

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Present:</b> Aileen Marshall (Chair) Steven Christie (Vice Chair) Christine Clerk (Treasurer) Elizabeth Scott Daniel Scott Catherine Sinclair Rebecca Kail (Minutes) James Wiseman David Willox	<b>In Attendance:</b> Cllr John Divers Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC) Kathy Grant (Community Warden)	<b>Apologies:</b> Ian Todd Cllr Graham Leadbitter Linda McKenzie Marilyn Kelly Cllr James Allan
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**MINUTES:**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RECORD</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Aileen Marshall opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were noted as above.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b> Amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Kail was present at the last meeting</li> <li>• 5.5 Whilst Denise Gormley is the support officer for the area, Ian Todd is the primary contact for ESAF</li> <li>• 7.1 Change 'Cllr Divers informed the meeting...' to 'It was stated that...'</li> </ul> <p>With the above amendments, the minutes were accepted by the forum as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS letter to R Carey/E Brown. Elaine Brown was contacted to follow up the suggestion of clinics mid-way between Elgin and Aberdeen. She replied that it is being considered.</li> <li>• Oldmills. This was discussed briefly.</li> <li>• 7.1 Pupil representative from EHS. A reply has been received stating that there is no one available at the moment.</li> </ul>	
<b>5</b>	<b>COMMUNITY ISSUES</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Budget Consultation</b> It was agreed that the consultation information was generally very good. Comments were made that it was not always clear what were statutory obligations (and therefore unable to be cut), and also that some suggested cuts were parcelled together with no option to agree with some parts and not others. Doubts were raised about the suitability of the venue (the TA hall), particularly given the low turnout. The hall itself is fine, but it is not a recognised meeting place and the closed gates were off-putting. Better on-site advertising would have helped. New Elgin Hall would have been a better venue and Steven Christie was asked to check whether it had been unavailable on the required day, as had been stated. There was further discussion about the budget with some suggestions as to where cuts should or should not be made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid building the Western Link Road</li> <li>• No further cuts to environmental services as these have already been cut extensively</li> <li>• Use volunteers to help where possible (although sometimes they, too, need to be qualified)</li> <li>• Do not reduce social care as this leads to more hospital stays (Moray is already leading in this area)</li> </ul>	Steven Christie

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5.1	<p><b>Budget Consultation (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use training to increase effectiveness (Designing Better Services is doing this)</li> <li>• Since education is the biggest budget, is there any scope for reductions?</li> <li>• Can savings be made in IT provision by broadening access or by encouraging users to use own hardware?</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that it is difficult to know what to suggest for budget cuts. Aileen reminded everyone that a budget challenge and survey is on the council website.</p>	
5.2	<p><b>Western Link Road</b></p> <p>Following the WLR public display and the information distributed relating to this, the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The display was for information only: no response is required</li> <li>• The consultants are finalising the designs. The council will apply for planning permission once the designs are completed.</li> <li>• At this point, anyone wishing to object may do so</li> <li>• A petition counts as one objection regardless of the number of signatures</li> <li>• It was disappointing that roundabouts (particularly the one near the school) continued to be included, and that some suggestions made at the workshop were not.</li> <li>• It appears that the council are now considering having two links into the new housing</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that, if the road is to go ahead, it should be to the highest specifications (e.g. Designing Streets). There was concern that improvements should be made to Sandy Road/Glen Moray Drive prior to the new road being built and it was suggested that this could be included within objections to the planning permission.</p>	
5.3	<p><b>Elgin High School</b></p> <p>It was explained that work for the new school must start within 18 months, and not in two years' time as stated in the Press &amp; Journal. It is planned to open in August 2015. The school will also be a 'hub', sharing design ideas with other new schools. It was agreed that it would be good to be involved with the process and that, once it is underway, Aileen will invite the head teacher and/or the project officer to the forum.</p>	Aileen Marshall
5.4	<p><b>Wind Energy</b></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy attended a meeting with The Highland Council regarding obtaining community benefit from windfarms, and found it very informative. The Moray Council is setting up a working group to consider the same issues, and further consultation will take place.</p>	
5.5	<p><b>SPICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent funding application was turned down, but Zero Waste Scotland is keen to work with the committee to progress the proposal.</li> <li>• The litter pick at the weekend removed 58 bags of rubbish – Ladies' Walk (24), Cottar Hoose (26) and Blackfriars (8).</li> <li>• The community planning board endorses 'the City of Elgin Improvement Framework as a template for partnership working in Moray'.</li> </ul>	
5.6	<p><b>Any Other Community Issues</b></p>	
	<p><b>Community Warden update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter at the Academy – the education period is over and wardens are now enforcing the policies by seeking names and addresses of those littering and speaking to parents</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour leaflets have been distributed</li> <li>• Discussions are being held about a possible noise campaign. More details are due before Christmas</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>Castle to Cashmere</b> No specific news. It was suggested that the link from the Visitor Information Point to the town centre could be improved as part of this project, and also that it was important to retain the original names of the closes. John Divers confirmed that signage is being looked at.</p>	
	<p><b>Hardhillock Avenue</b> A resident reported ongoing problems with the maintenance of communal areas and wondered what was the best way forward since the housing provider had no intention of registering as a factor under the new legislation. It was suggested that Mary Scanlon (MSP) has experience of this problem and may be able to help. Also, the CSU should be able to facilitate setting up a residents' meeting as a first step towards seeking solutions. David Willox to come to the next meeting with further information and possible way forward which the Forum can consider and facilitate if agreed.</p>	David Willox
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> The balance is £5859.03. £40 was paid for minutes and £34.46 for admin. expenses. The books were sent for audit on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>FORUM ISSUES</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Minutes of the next meeting</b> – Catherine Sinclair	
<b>7.2</b>	<b>AGM Arrangements</b> – it was agreed to have the AGM as part of an ordinary forum meeting	
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Community Fair Report</b> – on the update already circulated. It was mentioned that the loud music at the fair made discussion difficult. The issue of overgrown areas on Linkwood Road has been passed to councillors.	
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Timesheets</b> Aileen received 70 emails and spent 39.45 hrs on forum business.	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> The correspondence was taken as read. Aileen confirmed that the correspondence listed below had been circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence with Andy Simpson EHS re Pupil Reps Circ19/9</li> <li>• SPICE Papers Circ 24/9</li> <li>• ENAF Papers Circ 1/10</li> <li>• TSI Moray Bulletin Circ 3/10</li> <li>• Letter from EHS Circ 4/10</li> <li>• Reshaping Care Bulletin Circ 9/10</li> <li>• WLR Stakeholder Design Appraisal Circ 9/10</li> <li>• Elgin CC Papers Circ 10/10</li> <li>• Local Dentistry Information per Elaine Brown Circ 15/10</li> </ul>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Any Other Competent Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers are needed to help plant spring bulbs at Ladyhill Gardens. See Steven Christie.</li> <li>• Oldmills Preservation Group has its inaugural meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm. All welcome. It has been confirmed that specific work must be completed at the site by the owner (demolition of scaffolding, laids made good, for example) or the council will step in.</li> </ul>	

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<b>10</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Date of next meeting (including AGM) 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2012 7pm at NEON.  The meeting closed at 9:20pm.	
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