

Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum held in NEX, Elgin High School on Tuesday 18 May 2010

Present

Louise Ellerby Chairperson
Aileen Marshall Treasurer
Marilyn Kelly Resident
Christine Clerk Resident
Linda McKenzie Resident
Rebecca Kail Resident

In Attendance

Linda Adam, Community Support Officer
Amy Cheer, Community Learning and Development Officer
Murray Ross & Alastair Kennedy, Elgin Community Council
Phil Wu, Gordon Methven & Stacie Harper, Grampian Police
Councillor John Divers & Councillor Graham Leadbitter, The Moray Council

Apologies

PC Jamie Macmillan
PC Christopher Harris
Steven Christie Bilbohall Tenants' Forum
Gordon Fimister

1. Welcome

Louise Ellerby welcomed everyone to the new building NEX

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 23 March 2010

The minutes were accepted as a true record
Proposed Rebecca Kail
Seconded Linda McKenzie

3. Matters Arising

Rebecca Kail reported on the Urban Freedom Festival of 27 and 26 March 2010. Over 1200 people had visited the festival and 100 signatories had taken the Pledge to use alternative forms of transport

Rebecca Kail asked for suggestions as to where the ebus (electric bus) could be sited.

Rebecca Kail informed the meeting that some bus routes had been selected to trial real-time bus timetabling. This would be available on-line. Feedback on this scheme was requested from the meeting.

Murray Ross highlighted the dangers of the dual lane cycle way on Lossie wynd. This was caused by parking restrictions on double yellow lines not being enforced.

4. Community issues

Elgin Ear

The first Elgin Ear surgery will take place on Tuesday 4th May. A training session took place on Wednesday 28th April at Neon which was led by Denise Gormley. Inspector Colin Mowatt was in attendance and WPC McDonald participated in a role-playing exercise as an Elgin Ear respondent. On Thursday 20 May a further update session would be taking place. This community council initiative has a dedicated phone line, email and Listening Posts. (The Listening Posts are boxes for receiving completed Elgin Ear forms.) It was suggested at the meeting that the listening box at Tesco is not very obvious and need to be either relocated or better signed.

Allotments

Rebecca Kail reported on progress. The consultation process on the draft allotments policy had gone back to the committee. Certain issues, such as parking, had not been resolved. The allotments committee have still not received any response from the council on the original sites which had been identified. It was hoped that the planning process might proceed once the consultation process was completed.

A site on Wards Road (not owned by The Moray Council) had been made available to the allotments Group for using as an informal garden share. This piece of land had previously been used as a market garden. Members of the group had started digging and planting. Rebecca Kail informed the committee that there is now a waiting list for allotments. The councillors reported that the garden share had been well received by the public.

Group updates

Linda Adam had prepared a sheet with all the group updates. Linda asked that any updates which were to be included in the group updates sheet, be sent to her a week in advance of the Forum meeting. Linda also reported to the committee that she had met up with the members of Milnorduff Village Hall, Fogwatt Village Hall and Birnie Village Hall committees to discuss their support needs.

Linda also reported a positive use of Neon to support the community by dealing with two anti-social behaviour incidents.

The Grampian Police hoped soon to have access to an improved integrated response to callouts.

Pharmacy contract Boots, Edgar Road

The meeting discussed the pending consultation request by Boots the Chemist to open a Pharmacy in its premises on Edgar Road, Elgin. The meeting was of the opinion that the consultation process had already been engaged in and an additional Pharmacy was required. A further letter will be sent to Boots restating the Forum's position - with a copy to the Health Board.

Oldmills

Residents had complained that a large amount of rubbish had built up on this site. They wanted it to be cleared. This matter is ongoing.

Roads and Transportation

A check was being done by Scottish Water on the manholes which have been repaired.

It was noted with concern that the office at the bus Station was now closed.

The white lines on the Tesco roundabout are being looked at as it is not clear when to give way.

Elgin BIDS (Business Improvement District Scotland)

Alasdair Kennedy reported that Jaqui Taylor (BIDS Manager) was assessing the mosaic on the Plainstones in Elgin a view to repairing it. The damage was done by a vehicle being driven over it. The BIDS project would also be working with Urban Freedom to work together on the improvement of Elgin town centre and on the Elgin underpass. Two members of BIDS have been involved with a venture to site new benches on the Plainstones. A response from the public is being sought on the location for the new benches. Also new litter bins are planned; existing rubbish bins round the trees will be removed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Aileen Marshall reported a net increase of 24pence in the finances of the Forum. There had been no expenditure and there was a balance of £3313.97. The Treasurer advised all Forum Members to check the Books as everyone was responsible for the debts incurred by the Forum.

6. Secretary Post.

Christine Clerk had agreed to take the minutes for the meeting.

7. Correspondence

The Chair decided to set aside the correspondence until later.

8. Questions for next Month's Speaker

A representative from the NHS will be invited to the next Forum meeting to discuss the priorities for the NHS in the Elgin south area. Suggestions for questions were asked for.

1. Why did the Health board not consult with the Forum and meet the need for a second Pharmacy in New Elgin?
2. Please would you give us an update on what is happening at Dr Grays Hospital?

3. There is a shortage of dentists in the Elgin south area: what will the NHS be doing to meet the need?
4. What is being done to target Elgin South Area to address its need for improved health care
5. Why is there no convalescent facility in Elgin? People at present have to travel to Buckie or Dufftown.

9. AOCB

It was noted by the meeting that there was no secure cycle space available at the new Glassgreen medical centre. Also there was no quick access to the building from one side due to the encircling fence. It was suggested that a pathway could be made on both access routes. The meeting was informed that Springfield Properties have responsibility for this matter.

10. Correspondence

The meeting was informed that the parent council had made a complaint about the facilities available at Elgin High School. Enquiries had been made to the Moray Council who had responded that decisions on Capital spending will be made next year when the elected members will consider the needs of Elgin High. The Forum would need to wait for the outcome of the Budget before they can respond.

The Forum was informed about the Action Earth 2010 fund which was available for carrying out biodiversity projects. Local environmental projects could be eligible.

Linda Adam distributed copies of The Moray Council volunteering policy.

11) Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 15 June 2010 at NEON.