

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

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**MINUTES:**

ITEM	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1	<b>Welcome</b> Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were noted as above.	
3	<b>Previous Minutes</b> The minutes of previous meeting 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2012 were accepted. Proposed: Rebecca Kail    Seconded: Steven Christie	
4	<b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising.	
5	<b>COMMUNITY ISSUES</b>	
5.1	<b>Moray Local Plan</b> Various issues were discussed about the Local Plan, with recognition that it often involves the trading of conflicting aims and tensions. It was agreed that Aileen would write to Mark Cross asking about the basis for the figures on sustainability, and suggesting that greater emphasis be given to the need for <i>affordable</i> housing, allotments and cemeteries. It was suggested that this could be an opportune time for the allotments association to contact The Moray Council asking for allotments to be included in large developments.	AM  RK
5.2	<b>Spending Priorities Consultation Feedback</b> The consultations showed the diversity of opinion about areas to be cut. In Elgin, the emphasis was on keeping services for the old and young. However, most groups were unable to make the savings required. The consultation was seen as a worthwhile exercise and evaluation of the roadshow is expected to be high. It was commented that other public sector groups have already been through this process, and have found that it can foster community spirit due to enhanced involvement. It was emphasised that discussion about the budget is continuing and that nothing is 'cut and dried'.	

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5.3	<p><b>Sandy Road Widening Response</b></p> <p>The response was considered unsatisfactory. It was jargon-filled, and appears to have mistakenly taken the report of comments heard as the forum's opinion. It was agreed that community engagement needs to be better for developments like this, whether or not a statutory process is required. Not all residents are aware of the Local Plan and its implications. Given the heightened tension due to the Western Link Road, it seems shortsighted not to have involved residents at an early stage. It was agreed that Aileen would reply to Richard Hartland and raise these concerns.</p>	AM
5.4	<p><b>Western Link Road</b></p> <p>There was some discussion about the next stages of the proposed road, and also whether the WLR and the link to the new high school should now be considered separate issues. The decision on the WLR will be taken by the planning committee. James Wiseman was asked to provide information for those wanting to object or support the planning application. Aileen will write to ensure ESAF is involved in decisions about the school road.</p>	JW AM
5.5	<p><b>Elgin High School</b></p> <p>A letter from Cllr Barry Jarvis advised ESAF to become involved in the process to minimise the type of problems experienced during building of the new Elgin Academy. Elgin South councillors are aware of the issues, and think that the process for sharing information is already well underway. Headteachers from both primary and secondary schools have been involved and meetings continue. The contractor for the work at EHS is not the same as for the Academy and this may minimise difficulties. Graham Jarvis and Andy Oliver will oversee the project.</p>	
5.6	<p><b>Wind Energy</b></p> <p>The Moray Council objected to the Brown Muir development. Over 2000 people contributed with 1 in 4 in favour.</p>	
5.7	<p><b>SPICE</b></p> <p>A meeting was held in December with representatives from Zero Waste Scotland who are keen to get involved with this initiative.</p>	
5.8	<p><b>Any Other Community Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Elgin Nursery.</b> A letter was sent stating that ESAF had no objections in principle to the proposal, but had concerns about parking.</li> <li>• <b>Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People.</b> A consultation was sent out for individual response.</li> <li>• <b>Housing Seminar.</b> A Handypersons survey about housing for older people was circulated. It is linked to the forthcoming seminar on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan.</li> <li>• <b>'Lifting the Spirit'.</b> This project aims to increase rail freight in Moray, particularly for food and drink. It is currently being tested in Elgin with whisky. Keith freight yard may also be used if the initial pilot is successful. Whilst it is likely to create increased traffic in New Elgin, this is being planned to avoid peak times. It was agreed to ask a representative from HITRANS to the April meeting to find out more about the project.</li> </ul>	AM
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>The balance is £5713.57</p>	
7	<p><b>FORUM ISSUES</b></p>	
7.1	<p><b>Future meetings.</b></p> <p>Catherine Sinclair offered to do the minutes for the Feb and March meetings.</p>	
7.2	<p><b>Questions for Richard Carey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on previous issues</li> <li>• Bad publicity stories</li> <li>• Are there adequate staffing levels at Dr Gray's? (Stressed staff whistleblowing to press/ patients sleeping in the day room because of issues in wards.)</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there difficulties with staff management and communication at Dr Gray's?</li> </ul>	
<b>7.3</b>	<p><b>Joint Survey Update.</b> The final version (including responses from agencies to issues raised) has been circulated. The findings will be in the Northern Scot and there will be exhibitions in the library, the leisure centre and Asda. Ian Todd and the councillors present asked that they could also have a copy.</p>	AM
<b>7.4</b>	<p><b>Final Timesheet</b> Aileen received 130 emails and spent 41 hrs on forum business. Over the year, forum business has taken up 364 hrs in total.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> The correspondence was taken as read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence with RH re Widening Sandy Road Circ 21/11</li> <li>WLR CE Steering Group Notes Circ 26/11</li> <li>SHCN Information Circ 26/11</li> <li>ENAF Papers Circ 29/11</li> <li>TSI Chief Officer Ad Circ 30/11</li> <li>Joint Forums' Survey Report Circ 7/12</li> <li>SPICE Papers Circ 7/12</li> <li>ECC Papers Circ 7/12</li> <li>NE School Nursery Comment Circ 17/12</li> <li>WLR Committee Report Circ 17/12</li> <li>Local Plan Exhibition Dates Circ 20/12</li> <li>ECC Papers Circ 6/1</li> <li>SPICE Papers Circ 6/1</li> <li>Response from RH re Widening Sandy Road Circ 8/1</li> <li>Backbone Community Leadership Project Circ 9/1 (Update 10/1)</li> <li>Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum Info Circ 10/1</li> <li>Housing Forum Invite Circ 10/1</li> <li>Final Joint Survey Documents Circ 14/1</li> </ul>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Any Other Competent Business</b> None</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Date of next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 7pm at NEON.</p>	