



**Minutes of Elgin North Area Forum  
Held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009  
At Elgin Community Centre**

**Present:** Eilidh McLean (Chair), Kieron Green, Gill Berkeley, Vera Gaskell, Harry Torry, Ronnie Sim, Alex MacMillan, Alastair Kennedy, Elsie Scott, Elizabeth Simpson, Donald Mackay, Brian Loveland, May McGarrie, Sheila Hollis, Heather Park, Ed Brumby,

**In attendance:** Cllr John Russell, Cllr Barry Jarvis, Cllr Barry Jarvis, Cllr Graham Leadbitter, Cllr Mike Shand, Amy Cheer (CLD), Andy Oliver (PPP Project Manager), James Cruickshanks (Adviser on Education (PPP Office)), Kate Fulton (Minute Secretary), Michelle Gillibrand and Linda Adam (Support Workers)

### **1.0 Welcome & Apologies**

Eilidh took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7pm. Eilidh suggested that we took item 4 on the agenda first to allow Andy Oliver and James to leave the meeting before the forum continued with the other business on the agenda. There was no objection to this.

### **4.0 Project Update on Elgin Academy**

Andy Oliver gave an informative update of the progress on the building of the new Elgin Academy. During his presentation he covered the following areas:-

- Origins of Moray PPP;
- Development of brief for Elgin Academy;
- PPP process; and
- Moray PPP – where are we now?

A handout was circulated to all present, giving more details on the above points.

Following the presentation there was a lively discussion. The main areas of discussion were:-

- The public footpath that runs through the school grounds;
- The design of the new building;
- If there had been sufficient consultation around this PPP project;
- The demolition period for the old building;
- Anti-social behaviour- e.g. litter
- Car parking and pick up/dropping off points for children; and
- The life expectancy of the building.

Eilidh thanked both Andy and James for coming to the meeting and they left at 8:00pm.

### **2.0 Minutes of the last meeting**

At this stage in the meeting Eilidh welcomed Linda Adams, who has recently been appointed the Area Forum Support Worker for Buckie, Keith and Speyside It was explained that she was at the meeting to observe.

Michelle apologised for the typos in a couple of places in the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The minutes were then proposed by May McGarrie and seconded by Alex MacMillan.

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

**6 c) Letter to Elgin Academy** – currently in draft form but will be sent by 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**8 c) Quarrelwood** – Michelle and Gill to contact Eric Marriot.

**8 d) Grounds for Bishopmill United Football Club**– there was a lot of discussion around this matter as there is great disappointment amongst forum members, in general, that nothing has been resolved, by Councillors, prior to this meeting. It was decided that all the Councillors for the area should approach the Chief Executive of the Moray Council to raise the concerns of the forum, finding a positive solution in resolving this issue.

### **5.0 Appointments**

Kate Fulton was introduced to the forum as its new Minute Secretary.

The post of Treasurer is still vacant. Michelle asked if there was anyone interested in the position or knew of anyone who would be.

**Action: ALL**

### **6.0 Update of the Moray Forum**

Kieron gave an update on the last Moray Forum meeting:

**Community Champions** – Doug MacKenzie, Chief Inspector gave a presentation on the concept of the Community Champions. It was pointed out that in the last year their target had been to reduce vandalism crimes by 250 they had now reduced that by 260. Though reasonably successful the police are aware that there is a section of the community that do not want to speak to the police but would talk to someone in a community that they knew and trusted. There would be anonymity for this person who agreed to take on this the role. The key function would be to pass on information, highlighting an issue that the Police would then research. It was stressed that the community had to be behind this, there would be a point of contact for the Champion and that could be the community warden, community beat officer or Chief Inspector Mackenzie. It was also suggested that individual forums may want to invite Chief Inspector Doug Mackenzie to speak to their forums at a local level.

**Allotments** - at the Moray Forum meeting the difficulties surrounding the Forres Allotment Group was reported. Michelle reported that since this meeting a further meeting has been organised between the Forres Group, Robbie Burns, Chief Legal Officer, John Ferguson, and Michelle. A report is still to go up to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration to set up a lease between the Moray Council and Transition Towns Forres, the umbrellas organisation for the allotment group. Michelle also reported that both the community, officials and elected members are keen to resolve the current situation as quickly as possible.

**Vandalism and Litter Prevention Group** – Harry gave a presentation to the Moray Forum on what the group would like to achieve. This included a Moray-wide campaign. The Moray Forum agreed to support the group and to write to the Safer and Stronger Theme group.

**Forum Support** – it was suggested at the Moray Forum that there could be a cut in the administrative funding for the local area forums within Moray. However, there would still be some funding available towards community projects. At this stage these proposals are still speculative. A consultation process will be put in process in the future regarding this issue.

## 7.0 Strategy Group

The idea of the development of a Strategy Group for the forum was raised. With forums having a strategic role in the local community it was felt that a smaller group could discuss the issues and bring their proposals to a full forum meeting. Harry suggested that the Chair get a group up and running.

## 8.0 Membership Drive

Michelle suggested that the current mailing list needs to be tidied up as there are a number of people on it who never attend forum meetings or taken any active interest in the forum. Likewise it would be good to see if there are any group/individual(s) in the local community who could be linked to the forum. **Action: Malcolm**

## 9.0 Area Forum Support Worker and Youth Update

**Parking** – Parking in the residential area of the hospital is an issue again. NHS Grampian in December invited the forum, community council and the Patient Participation Forum (PPF) to discuss the proposed parking strategy with the abolition of the parking charges. There was a quick rethink of how to manage the car parking issue but unfortunately it appears things have not improved for the residents. The forum's Transport Strategy Group met and it was they suggested that they contacted Elaine Brown again, of NHS Grampian to see if a link could be developed between the community and the hospital to iron things out.

The Transport Strategy Group also had made comment on the latest Transport Order from the Transport Department.

**Lesmurdie Woods Project** - Amy informed the forum that the new BMX track in Elgin was to be called the X trail. Funding is still being sought to finish off this project.

**Elgin North and South Allotment Group** – Michelle reported that the group had a good meeting with the Estates and Ground Maintenance departments of the Council with regard to the 'Dizzy and Sick' (Fairy Park) being a possible area for allotments. This however would have to be considered by Elected Members and this will be done in due course... The group is in the process of planning its first AGM.

## 10.0 Community Issues

**a.) Recycling Bin lids** – it was suggested that these are not secure enough. The forum to see if there is a solution to the problem. **Action: Councillor Russell**

**b.) Aldi's** – apparently it has been suggested that Aldi's want to pull down the old Safeways building to build a new shed. It was suggested that there needs to be more control from the Council as to what goes on the site if this proposal goes ahead. Aldi's state that they do not have any plans at this moment. Councillor Russell reassured the meeting that any future works/developments at the site would have to be considered by the Planning Committee and will involve the appropriate public consultation.

### c.) Community Council

St Giles Church - Alex stated that there will be funding for railing at St Giles Church to act as a deterrent for any anti social behaviour. Seating is also being considered for this area.

Bids Project – Community Council are looking into this initiative.

Grit Bins at bottom of Lossie Wynd – it was suggested that Bear Scotland are chased up to repaint the box.

**d.) Emergency Helicopter Landing** – Harry suggested that the Councillors, prior to the next meeting, discover what provisions there would be to land an emergency helicopter once the flood elevation plan is in place. **Action: Elected Members**

**11.0 Date/time/venue for next meeting**

With there being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 9:15pm. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm in Elgin Library.**