



DRAFT

Minutes of Elgin South Area Forum
Tuesday 3rd March 2009
New Elgin Primary School Annexe

Present: Rebecca Kail (Chair), Steven Christie (Vice Chair), Aileen Marshall (Treasurer), Louise Ellerby, Elizabeth Scott, Daniel Scott, Christine Clerk, Linda McKenzie, Marilyn Kelly, Debbie McGhie (Young Dookiteers), Ray Wood (Linkwood Residents)

Apologies: Pauline Knox, Murray Ross

In Attendance: Ann Griffin (Local Area Forum Support Worker), Mike Mulloy (Grampian Police), Cllr Divers, Cllr Leadbitter, Alistair Campbell (Moray Council), Sheila Campbell (Moray Council)

1. De-Centralising Library Services – Alistair Campbell, The Moray Council Libraries & Museums Manager. The Chair introduced Alistair and Sheila Campbell and gave a brief outline of the discussions that had taken place about the community need for de-centralised library services in New Elgin. Alistair Campbell highlighted the population growth in New Elgin and reported that a study had been done to establish the feasibility of siting library services in New Elgin Primary School and Elgin High School. The proposal had been dropped due to several factors. Alistair also highlighted the needs identified through Community Development and the opportunities for partnership working with adult education.

There was a discussion about what would be the priority services for New Elgin. It was established that internet access and learning opportunities for families would provide a service that the mobile library would not. It was reported that it would be more likely that any new service would be started as a pilot project to assess the usage and impact. Different buildings could be considered - New Elgin and Ashgrove Hall, New Elgin Primary School Annexe and also the new buildings on Thornhill Road. Public transport and car parking were discussed, and also the benefits of social interaction in New Elgin amongst vulnerable and elderly groups. It was decided that the forum would gather evidence of need and forward to the library so that a feasibility study could take place. The Chair thanked Alistair and Sheila Campbell and they left the meeting.

2. Welcome & Apologies

Welcome and introductions were made, apologies recorded.

3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The previous minutes were recorded as accurate, proposed by Steven Christie and seconded by Louise Ellerby.

Travellers in New Elgin. Cllr Leadbitter has spoken to the Travellers' Officer and extra bins have been provided. He did point out that this is a messy area anyway but he would keep an eye on the situation. The site is private land and it would be up to the landowner if any action would be taken to remove travellers from this site. It was also reported that the area of

land running adjacent to the railway and Asda is full of litter at the moment and needs to be tidied. Cllr Leadbitter offered to bring this to the attention of Railtrack Scotland.

Seagulls in New Elgin. Rebecca read out a draft letter for the planning department regarding the problem of seagulls in New Elgin. It was agreed to send it, and to send similar letters of concern and requests for action to the retailers and industrial site owners on Edgar Road as well. A press release has been sent to the *Northern Scot* asking residents to take action. It was hoped that the joined up approach would sort out the problem at all levels.

4. Progress Report

The progress report had been circulated previously. The following updates were offered:

Strategy Group. A draft strategy template has been compiled and was circulated for comment. The strategy group is made up of chairs of the action groups. Aileen, Louise, Rebecca and Steven will arrange to meet soon. **After note: Date set for Friday 20th March at 10am in New Elgin Primary School Annexe.**

Linkwood Residents Group - Reiket Lane Works. Ray gave a detailed update on the current work being done on Reiket Lane and also the work that the group is doing and the progress that has been made.

Elgin High Litter Group. The group has met and are currently working with the school to ensure that litter in area improves. The next meeting has been arranged for 24th March 2009.

Active Travel. Rebecca reported that an active travel consultation had taken place in the Annexe and that Halcrow have taken back community views to be incorporated into a report for the Moray Council.

Regional Sports Facilities. Aileen had attended a meeting at Elgin High School with staff and the Parent Council to consider the proposals for the Regional Sports Facility at Elgin High School. She reported that the meeting had been positive and that proposed facilities were exciting. Phase 1 is due to start this year.

5. Pharmacy Consultation

Ann reported that Boots UK had outlined a proposal to close the existing pharmacy on Main Street, New Elgin and open enhanced facilities at the Victoria Crescent Medical Centre on Southfield. Members felt that they would like to be consulted. The consultation will take place on Tuesday 17th March at 7pm in New Elgin Primary School.

Ann to send out invitations and to organise with Boots UK.

6. Vacancy for Secretary

Rebecca highlighted the vacant position of secretary.

7. Newsletter

Both Elgin South and North Forums have allocated some of their administration budget towards the next community newsletter. The following volunteers agreed to contribute articles:

Louise - an article on New Elgin & Ashgrove hall - Done

Linda - a short piece on adult evening class, keep fit/circuit training - Will meet with Rebecca

Steven - Bilbohall Estate Forum - Done

Rebecca - an article on Community Allotment Project - Will meet with Linda

8. Treasurer's Report

Aileen reported that the account currently has a balance of £1233.90.

9. Correspondence

- Letter from Alistair Campbell about decentralising library services
- Adult Learning Evening Classes - Winter 2009 programme
- Minutes for Elgin High Litter Group
- Letter from bank about money going in

10. Community Issues

a) Lighting on Doocot Park. Mike reported that consideration is being given to lighting and CCTV for the community shelter on the Doocot Park. He also said that complaints from residents around the park have significantly reduced since the shelter has been built. The shelter is being well used although there has been quite a bit of vandalism.

b) Vandalism on Manbeen/Brandon Place. Steven reported that he had been aware of considerable amount of damage being done during a spate of vandalism on Manbeen/Brandon Place. Mike reported that there is an ongoing enquiry about this.

c) Double Yellow Lines on the Wards. Rebecca said that the forum had supported the proposal for double yellow lines down The Wards (both at the community consultation and at the roads and transportation sub-group) because it was felt that it would benefit the wider community. They had also asked that consideration should be given to residents parking at the bottom of The Wards where there are some houses without off-road parking. She reported that the final decision has not been popular with the residents (as seen in the press) and wondered if members of the forum had any comments.

Members still felt that this is the right decision for the good of the whole community, although sympathy was expressed for residents in The Wards. It was decided that it was not necessary to further publicise the views of the forum.

It was also reported that the road surface on The Wards was in a state of disrepair.

A letter to be written to James Smith expressing concerns about the state of the road surface - Rebecca Action

d) Support Worker. Ann reported that she had submitted her resignation for her post of Area Forum Support Worker and that she had taken up a new position of Public Involvement

Officer with Moray Health and Social Care Partnership. This would be her last meeting. Cllr Divers congratulated Ann on her new position and thanked her, on behalf of the forum and all members, for her hard work and commitment during her 2 years in post.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 21st April 2009 in New Elgin Primary School Annexe.

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 21:15pm.

**Minutes prepared by Ann Griffin
Elgin South Area Forum Support Worker
Thursday 12th March 2009**