

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MORAY FORUM**  
**1 June 2009**  
**New Elgin Primary School Annexe**

**Present:**

Alan Beresford (Chair)	Buckie Area Forum
Rebecca Kail	Elgin South Area Forum
Aileen Marshall	Elgin South Area Forum
Anita Milne	Milnes Area Forum
Kieron Green	Elgin North Area Forum
Barry Taylor	Buckie Area Forum
Alistair Kennedy	Joint Community Councils

**Also present:**

John Ferguson	The Moray Council
Ian Todd	The Moray Council
Lisa Sutherland	The Moray Council
Roy Anderson	The Moray Council

**Apologies;**

Carin Schwartz	Forres Area Forum
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**1. Welcome**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that we change the order slightly asking that we discuss the current position with the consultation before item 4.

**2. Roy Anderson- yourmoray websites**

Lisa Sutherland and Roy Anderson gave a presentation on the yourmoray website. The purpose was to generate interest and gather information for the community planning website.

The site was relaunched in November 2008. Tracking figures provided showed that there had been 5,391 visits to the site 59% of these were new visitors with 2392 views on the Area Forum section. Tracking also demonstrated that people were looking at area forum sites that had out of date information on them.

On Area Forum home pages the vision for the site is that local news events, literature published, leaflets newsletter and press releases can be organised say for example in Forres are put on the site. For this vision to be realised it needs someone to update the site. The event section is blank. Currently content and information can be sent to [communityplanning@moray.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@moray.gov.uk). Basically a commitment from the forums to update the site is required and feedback on the site was welcomed.

There was a discussion on the minutes and when minutes can be added to the site, it was suggested that rather than waiting for the approved minutes Forums could place draft minutes on the site. It was asked why the e-bulletin had the hyperlink taken off, Lisa explained that this was a technical issue and was beyond her power

to change. Both Alistair Kennedy and Anita Milne said they had sought a specific piece of information on the site and could not find it. There was a discussion on whether or not e-mail addresses being on the site was an issue of data protection.

### **3. Community Agreements**

Ian Todd gave a presentation on the potential benefits of establishing community agreements. A community agreement is a voluntary partnership agreement between a community, the local authority and other service providers. It describes the service standards which local people expect from the local authority and its partners, as well as commitments from service providers, local groups and residents themselves to help meet local community priorities. It provides the opportunity to increase community participation and engagement. Ian explained that there is no definitive model for the agreement. This is used in England at the moment and the Scottish Government are currently looking at this approach. Ian outlined a proposal that the Moray Forum takes the lead and organises training delivery, this would cost £1800 at approximately £225 per forum.

Anita asked if the agreement was voluntary as the agreement would be reliant on goodwill. Ian pointed out that experience in other areas was positive and that authorities and agencies would find it difficult to undermine the agreement as it would have an adverse publicity effect. Various examples of the Council not carrying out agreed work were given, raising concerns about the process.

Anita Milne felt that in principal it was a good idea but could foresee real difficulties in practice.

There was also a discussion on whether the forums should fund this. If training was organised it was stressed that this should be during a time that volunteers could make it so for example a Saturday. Alan felt it was difficult to make a decision on the equitable division of the costs, but proposed that we declare an interest in this and seek a broader range of opinion. Alistair Kennedy agreed that Ian would provide presentation to the JCC. Rebecca suggested that this issue be raised with the Community Engagement group. It was agreed that the Forum gives a qualified yes to the proposal. Ian Todd will get back to Alan to discuss how we take that forward

### **4. Community Support Unit**

Alan Beresford raised his concern at the process currently underway the first version of the consultation was “appalling”, he received another version that contained the same format of multiple choice even though they had said that they did not want that format.

Admittedly he found out that the first version was a rough draft but overall the Council should have come to the forum in advance of this decision being taken. The JCC, MVSO and the Moray Forum have agreed not to participate in the consultation until they know the position with regard to the consultation on the unit as this would legitimise the process which they do not agree with. John apologised for the confusion, but he had sent out a rough draft for comments to

the community engagement group. The consultation on the financial proposals was put out as this was more straightforward. The consultation on the Unit was slightly different, he had agreed to hold completion of the document off till tonight's meeting. He also explained that he has been clear to everyone that the decision to establish the unit has been taken by the Council. The process is about giving information on the change and the unit, and it is about finding out from communities how they see this new unit providing support, and from partners to ensure that duplication does not occur and that the unit works with other agencies in partnership. Alan stated that they object to the financial proposal in that it only really offers one option, as the other options are unworkable. John stressed that in the letter it gives the option of inviting suggestions from the Forums and Community Councils and they would be considered. They agreed not to participate in the process until there was clarity on the Community Support Unit consultation. A meeting has been set for the 9<sup>th</sup> of June with MVSO, JCC and the Forum to which John and Ian have been invited.

**5 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Proposed as a true record of the meeting held on by Anita Milne and seconded by Rebecca Kail as a true record of the last meeting.

**6. Matters Arising**

No Matters Arising

**7. Voluntary Sector Partnership**

Anita outlined progress on the Voluntary Sector Partnership that had been raised at previous meetings. A structure, which would parallel the Thematic Structure of the Community Planning Partnership, had been proposed and a draft diagram of the structure was circulated.

**8. Young Carers**

Anita reported back on the situation with regard to young carers in Moray. It would appear that under the old service level agreement 120 hours was allocated to support of young carers and it has been reduced to 19.5. The previous provider is picking up the gap. John put Anita in contact with the new service manager and a meeting has been arranged. The weekly trip to Gordonstoun mentioned at the last meeting is still going ahead. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of April the new SLA holder was not in place but they now have an office in Batchen Street, Elgin. There seems to be a lack of information on whats happening and in particular information to young carers. The Chair proposed that this be taken up with the director of Community Services. It was agreed to leave with Anita and Alan to follow this up.

**9. Fairer Scotland Fund**

Anita distributed an article from the "Third Sector" which was based on a Freedom of Information (FOI) request from an MSP which compared the levels of Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) that had been

spent on administration across Scottish Local Authority Areas. John responded to the letter and pointed out that due to the delay in posts being filled the actual cost from the fund for financial year 2008/09 was £15,522 this figure included staffing, office resources and partnership meeting costs. Much less than the figure in the letter. The total cost of staffing over the three years of the project was stated in the FOI response to be £254,372 and again this was an estimate at the time of the enquiry. The actual cost of staffing over the programme will be closer to £213,405. The appointment of a manager for the FSF process is not about the administration of the fund but to assist the Community Planning Partnership to develop a coherent approach to Fairer Scotland Fund investment and to take forward specific pieces of work. The overall cost of the administrator post will be around £44,859 for the entire programme. John also pointed out that the decision to invest in these staff was agreed by the Community Planning Partnership.

**10. LEADER**

Anita is on the Local Action Group (LAG) and gave a brief report back. Decisions have started to be made on the distribution of the fund. Anita is concerned that this was meant to have involvement of the Area Forums to give a view or comment on applications from their area, or to this Forum when it's a Moray wide bid. This was in the business plan. John Ferguson is no longer the Council representative and has been replaced by an elected member. The new Chair is Priscilla Gordon-Duff. Anita will raise the issue of Forum involvement with David Watson the programme manager.

**11. Community Engagement Group**

Rebecca reported back on the last meeting of the Community Engagement group. There are now two bodies the actual Community Engagement group, which has elected members sitting on it and the Implementation group. Rebecca felt this was going well, the action plan was agreed by the Community Engagement Group and the implementation group would be progressing this. The action plan looks at mapping the structures, training, promoting engagement and arrangements for planning and monitoring.

**12. Allotments**

The council has agreed to encourage the development of allotments. As it develops a more detailed policy the expertise of the allotment groups will be involved in the drawing up of a more detailed policy.

**13. HI -VIZ Armbands**

Alan reported back that this had been a success successful and on the agenda documents it points the competition amongst Moray pre and P1-3 schoolchildren is underway.

**14. Community Issues**

(a) Ian Todd reported that “Better Engagement” pilot which he had sought backing for at a previous meeting had been awarded to Moray. It will allow for Moray to get some consultancy and will develop engagement with Equalities groups.

(b) Carin Schwarz, whose apologies had been submitted, has reported that Forres will be having an HMle visit and Forres Area Forum will be involved. Buckie who had participated in the Buckie Inspection had found the experience very positive and encouraged other forums to get involved if an inspection takes place in their area.

**15. Items For The Next Agenda**

Rebecca wanted something on document confidentiality, as there is increased involvement with the partnership.

Anita Milne has asked to put Youth Involvement on the next agenda.

**16. Date Of The Next Meeting**

29 June 2009 at 7.00pm in New Elgin Primary School Annexe.