

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

**Present**

Aileen Marshall (Chair)  
Steven Christie (Vicechair)  
Christine Clerk  
Marilyn Kelly  
Linda McKenzie  
Daniel Scott

Mary Dow (Secretary)  
Louise Ellerby (Treasurer)  
Rebecca Kail  
Gillian Mackay (Linkwood Res Assoc)  
Elizabeth Scott

**In Attendance:**

Cllr John Divers

Gavin Morgan (MC Youth Team and DoE  
Award Officer)

PC Mike Mulloy (Grampian Police)  
Cllr John Sharp

**Apologies:**

Cllr Graham Leadbitter

Jill Stewart, Head of Housing and Property, Mike McClafferty (ASB Housing) and Richard Anderson (Housing Needs Support) for duration of Item 2.

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
2.	<p>Three detailed presentation were given as follows:-</p> <p>Jill Stewart - Housing Allocation Policy.</p> <p>Mike McClafferty – How Housing Department deal with Anti-social Behaviour complaints.</p> <p>Richard Anderson – Housing Support.</p> <p>Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions:-</p> <p>Q. How many evictions have the Council made within the last year? A. Six evictions in past year.</p> <p>Q. How do you know if a tenant has been evicted previously? A. On the Housing Application it asks where the tenant has lived for the past five years. Checks may be made.</p> <p>Q. How are Anti-Social Behaviour complaints dealt with from tenants in Housing Association properties? A. Housing management staff will adopt a similar approach to ourselves.</p> <p>Q. How many Housing Officers in South Elgin and will this be increased due to number of new houses? A. Ratio 600 – 700 tenancies per Housing Officer. The number of houses in a particular area is taken into account. Elgin South does not merit a new Housing Officer.</p> <p>Q. Are people who do not work and have a known drug problem classed as vulnerable and will they remain in the Homeless unit? A. We have a legal obligation to help such people and will not give them a tenancy until they are ready. These individuals must accept support as part of their tenancy and could possibly be put back into temporary accommodation and their support plan re-visited.</p> <p>Q. What are main reasons for homelessness?</p>	

	<p>A. Majority due to the family/friends no longer willing to accommodate them.</p> <p>Q. What is the age group of homelessness at the moment?</p> <p>A. 25-59 single person.</p> <p>Q. Concerns over homelessness and the way that is screened. Policy should be to look at all allocations from the three lists.</p> <p>A. We have to determine and give applicants some indication as to where they are on the list. Aspirational quotas are set every year. Approx 45-55% of allocations are made to homeless people, with 35% expecting to go to transfer list or waiting list.</p> <p>Q. Some young tenants are put to live in areas where there are mostly older people. If there are any problems the older person may be too scared to tell. During a recent presentation by Sandra Gracie, Strategy Development Officer, MCHSCP regarding Re-shaping Care, it was noted that housing had the possibility of improving health in older people but can also bring it down.</p> <p>A. We cannot say you have to be over 50 to live in that house. It is important for tenants to get to know their Housing Officer and for them to tell people of any concerns they may have i.e. health workers etc. and it will be followed through.</p> <p>Q. Why does it take so long to allocate some houses?</p> <p>A. There is a host of reasons but we can do better in that area of performance. It is often due to repairs needing to be carried out on the properties or refusals can add to timescales. Richard Anderson is working on improving the performance of empty properties to ensure they are empty for as little time as possible.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Community Issues</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Local Lettings Policy</b> – Gillian McKay and Mary Dow to respond on behalf of the ESAF. Aileen Marshall suggested we encourage them to try things.	GM/MD
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Elgin High School</b> – Mary Dow advised that two letters had been sent from the Parent Council to Sandy Riddell, Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) Moray Council and Mike Russell Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. Copies available from Mary Dow.	
	Aileen Marshall advised that a response to the ESAF’s letter to Mike Russell had been received from Harry McWilliams. Aileen Marshall agreed to sent copy to Mary Dow and local Councillors.	AM
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Elgin City of the Future, Economic Strategy</b> – Aileen Marshall advised that a meeting was due to take place on 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7pm in the Town Hall. It was agreed to hold a joint meeting with the C&RBoECC and the ENAF on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2011 at 7pm in the NEON building in order to make a joint response.	ALL
	<b>Parking &amp; Roads</b>	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Park Bollards</b> (circ 12/9). Concern was raised regarding there not being sufficient parking provision in Elgin for workers and this may lead to parking in streets around the City Centre. Rebecca Kail advised that Tourist Information/Library figures were down possibly due to all day parking and requested permission from the Forum to have the bollards put up by Grant Lodge from 7.30am – 10.00am Monday to Friday to see what this does to address problem. The Forum agreed with this course of action and Aileen Marshall agreed to write to James Smith regarding this.	AM
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Crossing at Springfield Shops</b> – No objections were made to this proposal although Rebecca Kail suggested a ramp at the side of the steps leading to the shops would be beneficial. Aileen Marshall agreed to respond accordingly.	AM
	It was agreed to look at all other road proposals at the next meeting.	

3.6	<b>Litter Initiative</b> – Steven Christie advised that a litter group had been set-up and the first meeting was being held on Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2011. Members to let Steven know if they are interested in attending.	ALL
3.7	<b>Seagulls</b> – Aileen Marshall advised that a response had been received from Moray Council and she would pass on the information to the member of public.	AM
3.8	<b>New Elgin Cemetery Vandalism</b> – A discussion took place with regard to the e-mail received from Keith Mitchell, ENAF. Cllr Divers advised that funding might be available for people carrying out Community Service to repair the damaged gravestones. PC Mulloy advised that enquiries are still ongoing. Aileen Marshall agreed to respond to Keith Mitchell advising that things are happening through the legal process.	AM
4.	<b>Forum Issues</b>	
4.1	<b>Future Speakers</b> – Aileen Marshall asked members to think about who they would like to invite to future meetings.	ALL
4.2	<b>AGM</b> - Mary Dow advised that she would be resigning at the AGM due to work/home commitments.	
4.3	<b>Inspection</b> – Aileen Marshall advised that the Inspectors would like to meet members of the Forum on Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September at 2pm, Room 3, Neon Building. Aileen/Steven/Christine and Louise agreed to attend.	
4.4	<b>Handbooks Evaluation</b> – Aileen Marshall agreed to formulate response.  It was agreed not to hold a meeting in December 2011.	AM
5.	<b>Any Other Competent Business</b>	
5.1	<b>Moray Forum Update</b> – Aileen Marshall gave a brief update and advised that she would be happy to discuss further with any member.	
5.2	<b>Newsletter</b> – Postponed until after Christmas.	
6.	<b>Correspondence</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SIMD – circulated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>- Enterprise Growth Workshop – circulated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>- Fire at Fulmar Road – circulated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>- Highland Roadshow – circulated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>- Reshaping Care Feedback meeting – circulated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>- Change Fund Third Sector Funding – circulated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>- Starting Your Social Enterprise – circulated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>- Community Planning E-Bulletin – circulated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.</li> <li>- Community Capacity Building Aberdeen – circulated 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011.</li> <li>- Community Planning Bulletin – circulated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011.</li> <li>- Moray Economic Partnership – circulated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011.</li> <li>- NHS Grampian Carers Funding – circulated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011.</li> <li>- Feedback on Change Fund Third Sector Funding – circulated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011.</li> </ul>	
7.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 7.00pm in NEON Building.  The meeting closed at 9.15pm.	