



**Elgin North Area Forum
Tuesday 16th March 2010, 7.00pm
Elgin Academy**

Present: Kieron Green (Chair), Alistair Fulton (Treasurer), Sheila Hollis, Alistair Kennedy (Joint Community Council / Elgin Community Council), Alex Macmillan (Elgin Community Council), Harry Torry (Elgin Community Council), B Loveland, Vera Gaskell, Donald MacKay, Elsie Scott, Beth Simpson.

In Attendance: Cllr Russell, Cllr Shand, Cllr Jarvis, Cllr Leadbitter, Cllr Sharp, Amy Cheer (Community Learning & Development Youth Team, The Moray Council), Katie Corsar (Minute Secretary), Andy Oliver (PPP Project Manager, The Moray Council), Denise Gormley (Community Support Unit, The Moray Council).

Apologies: Heather Park, May McGarrie.

1. Welcome

Kieron welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kieron took this opportunity to update the forum on the progress Malcolm Stewart (Secretary) was making since his road accident. A card was passed around for members to send Malcolm their best wishes. Kieron suggested that Item 4 on the agenda was taken first as the forum had a guest speaker.

4. Update on Development of new Elgin Academy

Andy Oliver (PPP Project Manager, The Moray Council) gave an update on the development of the new Elgin Academy. He stated that the preferred partnership has now been appointed and gave a brief account of the various contractors that will be used. He also stated that an open evening had been held at the school for pupils, teachers and parents which was well attended. Since the open evening the plans have gone to the Planning Committee on 3rd March 2010 and were passed.

Andy produced the various plans for the proposed project and was able to point out the various access routes including the preferred foot and cycle path. He also explained that due to the location of the new building it would have more of an impact on the neighbouring housing and local infrastructure due the fact that it will be nearer Morriston Road.

Andy briefly went through the proposed timetable for the project stating that when the plans have been signed off at the end of April work would commence in May 2010. There will be a phased construction programme.

Following Andy's presentation a question and answer session took place. Forum members asked for clarification on the following:

- Relationship with the immediate neighbourhood – it was stated that when any major phases of construction commence letters would be put through letterboxes of all neighbouring houses.
- Landscaping of project – it was suggested that detailed landscaping plans would be produced at a later date.
- Road safety audit – an independent process is to be undertaken once the design has been finalised.
- Upkeep / maintenance of cycle path - still to be discussed with the Roads Department of the Moray Council but it is hoped that the Council will be responsible for the upkeep of all neighbouring cycle pathways.
- Updates on progress – there will be regular updates during the construction of the school via the local press/internet and a newsletter. On site display boards will also give updates.

With there being no more questions, Kieron thanked Andy for his time and Andy left the meeting at 7:50pm.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The following typing errors were noted:-

Minutes should read Donald McKay and not Douglas McKay

Minutes should read Wittet Drive and not Whittet Drive.

Spelling error of initiative under Community Champions section.

3. Matters arising

- **Older People's Strategy** - Sheila Hollis and Harry Torry had attended the Older People's Reference Group inaugural meeting which took place in February 2010. Sheila gave feedback from the meeting stating that the aim of this group is to draw strands of care together to enable the elderly to stay in their own homes for as long as possible with the relevant services working in partnership. The group is to act as an enabler and will not be able to directly provide any of the services required by service users. An action plan has been drafted which runs from 2009 – 2014. The Manager of the project was not present at this meeting but plans to be at the next. Sheila and Harry are planning to continue attending this group and will feedback to the forum on appropriate matters.
- **Community Issues** - Steps at Ladyhill - Cllr Leadbitter reported back that there is no space at A96 side to extend them. The request for a

ramp to be developed at the rear of the properties is still to be investigated. During this update it was highlighted that the trees at Ladyhill on the Tesco side are an obstruction for traffic. Elgin Community Council is investigating this issue and will feedback to the forum.

- **Litter** – Keep Scotland Tidy campaign starts next month. It was suggested that perhaps people undergoing their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Delta Force at Elgin Youth Cafe and Elgin Young Coopers Troopers could be approached with regards to participation in a litter pickup project.

**ACTION: Kieron to contact Gavin Morgan and Delta Force Project.
Amy to contact Elgin Young Coopers Troopers.**

- **School drop offs at Bishopmill Primary School** - in Malcolm's absence Kieron to draft a letter to Elgin Community Council's Transport Committee regarding the issue and also to the Parent Council at Bishopmill Primary School.

ACTION: Kieron to write to Elgin Community Council Transport Committee and Bishopmill Primary School Parent Council.

- **Recent bad weather** – a short questionnaire was put to forum members asking for details on their experiences. Kieron thanked those members who submitted a response.

ACTION: Kieron to collate all responses and draft a letter to Bob Stewart, Director of Environmental Services.

5. Community Issues

- **Lunch Club** – there were concerns raised at the meeting that Elgin Community Centre were to have their lunch club stopped as it is costing too much to run. It was highlighted, by forum members, the importance of such a community provision in that it ensured older people got a well balanced hot meal but also value of the social aspect. The elected members present stated that the maximum subsidy provided by The Moray Council would be £3.50 and that some lunch clubs are prepared to meet this thereby keeping them open. However, it was stated that a notice has gone up in Elgin Community Centre stating that the Lunch Club will close in April 2010. It was agreed that the forum would continue to monitor this.
- **Health Board Transport Strategy Group** – the next meeting to is scheduled to take place at the end of March 2010. Donald will be attending this on behalf of the forum and will report back at the next meeting.
- **Moray Energy Fair** – Cllr Russell informed the meeting that this is to take place at Elgin Town Hall on Wednesday 24th March between 11:00am – 7:00pm. Cllr Russell encouraged attendance at this event.

- **Traffic at Thornhill Road** - concerns highlighted with regards to dropping off bus passengers as traffic goes quite fast along this road. Members felt something was required to address the speed issue. This was identified as a community issue for Elgin Community Council to take forward.
- **Better Community Engagement Demonstration Project** - As a member of the steering group for this project Harry Torry will be attending a meeting on Wednesday 17th March 2010. Harry will continue to update the forum.

6. Updates

- **City of and Royal Borough of Elgin Community Council** - as chair Alistair Kennedy gave a brief roundup of what the Community Council had been working on over the last few weeks. Key points for interest were:
 - The New Elgin Wetlands have been cleaned.
 - Elgin Community Council were also concerned about the speeding traffic along Thornhill Road and were looking into this.
 - Elgin Community Council had received an enlightening presentation from Gavin Morgan (The Moray Council) on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- **Elgin South Area Forum** – ESAF had not met since the last ENAF meeting and there was no update.
- **Moray Area Forum** – Kieron reported that the majority of the last meeting was dominated by the recent bad weather and how The Moray Council had handled the situation. Cllr Donald Ross attended the meeting and gave various reports on the consultation of Forum and Community Council funding.
- **Youth Team Update** – Amy Cheer gave the forum a brief update. Elgin Young Cooper Troopers had met with Elgin Community Council and that they are currently looking at planning a smaller scaled project. The idea of converting the Lodge in Cooper Park as a meeting place for young people has been put on hold. The fundraising ceilidh had to be cancelled due to lack of sales and is now rescheduled for 5th June 2010. Amy is to have a meeting with the young people working on the Lesmurdie Woods to finalise the opening of the BMX track.
- **Bishopmill Hall** – Kieron invited Vera to give an update from Bishopmill Hall. Vera gave a brief explanation as to the activities of the hall but had no recent updates for the forum.
- **Bishopmill United Junior Football Club** – Kieron invited Brian Loveland to give an update but there was nothing to report.

- **Elgin Ear** – Alex gave a brief update presentation on this pilot project. It was explained that this was a one year pilot project aimed at community engagement. Elgin Ear had received the support from both ENAF and ESAF. The main aim of the project is to provide better community engagement within Elgin. Community members would be encouraged to attend community surgeries, use the web site, telephone line and email address to raise relevant issues, concerns and good news stories. The Elgin Ear Steering Group would collate this information and pass it on to the most relevant body to deal with. Feedback would always be given where possible via various means. There would always be a minimum of two listeners at Elgin Ear surgeries. Protocols and guidelines had been prepared under which listeners would adhere to. A launch of the Elgin Ear would be taking place on Friday 26th March 2010 at the St Giles Centre.

Alex welcomed any comments or questions. One forum member asked if legal advice had been sought regarding the setting up of such a project. Alex explained certain legalities: anyone can apply to Elgin Community Council for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Elgin Community Council was also registered under the Data Protection Act which would cover the Elgin Ear. Alex thanked and acknowledged the queries raised.

Kieron asked the forum to vote on whether they would be prepared to support Elgin Ear financially. It was agreed to support Elgin Ear up to £500.00.

Kieron also asked the forum to vote on a trial change in meeting pattern. Kieron asked for a vote on the following:

- Elgin Ear surgeries being held half an hour prior to the forum. For example, Elgin Ear surgery would be 7.00pm and Elgin North Area Forum would be 7.30pm.
- Meetings running on a monthly cycle.
- Meetings being held at various community locations throughout Elgin North.

It was agreed to try this out.

7. **Moray Council Budget Update**

Cllr Russell gave a brief update of the Moray Council Budget savings. Cllr Russell said he felt that it had been good going out to consultation with the community and that there had been good co-operation from the community. Cllr Russell concluded by saying that The Moray Council was facing difficult times but would try to minimise any future cuts.

8. **A.O.C.B.**

- **Parking restriction consultation letter** - in Malcolm's absence Kieron will draft this letter.

ACTION: Kieron to draft and send letter.

- **Elgin South Community Support Officer** - Kieron informed the meeting that Linda Adam was the new Community Support Officer for Elgin South.
- **Guest speakers** – Kieron encouraged members to let him or Denise know if there were any particular guest speakers they would like to be invited to Elgin North Area Forum meetings.

ACTION: All

9. Date/Time/Venue for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 4th May 2010 at 7:30pm** (Venue will be confirmed). This meeting will follow the first Elgin Ear Surgery.

All future forum meetings will be held on first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm following the Elgin Ear Surgery. Venues to be confirmed.

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

Kieron Green (Chair): kierongreen@yahoo.com or 07871169764