



**Elgin North Area Forum
Tuesday 4th May 2010
Elgin Community Centre**

Present: Kieron Green (Chair); Alistair Fulton (Treasurer); Harry Torry, May McGarrie, Vera Gaskell, Beth Simpson, Donald McKay, Heather Park, Ed Brumby, Sheila Hollis, Elsie Scott

In Attendance: Inspector Colin Mowat (Grampian Police), Cllr. Mike Shand, Cllr. John Divers, Denise Gormley (The Moray Council – Community Support Unit), Katie Corsar (Minutes)

Apologies: Brian Loveland, Alistair Kennedy, Jill Berkley, Cllr. Sharp, Cllr. Jarvis, Cllr. Leadbitter

1. Welcome

Kieron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7:30pm and asked for any apologies. He then welcomed Inspector Colin Mowat who attended the meeting to give an update on policing matters in the Elgin North area.

2. Guest Speaker – Grampian Police

Inspector Mowat informed the meeting that he had recently spoken to Colin Taylor who had indicated that a Vandalism and Graffiti initiative was in place and that there was going to be a film made about vandalism and graffiti with a group of young people.

Inspector Mowat also stated that there are currently 40 officers in the Elgin area and it has been decided to designate officers into geographical areas to ensure that there is one specifically for the Elgin North Area and one for the Elgin South area.

Inspector Mowat updated forum members on a recent policing success within the Elgin area, where a number of youths had alcohol confiscated due to being under age. Harry informed the meeting that there was a problem of underage drinking and vandalism at Quarrelwoods and that seats were being moved especially behind the water reservoir. The police are aware of this but Inspector Mowat said

that the police welcomed any similar type of information from members of the public. Inspector Mowat however noted these comments from Harry.

Kieron raised the subject of litter especially around Elgin Academy. This has been a frequent subject brought up at past forum meetings. It was suggested that this is a difficult issue to keep on top of and that the Community Warden had done a lot of work around this problem. However, Inspector Mowat said that the police would support the forum in combating this problem.

Inspector Mowat said that if there was anything more the police could do to assist the forum to make contact with himself or his colleagues.

Kieron thanked Inspector Mowat for attending the meeting and he left at 7:50pm.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

It was pointed out that there was an error on page 4 of the previous minutes under the Moray Area Forum. It should have read Cllr. Douglas Ross. With there being no other changes to these minutes Donald MacKay proposed that these were an accurate account of the meeting and Sheila Hollis seconded this.

4. Matters Arising from the last Minutes

i) Ladyhill Steps – May asked if it would be possible to have a ramp as opposed to the steps, which are quite steep and very close to the High Street. Apparently proposals had been made in the past for a ramp there as most people who live in the vicinity are elderly. Harry suggested that perhaps May could draft a letter to Jill Stewart, Chief Housing Officer, regarding the problem. It was pointed out that this may not be feasible due to the ramp being potentially very steep.

ii) Litter - Kieron has contacted Gavin Morgan regarding the Duke of Edinburgh getting involved in a litter pick. The area which needs to be particularly targeted is at Lady's Walk. It was suggested that this was not be a suitable area for very young people to get involved in tidying up hence suggesting the Duke of Edinburgh's involvement. Gavin to get back to forum once individuals have been identified.

It was suggested that part of the litter problem was that the undergrowth is not tidied up which exacerbates the problem. Denise suggested that whilst the police were willing to assist in any litter strategy she asked members present if anyone else would be prepared to get involved in such a strategy. Ed Brumby said that he would be prepared.

Action: Ed Brumby to work with Denise Gormley via the litter sub group.

iii) Delta Force – Kieron has contacted Delta Force and is still waiting for a response.

iv) School Drop off – Kieron said that he has drafted a letter but was not sure who would be the best contact for this letter. It was suggested that it should be sent directly to the school who would forward this on to the PTA.

Action: Kieron to send letter to Bishopmill Primary School

v) Bad weather letter - Kieron has written this letter and still has to send it. A copy will be available for members to view at the next forum meeting.

Action:- Kieron to send letter

vi) Lunch Club – The Community Support Unit has been asked provide support along with an older persons worker. It has been proposed that the Community Centre Coffee Bar provide a hot meal for the older people but through a set menu and at a higher cost than previously charged. The Lunch Club has now ceased operation and this new proposal is due to commence on Wednesday 5th May 2010. Concerns were raised as to how widely known this is. It was explained that a group of the service users have been informing others of this change along with staff from the community centre. Harry pointed out in light of the Older People's Strategy stating that Lunch Clubs are beneficial for older people the forum are quite anxious that a provision remains in place.

vii) Health Board Transport Group - The last meeting took place on 30th March 2010 which Donald attended, on behalf of the forum. With regards to the issue of public transport to the new doctor's surgery at Glassgreen Donald reported that the timetable/route was going to be investigated and if necessary appointment times would be adjusted accordingly to fit in with bus times. The subject of wheelchair accessibility on buses is also a cause of concern for the group at present and they are looking into this. There are plans to expand Dr Gray's which could have an effect on traffic in the area. Donald has asked for a copy of the plans so that the forum could have a discussion about it at a future forum meeting. It was suggested as a means of eliminating the problem that perhaps a park and ride scheme to the hospital could be put in place. It was suggested that Elgin is not big enough for such a scheme but perhaps small shuttle buses could be put in place. In response to the Cycle to Work Scheme new cycle lockers have been put in place for staff. Finally, the group are planning on holding a workshop through the Health board Forum for those with additional needs especially wheelchair users.

vii) Better Community Engagement – Harry said that he had not been able to attend the last meeting. A meeting was held recently for the successful pilot projects. Elgin North Area Forum is involved with the pilot project looking at community engagement within the South Lesmurdie area.

5. Community Issues -

i) Painting of steps/barriers – A forum member received no notification by Moray Council before the painting of steps/barriers within her housing areas. The councillors explained that the council should provide notification and that if this was not done then the resident should contact her Housing Officer.

ii) Steps from Duncan Rise – it was reported that there is still a lot of grit residue left over from the bad weather. Kieron informed the forum that the Moray Council are in the process of clearing the streets up and this should be cleared in due course.

lii) Thornhill Road – the recent update is that signs have been put in place to remind drivers of the speed limit.

6. Updates

i) Elgin Community Council – Harry informed the forum that at the last meeting the Community Council had agreed on their preferred funding option.

ii) Elgin South Area Forum – the South forum has agreed to move to a monthly cycle for their meetings and will hold their meetings every third Tuesday of the month.

iii) Moray Area Forum – the forum met last week but Kieron was unable to attend. He believed that the issue of funding forums was discussed.

iv) Youth Update – as there was no representative present from the Youth Team there was no Youth Update.

v) Elgin Ear – the first surgery was held this evening. Despite interest from forum members no members of the public attended. The first listening box for the public has been put in place in Tesco. The two secondary schools are in the process of making more boxes for the project. Leaflets and posters are on order and the phone line is now up and running. A webpage has been developed via the Your Moray website with more information on the initiative. Training was delivered to the planning group. The next Elgin Ear surgery will be held on Tuesday 15th June 2010, 6.30pm at NEON. It will take place prior to the Elgin South Area Forum meeting. Elgin Ear surgeries will take place one month in Elgin North and the next month in Elgin South.

vi) Allotments – An update was received from Rebecca Kail (Elgin Allotments Association). The group are still looking for suitable sites within the Elgin area. Harry reported that some people have been digging in a spare piece of ground at Wards Road. There has been no further development by Moray Council regarding the strategy for this initiative.

vii) Older People's Strategy Group – There is a meeting scheduled in Aberdeen regarding this strategy. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Sandra Gracie who is arranging transport. This meeting is being held by the Scottish Government to look at developing strategies for the care of older people. There will be two sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. May stated that she is planning to attend. The next meeting of the group will be on 31st May 2010.

viii) Waulkmill Residents – Denise updated the forum that these residents are in the process of forming their own residents association and have scheduled their inaugural meeting for Tuesday 18th May 2010 at Pinetree Church. A draft constitution has been produced along with a community newsletter. The residents have organised a competition for the children within the estate to design the association's logo. Prizes have been secured from local businesses such as Moray Leisure Centre. There was a joint meeting between Waulkmill and Linkwood residents groups where it was decided that the two associations would develop a joint action plan to tackle common issues and areas for development. It was also agreed at that meeting that representatives from each association would attend each others meetings to maintain and develop relationships.

7. Treasurer's Report

As of 31st March 2010 the bank balance stood at £3,028.28. Recent payments have been to the Lesmurdie Wood BMX project.

8. Correspondence

Kieron has received 3 proposed projects which have gone out for consultation.

i) Flood Alleviation Scheme – it is proposed to close some of the back roads. Any forum member wanting more information was invited to see the letter at the end of the meeting.

Action: Kieron to respond to this consultation

ii) Changes to speed limits/parking out towards Spynie – it is proposed that the speed limit would go up to 40mph passed the hospital. Forum members were against this proposal especially in light of the new building work that is going on in the area with the development of the new housing scheme. Elgin North Area Forum strongly recommended that the speed limit should remain at 30mph.

Action: Kieron to respond to this consultation

iii) No waiting at Glover Street - Moray Council proposes to remove the parking bays at the top of Glover Street. It was highlighted at the meeting that the Council have bought the old Somerfield premises and this being the case there would be parking set aside in the car park there for those wishing to visit the Council offices for a short period of time.

Action: Kieron to respond to this consultation

9. A.O.C.B.

i) All forums were asked for a representative to sit on a short term working group to develop a forum handbook. Donald volunteered to represent Elgin North Area Forum.

Action: Denise to forward Donald's contact details on.

ii) **Funding Consultation** – Harry stated that he had an opportunity to look at the proposed figures for payments to the forums and community councils. He noted that the amount had dropped per capita. Harry also pointed out that the consultation does not state what the figures were based on and he thought more precise clarification was needed. It is understood that there is £25,000 in the budget. Elgin Community Council has accepted option 2 whereby a set amount is given to each organisation on a per capita process. This being the case it was suggested that the forum should get in touch with John Ferguson to seek clarification and to raise their views about it.

Action: Kieron to write to John Ferguson

iii) Members had been supplied with paperwork in relation to the development of Elgin North Area Forum. Kieron encouraged members to give their feedback in relation to future guest speakers and other groups / organisations they felt should be represented at the forum. Kieron requested that members complete their forms for the next meeting.

Action: All forum members to complete forms

There being no other business to discuss Kieron brought the meeting to a close at 9:00pm.

10. Date/Time/Venue for next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 1st June 2010. Elgin Academy.