



Minutes of Elgin North Area Forum
Tuesday 7th September 2010, 7.30pm
Pinetree House, Pinefield.

Present: Kieron Green (Chair)
 Alistair Fulton (Treasurer)
 Alex Macmillan (City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council)
 Sheila Hollis- resident
 Vera Gaskell (Bishopmill Village Hall)
 A B Loveland (Bishopmill United Junior Football Club)
 Keith Mitchell - resident
 Helen Mitchell - resident
 Beth Simpson - resident

In Attendance: **Cllr. Barry Jarvis**
Cllr. John Russell
Amy Cruickshank (Moray Council – Elgin Youth Team)
Gordon Methven – Grampian Police
Debbie Anderson – Community Warden
Denise Gormley (Moray Council – Community Support Unit, Minute Taker)

Apologies: **Malcolm Stewart (Secretary), Alastair Kennedy, Cllr. John Divers, Harry Torry, Cllr. Graham Leadbitter, Ronnie Sim, Cllr. Mike Shand, Gill Berkeley, Katie Corsar (Minute Taker).**

Minute	Discussion	Action
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Kieron welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the guest speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amy Cruickshank - Gordon Methven and Debbie Anderson 	
2	<p>Guest speaker</p> <p>Debbie Anderson gave an informal brief on a new scheme which has just recently started within Elgin. On the 21st August 2010 the Green Dog Walkers Scheme was launched during Dog Awareness Day in Cooper Park. Responsible dog owners can sign up to this scheme and are identified by wearing a green armband. These dog owners carry extra dog foul bags which other dog walkers can approach them for. Debbie explained that this scheme had been funded by Moray Council. Information and bags are available at the two Buccaneer Garages, Bonnie Earl shop and Springfield shop.</p> <p>Councillor Russell explained that this scheme had been a successful pilot project in Forres.</p> <p>Debbie explained that seventy three dog owners had already signed up to the scheme in Elgin and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Councillor Russell further explained that there was no</p>	

	<p>expectation for those wearing armbands to be aggressive towards those who do not pick up their dog foul. Debbie reinforced this by saying that this was a non-confrontational scheme.</p> <p>Gordon Methven explained that whilst they had received complaints about dog fouling by guide dogs their owners were exempt from this law.</p> <p>Debbie encouraged anyone who was interested or required further information to contact her.</p> <p>Gordon Methven stated that whilst youth annoyance had been a common issue the police have noticed a reduction of young people on the streets in recent times. Gordon asked members if they were aware of anything within their communities that the police need to be aware of. Those present had nothing to report.</p> <p>Kieron thanked both Debbie and Gordon for their contributions to the meeting and introduced Amy Cruickshank.</p> <p>Amy stated that she was present to give an update on youth work within Elgin. Amy began by asking those present for examples of youth work they were aware of in Elgin. Alex Macmillan responded with the example of the support given to youth groups such as Young Cooper Troopers. Amy explained that this was a good example of a community based youth project.</p> <p>Councillor Russell asked if the cleaning of the St Giles steps was one such project. Debbie Anderson and Amy explained that this was a project between the police and Moray Council. Debbie explained that a film had been made by the young people and would be available soon for viewing. Sheila Hollis asked what age ranges were involved with this project, Debbie responded that it was young people aged between fifteen years and eighteen years old.</p> <p>Councillor Jarvis cited the example of street work. Amy explained that this was once a stand alone provision within youth work but is now integrated within the whole service. Street work responds to young people's need and the youth team are looking into the possibility of using police / community intelligence to better utilise the time staff spend on the streets.</p> <p>Amy further explained that a major part of youth work is now located within schools. This has increased over the last few years with the impact of youth work within schools now demonstrated. Current school projects include a pilot project in Elgin High School where third year pupils as part of their curriculum work are involved with a course called, "Participate". This is an accredited course for the young people. The Youth Team hope to start some senior youth clubs (for P6 & P7 pupils) in the area with sixth year pupils running these with the support from the Youth Work team. The senior pupils would be supported to work towards awards for their volunteering. Primary 7 Transition work is another example of current Youth Work in the area. Amy highlighted that all activities are accredited for young people apart from street work.</p>	<p>Any member interested to contact Debbie Anderson</p>
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	<p>Amy informed those present that an MSP recently came to Moray to visit a community based project called, "Moving Forward" which is aimed at young people under nineteen years who are not able to maintain a full time course. This project has been highlighted as good practice.</p> <p>Amy explained that the Youth Team have a youth van which is used as a meeting space for young people as and when they identify the need. Amy uses the van in partnership with other professionals, for example the BIDS project.</p> <p>Amy gave a short explanation of the Curriculum For Excellence which is currently being rolled out within Scotland. Elements of Curriculum For Excellence include writing, reading, communication skills as well as the health and wellbeing of pupils. All youth work is linked into this scheme as well as other national strategies hence why the model of youth work has changed.</p> <p>Amy further detailed a young parents group and young parents to be group that staff support at Moray College. In reply to a comment from one of the forum members Amy explained that the Duke Of Edinburgh Award Scheme is part of the Community Learning & Development structure as is youth work.</p> <p>Councillor Russell requested on behalf of members that the youth work staff when in schools reinforce the litter message to young people. Debbie Anderson explained that litter patrols had been operating during the first week of the term at Elgin Academy and that she intends to speak to the fifth and sixth year pupils. Both Amy and Denise reminded Debbie to share this with other partners as there are attempts to work on the litter issue through partnership working as opposed to agencies working on their own.</p> <p>Alex Macmillan asked Amy if it would be possible to promote the Elgin Ear scheme through their youth van as a way of engaging with young people to hear their views and opinions. Amy agreed to this, Denise will supply Amy with leaflets.</p> <p>Gordon Methven asked Amy if there were any plans to have volunteers come out with youth work staff and receive training. Amy responded that this had been done previously with students and that there are hopes to work in partnership with other agencies such as health and criminal justice.</p> <p>Kieron thanked Amy for her informative presentation and for taking questions from forum members.</p>	<p>Denise to provide Amy with Elgin Ear leaflets</p>
3	<p>Previous minutes The minutes from 6th July 2010 and 3rd August 2010 were read by Kieron Green.</p>	

4	<p>Matters arising 6th July 2010 Litter Update – on the back of a very good idea suggested by Ed Brumby, Denise is currently undertaking research with each of the other local authorities in Scotland to find out details of initiatives / schemes they have rolled out with regards to litter issues. Denise is collating details on what took place and why, who was involved and what role did they play, what was the outcome, what worked well, what did not work well and what would they do differently. The aim is to learn from other practices. Denise also contacted Debbie Anderson and Lynne Farquharson (Grampian Police) for feedback on what different types of litter schemes have operated with police involvement. River Lossie – Malcolm agreed to write a letter in relation to this but due to his apologies for the meeting there was no further update. Trees at Ladyhill – Cllr. Leadbitter agreed to progress this but due to his apologies for the meeting there was no further update. 3rd August 2010 PPP – Kieron requested that this be discussed at a later stage in the meeting.</p>	<p>Denise to continue with this research. Debbie and Lynne to provide any relevant information</p> <p>Malcolm to action</p> <p>Cllr. Leadbitter to action</p>
5	<p>Community Issues AB Loveland fed information to the forum on the continuing struggle that Bishopmill Utd Junior Football Club are having in relation to training and playing facilities. A proposal had been submitted to Moray Council in relation to floodlights, a shelter to accommodate a committee room and toilets but this was refused with no explanation. AB Loveland explained that four teams from the central belt will be travelling to the Pinefield pitches for matches very soon and there will be no toilet facilities for visiting players or supporters let alone facilities to host them for a drink. AB Loveland is particularly concerned with the image this will portray of Elgin in terms of Junior Football. A further issue the club have come across is that Moray Council have stated that they will charge the team for training on the green grass out with the pitches. As there are no training facilities the team have no where else to train. A club official went to look at the pitches at Thornhill but there were no facilities, the goals had even been removed from there according to some young people in the area. AB Loveland explained that he could not understand why Moray Council would charge the club for training in this area when people could go to Cooper Park and train and not be charged. Councillor Russell suggested that AB Loveland contact Gordon Sutherland (Planning & Economic Development Manager) and make him aware of how the planning enquiry was dealt with. In terms of the proposed charges Councillor Russell requested that this be detailed in a letter to him to allow him to pursue this further. Councillor Jarvis stated that the pitches at Thornhill are ongoing with the developers. Councillor Russell suggested that Cllr. Divers may be able to pick this up further. Mr Keith Mitchell wished to raise some issues around the</p>	<p>AB Loveland to contact Gordon Sutherland (Moray Council) AB Loveland to write to Cllr. Russell detailing charging issues</p>

	<p>Elgin Academy works. Mr Mitchell thanked the forum for the work done to facilitate the previous community open meeting at Elgin Academy and whilst it was well attended Mr Mitchell felt that the time was not conjusive to allow for better attendance. Mr Mitchell stated that he was prepared to act as a local representative at future meetings. Mr Mitchell stated that he felt that some of the comments made by the contractors were disingenuous and there was an apparent lack of knowledge and understanding from the builders on certain aspects of the works. Since that last meeting Mr Mitchell has been made aware of one resident suffering structural damage to their property. Mr Mitchell further stated that a number of residents had been put in a difficult position in terms of their insurance in that if one resident reports any matters to their insurance company it will be inevitable that other insurance companies will be made aware. Regarding the issue of long working hours Mr Mitchell had with him a leaflet which was made available to residents by Moray Council at the exhibition event. Mr Mitchell read information from the leaflet which appeared to be contrary to what was said at the last open meeting at the Academy by the contractors. Mr Mitchell said that he felt this was an unsatisfactory position for many of the residents and he felt that Moray Council should comment on this. Councillor Russell responded by saying that the document was written in good faith according to the information supplied by the contractors. Sheila Hollis told those present that she had recently spoke to one of the employers at the site and asked why they did not take Morrision Builders approach where a surveyor visited every local property before and after the works to assess potential damage. The reply Sheila was given was that not everyone likes someone in their house. It was felt this was a poor response and that residents should have at the very least been given this option. Councillor Russell advised residents that they should let their insurance companies know that there is building works happening adjacent to their property so that this is on record.</p>	
6	<p>Community Group Updates <u>City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council</u> Alex Macmillan reported that the Community Council are working on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trying to research the possibility of securing funding to refurbish or move the Mosaic on the Plainstones. - various footpaths. - white lining on city streets. - Stagecoach office at the bus depot. - The next community council meeting will have a guest speaker talking about the flood alleviation scheme. <p>AB Loveland asked that given the poor state of the Mosaic would it not be worth leaving it and doing something new with schools? Alex Macmillan said that he would feed this back to the community council members. Update report attached from Alastair Kennedy (Chair). <u>Elgin South Area Forum</u> No update report was available. <u>Moray Area Forum</u> Kieron reported on the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updates were given on the Better Community Engagement pilot projects. Elgin North Area Forum is 	<p>Alex Macmillan to report back to Community Council members</p>

	<p>involved in the South Lesmurdie project which Harry regularly attends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new Community Support Worker is due to start on Monday 13th September 2010 and will cover Elgin North and Elgin South. - A draft forum handbook has been produced to support forum members (new and current) and will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership for approval. - Funding consultation is ongoing with no further indication of an outcome received. - Voluntary sector – MVS0 has ceased and is now called Voluntary Action Moray. <p><u>Elgin Ear</u> Alex updated those present that all listening reports had received responses. A detail of these responses can be found on the next community council minutes. Listening boxes were now on site in Tesco, Elgin Library, Elgin Community Centre, Linkwood Medical Centre and CJ's Plaice.</p> <p><u>Elgin Allotments Association</u> No update report was available.</p> <p><u>Bishopmill Hall</u> Vera reported the hall are looking to increase their day time lets. Denise also reported that the hall had held their AGM and were looking for committee members. Councillor Russell further added that the hall were looking to create a fund to help towards the cost of upgrading the toilets.</p> <p><u>Waulkmill Residents Association</u> Denise reported that she had recently met with the chair of the association and he was feeling quite despondent over progress made with certain issues on the estate namely the play park, service charges and with attempts to get more residents involved. Denise is trying to progress these matters and has recently held a productive meeting with Moray Housing Partnership, who are still wishing to support the association. Denise is trying to arrange a meeting with Springfield Properties – Councillor Russell requested to be kept up to date.</p> <p><u>Older People's Strategy Group</u> Sheila Hollis reported that a meeting was held on 22nd July 2010 with four invited guests. Those in attendance were only asked to comment on five pre-decided questions with no opportunity for open discussion. It was felt that this was very disappointing as there were no opportunities to air views, the chairperson had a poor speaking voice and there was no further notice of future meetings. Sheila has expressed these views to Sandra Gracie.</p> <p><u>NHS Transport Strategy Group</u> No update report was available.</p> <p><u>Urban Freedom Travel Scheme</u> Update report attached.</p> <p><u>Elgin Academy PPP</u> Update report attached.</p>	
7	<p>Treasurer's Report Alistair Fulton reported that the balance as of the end of August 2010 was £3399.73. £750.00 had been paid in by Moray Council.</p>	

8	<p>Correspondence Kieron had received correspondence on proposed changes to civic licensing. Kieron could make this available to members who are interested and wish to comment.</p> <p>Kieron had also received a number of leaflets detailing opportunities for people to get involved with the Children's Panel. Any member interested can obtain one of these from Kieron.</p>	
9	<p>AOCB Kieron informed members that there are two meetings coming up in relation to Sainsbury's. These are pre-planning consultations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elgin Community Council is holding a meeting on Thursday 9th September 2010, 7.00pm in the Council Chambers. - Elgin South Area Forum is holding a meeting on Tuesday 21st September 2010, 7.00pm in Cedarwood. Elgin North Area Forum members are invited to attend. <p>Councillor Russell reminded those present of the Holding Hands For Heroes event taking place on Sunday 12th September 2010.</p>	
10	<p>Date of next meeting Tuesday 5th October 2010 in the Scout Hut, Lesmurdie Road. AGM – 7.00pm Regular forum business – 7.30pm</p>	