forum write to the Practice Manager highlighting their concerns. At the last meeting Donald circulated a letter he had drafted with regards to this. It was agreed that this draft was acceptable. At this meeting it transpired that a letter had not been sent out as the Secretary stated that he had not received a draft copy of the letter, therefore to date no letter has been sent out.

Action: Kieron to pass copy of letter to Malcolm

v) Community Champions Initiative – it is proposed that this project will be developed in the New Year alongside Elgin Community Council and Elgin South Area Forum. This is due to priority being placed on Moray Council's proposed budget savings and the public consultation exercise.

vi) Better Community Engagement Pilot - Harry has not been able to attend any meetings to date so had nothing to report. Ian Todd is leading this and the forum was asked if they would like him to come along to explain this further to him and to answer any questions. No decision was made at this meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

As of 31st October the bank account stood at £4,017. It was reported that £450 has been earmarked for Lesmurdie woods project. All information has now been passed on to the bank re change of Treasurer and Alistair now has all statements/receipts. The accounts still need to be signed off by Elgin South Area Forum.

ACTION: Treasurer to pass accounts onto Chairperson who will liaise with Elgin South Area Forum

5. Community Issues

i) Plans for new school - these have now been approved and there will be a meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2009 for the public to view the plans.

ii) There is still ongoing discussion with Transport Scotland re traffic lights at Whittet Drive.

iii) Areas of Multiple Deprivation - Cllr Russell suggested that South Lesmurdie is under-represented by the forum and encouraged forum members to investigate possible avenues in which to attract residents from this area along to forum meetings. It was suggested at this meeting that possible leaflets highlighting the benefits of being a forum member could be circulated in the area.

Action : to be developed by the chair, secretary with support form Denise. Any other members particularly interested in this area of development should contact Denise.

6. Budget Consultation

Forres, Speyside and Elgin have all held their consultation meetings. There were copies of the budget summary available at the meeting for any one who had been unable to attend the meeting and wanted more information. Individual members can respond to the consultation online: elgin.consult@moray.gov.uk or postal copies can be sourced should any member require one. It is envisaged that both Elgin North Area Forum, Elgin South Area Forum and Elgin Community Council will pull together responses following their respective meetings. Residents can also contact Peter Jones at the Moray Council if they would like further information.

Members of this forum felt that they had not been properly informed of all the matters within the consultation document, nor had they been given adequate time to digest a particularly large document, and therefore feel that they are at a disadvantage and not able to respond to as knowledgeably as they would like to. A couple of points that were highlighted by members were that of the cutbacks in the mobile library services and the fact that no other methods of saving money were being mooted bar the cutback of services. The overall consensus following discussion on the consultation was that members did not feel that they have any concrete comments to make for the aforementioned reasons.

The consultation closes on 15th December 2009.

ACTION: Kieron to complete a response on behalf of the forum.

7. A.O.C.B

i) NHS Grampian Consultation runs until 11th December with view to a health plan being drawn up early next year. Anyone who wants to participate in this consultation can do so online.

ii) An email from Elgin Allotments Scheme was received recently highlighting that Elgin South Area Forum had written to the Council stating that it was not pleased regarding the progress of the project. The scheme is having problems securing land from the Council to enable the project to progress.

- iii) A copy of the Supplementary Planning Guide in the Countryside was made available to members to look at. In light of the forthcoming development at Spynie some forum members may be interested in its contents.
- iv) The steering group for the Active Travel Audit in Elgin would like an interested member from Elgin North Area Forum to join the group. Anyone willing to sit on this group should contact Kieron.
- v) Training opportunities - a copy of the Council's Community Capacity Building Calendar was made available to the forum.
- vi) Resignation of Joint Chair - Keiron has received an email from Eilidh offering her resignation as joint chair of this forum due to personal circumstances. Those present at this meeting took the opportunity to thank Eilidh for all her sterling work she had done for, and on behalf of, the forum. It was also stated that she would be sorely missed. It was agreed that a letter will be written on behalf of the forum to thank Eilidh for her commitment and hard work in her time as Joint Chair.

ACTION: Malcolm

8. Date/Time/Venue for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th January 2010.

With there being no other matters to discuss, Kieron closed the meeting at 8:15pm

Any comments or corrections to these minutes can be notified to :-

Denise: 01343 554317 or denise.gormley@moray.gov.uk

Kieron: kierongreen@yahoo.com

Malcolm: 01343 545301 or mal.stewart@btinternet.com