

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2012 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Present:	In Attendance:	Apologies:
Aileen Marshall (Chair) Steven Christie (Vice Chair) Christine Clerk (Treasurer) Elizabeth Scott Daniel Scott Marilyn Kelly Linda McKenzie Rebecca Kail (Minutes) James Wiseman	Cllr Graham Leadbitter Cllr John Divers Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC)	Mary Dow Catherine Sinclair

**MINUTES:**

ITEM	RECORD	ACTION
1	<b>Welcome</b> Aileen Marshall took the Chair at 7:00pm, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
2	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were noted as above.	

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3	<p><b>Draft Wind Energy Policy Guidance Consultation</b></p> <p>Aileen explained that overlapping holidays had delayed the request for a speaker to the extent that no one was available. This was unavoidable, but a speaker would have been useful to give a more general overview of such a complex document with lots of technical detail.</p> <p>The main points noted were that the guidance suggests a 2km buffer zone around properties (this is greater than that suggested by the Scottish Government) and that 19 hills have been designated as possible sites. There was some general discussion about the guidance and about wind farms in general. It was agreed that Aileen would write to commend the guidance but making it clear that we would have liked more time to investigate the issue and make decisions about it.</p> <p>There is to be a public meeting in Elgin Town Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.30 – 8.30pm.</p>	Aileen
4	<p><b>COMMUNITY ISSUES &amp; UPDATES</b></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Brown Muir Wind Farm Proposals</b></p> <p>The expected meeting did not take place. It seems likely that the decision will go to a public enquiry because the council is intending to object to the proposals.</p> <p>These proposals will not be affected by the above policy guidance, but once the guidance is in place, it will have to be taken into account for all windfarms. This includes decisions being made by Scottish ministers.</p>	
4.2	<p><b>Western Link Road</b></p> <p>There is minimal news about the road. Aileen drew our attention to the correspondence from Frank Knight and Richard Hartland, and to the letter written by Bilbohall Tenants' Association. A public exhibition is to take place early in September (date to be confirmed) to explain the need for the road. Aileen asked if it was in the new Local Plan and Graham said that the plan was not yet that detailed. James encouraged others to stop calling it 'the Wittet Drive issue' because it affects Edgar Road residents far more.</p> <p>There was also discussion about the problems of traffic on New Elgin Road/Main Street. Aileen suggested that, as a forum, we think of the roads issues as linked: what happens with the WLR may affect Main Street. Rebecca said that building new roads just caters for more traffic and that, to deal with the issue properly, there needs to be a traffic reduction strategy. John said that the population of Elgin has increased but the roads network has not kept pace.</p>	
4.3	<p><b>Elgin High School</b></p> <p>John said that the bid has gone in and that a decision is expected next month. It is seen as positive that the Scottish Government has not made any queries.</p>	
4.4	<p><b>Any Other Community Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe Route to School – Rebecca noted that the roadworks at the top of Sandy Road have removed the shared use path and the crossing point between there and the Glassgreen houses, and have not made any proper alternative provision for pedestrians and cyclists. It appears that they are expected to walk/cycle on the road. This is of particular concern since this was a well-used Safe Route to School – used by children walking and cycling independently - and the junction is busy. James said that it is a legal requirement to have replacement paths. Graham said he would speak to Richard Gerring in the council, and let Greenwards School know what was to be provided.</li> <li>• SPICE – Steven reported that they are looking to get funding for innovative ideas and that taxi drivers and the Elgin Benevolent Fund are keen to get involved. The next litter pick will be 29/30 Sept. John said that those on community payback orders can join one-off litter picks.</li> <li>• Old Mills – Alastair said that a site visit was due shortly to determine whether the council's enforcement order would be upheld.</li> </ul>	Graham

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ladyhill – as tenant, the council is responsible for grass cutting.</li> <li>• NHS – the NHS are ‘actively pursuing’ the requirement for more geriatricians in Moray.</li> <li>• Allotments – a seminar is to be held with relevant parties on 25<sup>th</sup> September. It is hoped that the result will be a strategy with targets.</li> <li>• Linda Adam – formerly a support worker for the forum and now support officer, Linda will be leaving to take up a new post in Dunbartonshire. It was agreed that Aileen will send best wishes on behalf of the forum.</li> </ul>	Aileen
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>Amendments: Steven not Stephen Christie and WLR Design Workshop letter circ 18/6 not 18/8</p> <p>With the above amendments, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: Steven Christie; Seconded: James Wiseman.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Community Fair – James no longer available to assist.</p> <p>Kathy Grant, Community Warden – John suggested that the mailing list be checked to ensure her inclusion.</p>	Aileen
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>The balance from 2<sup>nd</sup> July was £6,036.99. £5 was paid to the Community Council and £18.50 for the hire of the market stall. This leaves a balance of £6013.49</p> <p>Christine asked that anyone in need of expenses request them soon. The books need to be finalised before being checked at the end of September.</p> <p>It was agreed that Aileen should contact Jessie Farquhar to check the books again this year.</p>	Aileen
<b>8</b>	<b>FORUM ISSUES</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<p><b>Community Empowerment Consultation</b></p> <p>This was distributed so that it could be read before discussion at the next meeting.</p> <p>A website ‘our great ideas’ has been launched for this.</p>	All
<b>8.2</b>	<p><b>Future Meetings and Minutes</b></p> <p>There was some discussion about issues facing the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Plan consultation will be Oct-Jan. There will be a community groups seminar. Graham said he was hoping to see the national Design Streets policy and the local allotments policy influence the plan.</li> <li>• Budget decisions will be made after a series of focus groups (including forums). Priorities will be agreed Sept-Jan.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that it would be inappropriate to invite speakers with so much else to discuss at the moment. Aileen to ask Richard Carey (NHS) for an interim report before the AGM, with a view to asking him to a meeting next year.</p> <p>Christine agreed to do the minutes for the next meeting</p>	Aileen  Christine
<b>8.3</b>	<p><b>Possible Joint Meeting with ENAF</b></p> <p>It was agreed to invite ENAF to join us at some point, but no date was set.</p>	
<b>8.4</b>	<p><b>Farmers Market Report</b></p> <p>In the survey, whilst one person commented about the lack of communication in Elgin</p>	

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	South, most people were content. Elizabeth expressed surprise that someone mentioned there is nothing to do for young people.	
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Community Fair 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept, 10 am – 4pm</b> This will be held in the TA Hall and will have a 1950's theme to commemorate the Jubilee. It will be opened by the Jubilee Queen and the Lord Lieutenant. Volunteers were sought and Christine offered to do the morning and Marilyn some time in the afternoon.	Christine Marilyn
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Timesheets</b> Aileen received 171 emails and spent 38.75hrs on forum business.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> The correspondence was taken as read. Aileen confirmed that the correspondence listed below had been circulated. SPICE Meeting Papers Circ 21/6 Correspondence with Alex Bottrill Circ 21/6 Frank Knight re WLR Circ 25/6 Correspondence with Richard Hartland Circ 25/6 Litter Pick Info Circ 28/6 SPICE Taxis Update Circ 2/7 Oldmill Survey Circ 9/7 Local Policing Update Circ 9/7 Community Council Papers Circ 9/7 Wind Farm Policy Guidance Circ 9/7 Survey Results Circ 16/7 TSI Bulletin Circ 17/7 Community Council Minutes Circ 24/7 VAM – Free Evaluation Training Circ 25/7 Local Licensing Forum Info Circ 26/7 Computer Taster Sessions Circ 26/7 SPICE Minutes Circ 27/7 Invite to send rep to Brown Muir meeting (passed to SC) ENAF Papers Circ 6/8 Web-streaming Training Offer Circ 6/8 Community Fair Minutes Circ 7/8 WLR Info via Gillian Bailey Circ 10/8 Community Council Agenda Circ 11/8 Moray Passenger Forum Circ 16/8 Castle to Cathedral e-Bulletin Circ 16/8 SPICE Papers Circ 16/8 BEF Letter Circ 20/8 CCB Training Calendar Circ 21/8	

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<b>9</b>	<b>Any Other Competent Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Olympics – Heather Stanning will be returning to Moray on Friday. There will be a welcome in the town centre at 12.45, and she will be at Elgin Library on Sunday.</li><li>• BIDS' Music Mania will be held on the High Street on Saturday</li><li>• BIDS' Food and Drink Fair is on 15 September</li><li>• Seagulls – it was reported that they are becoming more dangerous. John reminded everyone that avoiding feeding the seagulls (directly or via leaving edible litter) is a good way to discourage them. There was uncertainty as to whether seagull deterrent planning conditions would be part of the Local Plan</li></ul>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> <p>Date of next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 7pm at NEON.</p> <p>Graham and James gave their apologies in advance.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:20pm.</p>	