



**Elgin North Area Forum
Tuesday 2nd November 2010
Elgin Town Hall**

Present: Kieron Green (Chair), Donald MacKay (Vice Chair), Malcolm Stewart (Secretary), Sheila Hollis, Harry Torry, Ed Brumby, Heather Park, Ruth Mitchell, May McGarrie (High Spirits), A B Loveland.

In Attendance: Cllr Shand, Cllr Leadbitter, Cllr Jarvis

Apologies: Alex MacMillan (City and Royal Borough of Elgin Community Council), Alistair Kennedy (City and Royal borough of Elgin Community Council / Joint Community Council), Alistair Fulton (Treasurer), Cllr Divers, Cllr Sharp, Denise Gormley (The Moray Council – Community Support Unit).

1. Welcome

Kieron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7:30pm.

2. Minutes from 4th October 2010

There were no amendments to this set of minutes and these were proposed as an accurate account by Harry. This was seconded by Donald.

3. Matters Arising

i) Letter to Margaret Cowie – It was decided at a previous meeting that a letter be sent to the rector of the Academy inviting her to a future Forum meeting to discuss the issue of litter and associated problems in the vicinity of the Academy. Kieron reported that due to the School holidays this has not been sent yet.

Action – Kieron to write to Margaret Cowie stressing the Forum's concerns and inviting her to a future forum meeting.

ii) Trees at Ladyhill (Tesco Roundabout) - Cllr Leadbitter stated that he had looked at this issue and had been in touch with Bear Scotland and the Moray Council. He reported that visibility appeared to be satisfactory and said that the placing of the trees may actually be deliberate to slow traffic down on approach to the roundabout. He also stated that there was a proposal pending to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph in this area, which would possibly further assist.

iii) Litter etc at the Academy – Harry reported that this continued to be a problem particularly at evenings and during weekends. Among other things, a set of goalposts had been thrown onto the contractor's site fence. Harry said he was keeping the police informed about the situation.

iv) Mosaic at the Plainstones – Harry reported that the original artist of the work had been contacted with reference to repairing it. An estimate of £12,000 had been given and the Council were looking at possible ways of funding this. If no funding can be secured then it is likely that the mosaic will be removed.

4. **Budget Savings Consultation** – This is being held on the 8th November 2010 and although not open to the general public, members of the Forum can attend with a letter of invitation. Kieron asked if anyone was interested in attending and some of the members said they were. Kieron agreed to provide suitable letters and have them available at the door for the consultation.

Action – Kieron to compile letters of invitation.

5. **Community Issues**

i) New Academy Building Issues – Mr Loveland reported on the recent meeting held on the subject. A noise and vibration survey had been conducted and reported that there was not a problem. Residents had pointed out that the survey was carried out after the worst of the work requiring the vibrating machinery had been completed. Residents had reported that possibly 3 properties had suffered damage due to the vibration, but were unable to prove this. The onus is on residents to report problems to their insurance companies, the Council and contractors. The contractor's early starts and late finishing hours (7am to 7pm) continue to be an issue with residents. Also many contractors are not using the designated parking area and it was asked if the Council can do something about this. Kieron agreed to bring the points up at the next Moray Forum meeting. Residents felt that Andy Oliver needs to address these issues to improve relations between all the parties.

Action – Kieron to raise residents' issues at next Moray Forum meeting.

ii) Bishopmill Football Club – Ed Brumby reported that the issue over council charges for facilities was still ongoing.

6. **Community Group Updates**

i) NHS Transport Strategy Group – Harry commented on the fact that the bus stop for the Linkwood medical practice was in the wrong place. This has been raised with the group, but Donald said he would remind them. Also the bus times are not sufficient. Next meeting will take place on 8th November 2010.

ii) Active Transport Group – There is an Active Travel Final Consultation event on 9th November 2010 at 7.30pm in St Giles Church.

iii) Older Peoples' Strategy Group – The last meeting took place on 27th October 2010. The Reshaping Care for Older People event at the Town Hall in July was discussed. Apparently this was the biggest turnout in Scotland. It was agreed to feedback concerns about the way these meetings had been structured nationally. With reference to the planned consultation meetings, the group had not been invited with a view to involvement. As many of the proposed cuts would affect older people it was agreed to enquire why they are not included. It was agreed to feed into an established group involving all stakeholders, concern at the lack of joined up thinking regarding patient transport. Also, the difficulties accessing surgeries by public transport. The Older People's strategy Group was to merge with The Long-Term Conditions group, which was likely to have a knock-on effect on *Living Longer, Living Better* action plan. Attendees of the meeting were able to visit the Anticipatory Care Toolkit launch at Spynie Hospital. This will be used by district nurses to formulate care plans for the frail elderly. The next meeting of the group is on 13th December 2010.

iv) Elgin Ear – The Elgin Ear had an information stand at the Family Learning Day event held at Elgin Library on Saturday, 30th October 2010, which Sheila Hollis attended. Denise organised the table display and was also in attendance. After a slow start, the gentle flow of visitors were informed about the aims of the Elgin Ear. quite a few leaflets were distributed and one written response was placed in the box. This will be dealt with at their next steering group meeting on the 19th November 2010. There have been several reports during the past month which Alex MacMillan has been handling, one or two being satisfactorily resolved.

7. Treasurer's Report

As of the end of October the balance of the account was £3338.18.

8. Correspondence

i) Domestic Abuse Conference – this will take place on Wednesday 17th November 2010 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. At the last Forum meeting Ronnie Sim had agreed to attend this conference and requested information nearer the time.

Action:- Malcolm to contact Ronnie

ii) Road Traffic Order Restrictions in town centre – Kieron informed the Forum of proposed alterations to traffic management around the town centre area from the old Post Office to the Muckle Cross, Batchen Street, Commerce Street, South Street and North Street. Cllr Leadbitter further briefed that this proposal was seen as a cost effective way in which to improve the traffic situation in the vicinity. It would entail alterations to taxi ranks, disabled parking, access to Batchen Street and North Street, as well as parking on High Street and South Street. Kieron said he had a copy of the proposition and should

anyone wish to see it they could look at it following this meeting and provide him with any feedback.

9. A.O.C.B.

i) Forum Funds - Harry said that as the Forum appeared to have quite a lot of money in the account, some more advertising could be carried out, such as in the Midweek Extra, Spotlight or leaflet drops. Mr Loveland agreed and said that most people don't know about the Forum. Harry said he would mention at the next Community Council meeting that we would be starting an advertising campaign so it would be minuted. It was mentioned that advertising in the Spotlight costs £17.50 per issue, for a minimum of 12 months.

ii) Academy Issues – It was reported that no residents were included in any of the reference groups, but teachers, PTA and the Council were.

iii) Fence at Bishopmill Primary – Harry reported that the 5 strand farm type fence at the school requires replacing to prevent injury and trespassing, in addition to preventing balls from being kicked through onto the road or down towards the river. Cllr Shand said he aware of the problem and had already written voicing his concerns.

iv) Academy Traffic – Mr Loveland said feedback had still not been given about concerns over traffic on Morrison Road and the potential for an accident. He wanted to know if a traffic audit has been carried out and if not, why not.

v) Public WCs – Ed Brumby commented that when Pitlochry closed their public toilets, hotels, pubs and the theatre agreed to allow their toilets to be made available to the public. It was replied that the Council would have to pay for this and so Moray Council won't do it.

10. Date/Time/Venue for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th December at 7:30pm in Elgin Academy.

With there being no other business to discuss Kieron thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8:55pm.