

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on
Tuesday 17th September 2013 at 7.00 pm in the NEON Building**

Present:

Aileen Marshall (Chair)
Christine Clerk (Treasurer)
Daniel Scott
Margaret-Anne Ramage
Catherine Sinclair (Minutes)

Steven Christie (Vice Chair)
Rebecca Kail
Elizabeth Scott
Marilyn Kelly
James Wiseman

In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers
Graham Jarvis (The Moray Council)
Kathy Grant (Community Warden)

Martine Scott (The Moray Council)
PC Stuart Sim (Police Scotland)
Margaret Smart

Apologies:

Alastair Kennedy (ECC)
Linda McKenzie
Ian Todd (Community Support Unit)

Cllr Graham Leadbitter
Mary Dow
Roddy Burns (The Moray Council)

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	Welcome Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies Apologies were noted.	
3.	<p>Community warden/Police Report</p> <p>Sneak-Ins Margaret-Anne Ramage covered the sneak-ins, and that the delay in Police attending (4 weeks until door-to-door and 5 weeks until forensics) left residents feeling this was not being well handled and was not a priority matter. PC Sim explained how such incidents are investigated and prioritised. Door-to-door enquiries should have been carried out as soon as reasonably possible. There is not an increased trend in incidents in Elgin. A person has been apprehended in association with a recent break-in. The forum will monitor the situation.</p> <p>Community Warden In the last month in Elgin South there have been: 2 abandoned vehicles, 5 noise complaints, 5 neighbour disputes, 1 dog fouling, 1 seagull fouling, 1 fly-tipping and 7 littering penalties. None of the litter penalties have paid so will go to court. The community warden has been out on plain-clothes patrols with the police and is also targeting schools at lunchtimes. There has been an increase in noise complaints across Elgin so Kathy has produced leaflets explaining what to do. Complaints about drinking under the old railway bridge have been received. Please contact the warden if you see anyone.</p>	
4.	<p>Capacity/Zoning Issues & School Estate Review Graham Jarvis, The Moray Council spoke about the current School estate review. It would cost £70 million to bring current schools up to B grade standard and suitability for teaching, and a further £4 million per year to maintain this. It is also planned to have no 'temporary accommodation' at schools. The Moray Council holds structural and capacity data on all schools and Caledonian Economics, independent consultants will be interviewing stakeholders. From this information, a plan of optimal schools sizes and locations will be derived.</p> <p>It was emphasised this is a 'schools for the future' project, not a schools closure project. Strict procedures must be followed if a school is to be</p>	

	<p>closed, and under new legislation it will be more difficult to close rural schools due to economic impact issues.</p> <p>Every primary school in Elgin, barring Seafield, is already very full. New housing developments will increase pupil numbers. Schools zones have not been reviewed for some time. It is difficult to accurately predict the number of pupils from new housing developments. Moray demographics are quirky compared to other areas and a higher proportion of the population live outwith settlements than elsewhere.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the parents' charter. All primary schools have out of zone pupils, with Greenwards highest at 72%, West End at 50% and New Elgin Primary at 27%. Twenty-two pupils were turned away from New Elgin primary last year due to it being at capacity. In considering adding classrooms to existing schools, it is important to consider proportionality issues, e.g. size of halls and other facilities.</p> <p>Comments are encouraged via the dedicated website (http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_88627.html) over the next few weeks.</p> <p>It was asked if the new Elgin High School would big enough. The school will have 32 more places than the current school and this is all Scottish Government will pay for. It is designed to be expanded if need be.</p> <p>It was asked if it would be possible to have a map with school zones on The Moray Council website.</p> <p>The Forum is to consider asking parent reps from each school to attend to garner their views.</p> <p>ACTION: Two representatives from the Forum to attend the briefing at Elgin Academy 26th September at 7pm</p>	<p>AM & MAR</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting Proposed: Christine Clerk Seconded: Daniel Scott</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Matters Arising Page 3, Item 9 - use of forum monies. Steven acknowledged this and thanked the forum on behalf of SPICE</p> <p>SPICE were refused any monies left from Elgin North Area forum. For future reference, it was noted that SPICE was presented as a litter group and their constitution was not submitted with the report.</p>	
<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p>	<p>Community Issues/action group updates</p> <p>Elgin High School Martine Scott, Senior Project Officer, advised the PAN exhibitions went well and informed people roughly where the school and road would be. ACTION: Forward some analysis of the questionnaire to the Chair.</p> <p>Project progress is ongoing with the final design still be refined.</p> <p>Western Link Road A report of the recent productive meeting between Rebecca Kail, James Wiseman, Aileen Marshall, Bill Stewart from Westfield, and Frank Knight and Andy Duff was circulated. The road design has evolved but there are still questions to be addressed. The A941 is to be signposted along Edgar Road and New Elgin Road until work on Glen Moray Drive is completed so this situation will need to be monitored. There will be an exhibition in Elgin Library on 25th & 26th September 10am-8pm.</p>	<p>MS</p>

<p>7.3</p>	<p>James reported there might be some interest in forming a residents group but he is still awaiting some responses.</p> <p>Bus Issue Update Correspondence on this matter was circulated. Moray Disability Forum and Moray Equalities Forum will take this forward as an equalities issue and keep us informed. The Chair thanked Alastair Kennedy, Elgin Community Council, and Irena Paterson, Moray Disabilities Forum, for their help with this. Elizabeth Scott advised there was a drop-in meeting to discuss bus services at the bus station waiting room, 8.30 - 11am 18th September.</p> <p>Flouting of the no smoking area at the bus station by customers and bus drivers was discussed. ACTION: SPICE to take forward</p>	<p>SC</p>
<p>7.4</p>	<p>Dr Gray's Issue Discussion was held on a reported shortage of beds at Dr Gray's. As far as is known, all the beds that can be in use are back in use and there are no specific bed-blocking issues we are aware of. ACTION: Contact Dr Gray's Manager, Sandy Dustan to express concern</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>7.5</p>	<p>Housing Allocations Consultation It was agreed Steven would formulate a response on behalf of the forum. ACTION: Response to consultation ACTION: Circulate response for approval</p>	<p>SC AM</p>
<p>7.6</p>	<p>SPICE update SPICE is investigating if Ladyhill could qualify as a war memorial garden and there be eligible for funding. There will be a clean up of bushes and tress along Alexandra Road at Blackfriars this weekend and volunteers are sought.</p>	
<p>7.7</p>	<p>Whisky Freight Pilot - Update Christine Clerk's report was circulated. It is hoped the scheme will be self-sustaining on completion of the pilot.</p>	
<p>7.8</p>	<p>Welfare Benefit Changes There is concern the closure of 7 libraries regarding computer access. The Economic Impact Assessment report is available online http://www.moray.gov.uk/minutes/data/XC20130910/Item%204%20-%20Appendix%20II.pdf There may be a legal challenge to this decision. It was agreed to monitor the situation.</p>	
<p>7.9</p>	<p>Any other Community Issues and Updates None</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report Balance is £6766.57. Members are reminded to submit any expenses by the end of September.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Forum Issues Minutes & Forward Planning October minutes: Christine. November/AGM minutes: Catherine ACTION: NEON to be booked for next year's meetings</p> <p>Forum Action Plan C/f For discussion and adoption next month</p> <p>Use of Forum Monies, Update on IT Forum Monies - as per Matters Arising Update on IT c/f</p>	

10.	<p>Correspondence Taken as read Sneak-in Incidents Correspondence Circ 21/8, 22/8, 23/8, 29/8 Correspondence re Bus Issue Circ 22/8, 26/8, 27/8 Dog Fouling Fortnight Circ 26/8 Volunteer Managers Network Circ 27/8 SPICE Papers Circ 27/8 Community Council Elections Info Circ 2/9 Forres Transition Town Jobs Circ 3/9 SCDC ACE Support for Groups Circ 4/9 SPICE Info Circ 3/9, 6/9, 13/9 x3 ECC Papers Circ 4/9 Photo/Film Competition for Young People Circ 4/9 Moray Passenger Forum Circ 10/9 School Estate Review Circ 12/9 NEON Booking Criteria Circ 13/9</p>	
11.	<p>Any Other Competent Business Arnold Clark cars being parked on the banks of the Tyock c/f to decide if take any action or not.</p>	
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Date of next meeting 15th October 2013, NEON, 7 pm The meeting closed at 9.28pm.</p>	