

**Minutes of Elgin South Area Forum  
Held in New Elgin Primary School Annexe  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

**Present:**

Aileen Marshall  
Ray Wood  
Elizabeth Scott  
Daniel Scott  
Linda McKenzie  
Marilyn Kelly  
Louise Ellerby  
Christine Clark  
Cllr Graham Leadbitter  
Steven Christie  
Elizabeth Miller  
Cllr John Divers  
Rebecca Kail  
Murray Ross (Elgin Community Council) -  
part of meeting

**Also Present:**

John Ferguson	The Moray Council (Chief Executives)
Amy Cheer	The Moray Council (Educational Services)
Inspector Colin Mowat	Grampian Police

**Apologies:**

Moira Sutherland  
Cllr Sharp

**1. Welcome**

Rebecca Kail welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Elgin Beautification Scheme**

Murray Ross reported on a successful start to the plan to have flower planters at all entrances to Elgin. The group has met with Ken Kennedy (Moray Council, Parks & Gardens) to discuss installing a planter at the A96 junction at Morryston Road near the Eight Acres Hotel. It will be a significant size (30 feet wide) to provide a floral welcome to Elgin. Ken liked the scheme and has given the go ahead, and work has started on this

first planter. The council's road dept. say that there will be no distraction in terms of road signs. The community council will provide some funding for the scheme, and will continue to look for additional help with the costs of the planters and their on-going maintenance. (Murray then left to go to another meeting.)

### **3. Grampian Police**

Inspector Colin Mowat wanted to talk to the forum about the joint family service. As part of the Single Outcome Agreement, responsibilities for the provision of family and children's services are being devolved to locality groups. These multi-agency groups include all services working with children. They are looking for support to establish a Joint Family Service to be located in the New Elgin Annexe. This would bring together all the agencies in one office with a co-ordinator who would not be part of any one agency and would be seen as neutral. They have prepared a consultation paper. Aileen Marshall asked about the funding for this. Colin said that money was not a major issue and that this kind of joint working would save money in the medium to longer term. It should also be more effective. The local authority has been contacted about using the annexe as a base. Rebecca raised her concern that the possibility of having the library facility based here could be at risk.

### **4. Minutes of The Last meeting**

These were proposed as a true record of the last meeting by Steven Christie and seconded by Linda McKenzie.

#### **Pharmacy**

Representatives from Boots held a meeting to discuss proposals for pharmacies in New Elgin. They intend to move the Main Street pharmacy to the new Southfield health centre, and open an additional pharmacy and shop adjacent to Next and New Look. (The latter shop would focus more on cosmetics.) Cllr Divers said that the meeting was positive and it was confirmed that there is no proposal to close Boots on the high street. It is hoped that the Edgar Road development will be in place by the end of May. In general, the proposals were welcomed and a letter was sent from the forum outlining our support and a few concerns.

#### **Newsletter**

Rebecca thanked those who had provided articles.

## 5. Updates

***The Strategy Group*** This has met to discuss the Area Action Plan. More work will be done once a new support worker is in place.

***Linkwood*** The bridge is on schedule and the work is going well due to the weather. Ray will deal with the Linkwood Burn. Cllr Shand is working to ensure this is dealt with. There is a need for 30 more of the 'See it, Report it' leaflets. John will try to find out about these.

***Elgin High Litter Group*** It was hoped to have a meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> but it was cancelled.

***Active Travel Group*** The active travel audit of Elgin has been completed. Rebecca reported that brief feedback was given on the audits at another meeting that she attended. The final report is not yet available.

***Allotment Association*** The Council has agreed to write a policy on allotments in order to facilitate the leasing process. The group will be writing to the planning department land with an initial enquiry seeking information about planning requirements at two sites, the Fairy Park and a field near the Eight Acres Hotel.

## 6. Moray Forum News

***Community Planning Consultation*** - the decision to create a community Support Unit has been taken. The consultation will focus on how the unit will be established, and funding for the forums and other community groups. The consultation papers will be out soon.

***Fairer Scotland*** - Jacqui Taylor has asked to speak about this to the forum. John Ferguson gave a brief outline of the scheme and it was agreed to invite Jacqui to our next meeting.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Aileen Marshall said that there was nothing much to report. There is £1,906 in the bank

## 8. Correspondence

There was a letter on the National Spring Clean inviting participation at Morriston playing field.

## 9. Area Forum Staffing

There was a discussion on the situation regarding support workers. John explained that it had been decided that Michelle's hours would increase to full-time, but that she would be redirected to area forums that were having difficulties. John and Ian would give cover, where possible, to Elgin

South. The proposals for staffing (in the community planning consultation) would increase the capacity to support forums.

There was a discussion on the newsletter as Ann had particular skills in this area. Cllr Leadbitter suggested that the forum contact Moray College with a view to getting a student to assist with the newsletter.

It was agreed to send a card to Ann Griffin.

## **10. Community Issues**

### ***Moray Forum***

An issue was raised about concerns for young carers who were not being kept informed about the changes happening as a result of the new contract. The request was made for anyone who knows of a young carer in this position to let the Moray Forum know. No-one at the meeting was aware of anyone in this position.

Hi Viz. Armbands: Progress had been made on this with the financial backing of ASDA, Tesco, Stagecoach and Moray Firth Radio to £1500. They should be distributed by September.

### ***Loose Ends***

This informal educational support group meets in New Elgin. Many of those attending have found it difficult to move on to other forms of learning (college, evening classes etc). The group invited the chairs of the two Elgin forums to hear about their experiences so that the forum could help. It was agreed that the forum would try to support this group by writing to learning providers.

### ***Tenants' Forum***

Steven talked about their plan to set up a new play area and they are currently trying to identify a site. They wanted the play area to cater for pre-school and primary school children. The site they have in mind involves setting up a pedestrian crossing. It was agreed that the Area Forum would give support.

### ***Glen Lossie Drive***

Linda McKenzie referred to an empty house at number 59 that has been empty since January. Cllr Divers will check this out. Also she passed on her gratitude for the tap at the cemetery which was now in place.

## **11. Date of the Next Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2009**