

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7.00 pm in the NEON Building**

**Present:**

Aileen Marshall (Chair)  
Steven Christie (Vice Chair)  
Marilyn Kelly  
Daniel Scott  
Margaret-Anne Ramage

Christine Clerk (Treasurer) (Minutes)  
Rebecca Kail  
Moirra Sutherland  
Elizabeth Scott

**In Attendance:**

Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC)  
PC Mike McKenzie (Police Scotland)  
Frank Roach, Hitrans

Cllr John Divers, Cllr Graham Leadbitter  
Ian Todd (Community Support Unit)  
Douglas Norris, Hitrans

**Apologies:**

Cllr James Allan  
James Wiseman  
Catherine Sinclair

Linda McKenzie  
Mary Dow  
Cathy Grant (Community Warden)

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b> Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies were noted.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Community warden/Police Report</b> Nothing to report</p>	
4.	<p><b>Elgin Rail Freight Pilot</b> Frank Roach of Hitrans delivered a presentation on the rail freight project, <i>Lifting the Spirit</i>, which is designed to put funding into transporting bulk spirit. Hitrans is a consortium of five local authorities. The 2005 Road Transport Act enabled development of regional transport. In 2011 a whisky logistics study was undertaken to identify the proportion of distillery traffic moving around Moray. It was determined that 48% of the traffic on the A95 is whisky related. Whisky is a key market sector in Moray. The advantage of the Rail freight network is that it is available 24/7. In 2006 £4million was invested in the network to enable larger loads to be moved via Aberdeen. The operation of the Rail Freight network is very closely regulated. Network Rail is a not for dividend company and has its own network of railway. Access to this track is transparently priced to allow for fair competition. Network Rail is funded in five year chunks and allowed to borrow on that basis. It is a debt based company and obtains its money through franchising, freight operators and grants from the government. It has £30 million to develop a strategic rail network. The Inverness to Elgin railway line will also be upgraded to be on a par with the Elgin to Aberdeen line thus allowing larger loads to be transported along the entire Inverness to Aberdeen line. A European funded organisation, <a href="http://www.food-port.eu">www.food-port.eu</a> has been established to move food and drink through sustainable transport methods. At present 11 % of this market is by rail, the target is 50% and money is available to achieve this. An analysis of the present network is required before any further rebuilding is undertaken. It is hoped to establish a green corridor with a carbon reduced footprint. A logistics management company will be hired to optimise the present transport arrangement and minimise costs. An environmental audit will also be undertaken. Every distiller in Moray will be given the opportunity to engage with the experiment, but it will not be allowed to skew the market. The Scottish Whisky Association has been very helpful in assisting with the project. The benefits of this scheme are that the cost of transporting bulk raw whisky products will be reduced. At</p>	

	<p>present rail transport is more expensive than by road. In order to achieve a cost saving all the whisky distillers in the area will need to work together. The larger distillery companies, such as Diageo might be able to utilise an entire train load of 16 to 20 containers. The lifting equipment to manage the containers is not available in Elgin. A £1million facility is available in Inverness. If the project was to be used to transport foodstuffs, larger companies such as Tesco would require their own train. This would require dedicated food grade containers. As part of cost effectiveness it was hoped to fill these containers on their return journeys to their depots. Concern was expressed at the increased traffic of lorries transporting these containers to the terminal in Elgin. The impact at the proposed depot off Maisondieu Road was felt to be confined to the day time. The lorries would arrive from 10am to midday, then they would return on the following day. A problem which had been identified was the need to reverse to the level crossing to get into the yard, but the trial period would enable these difficulties to be remedied. The first train of containers will be expected in late August, for a possible ten week trial period. If the project was a success then it would have to be self sufficient after the funding runs out. Douglas Norris informed the meeting that he would be going to the siding on Maisondieu Road on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June to start the cleaning up process and even that operation would be of benefit to the community. It was hoped that whisky consumers would encourage the distillers to engage with the project, as all the Distiller companies have a zero waste policy and are keen to promote their clean green image in their marketing materials. The transport of bulk spirit is a small percentage of distiller's costs. The scheme will not have an impact on the lorry driver's livelihoods as it would be easier to recruit local rather than long distance drivers.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b> Proposed: Steven Christie    Seconded: Alastair Kennedy</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 allotments Update</b> The forum has responded to the allotments consultation and on the Environmental impact of the WLR</p> <p><b>Item 6 wetlands-stagnant ponds</b> Ian Bruce will arrange the litter pick, not the Ranger.</p> <p><b>Item 7.3 Libraries and Equalities Impact assessment</b> Ian Todd reported that the two week data analysis period had finished on Friday 14 June 2013 and the report was expected by the beginning of August.</p> <p><b>Item 7.4 Elgin Rail Bridge</b> There are no plans to build a new Elgin rail foot-bridge.</p> <p><b>Item 7.4 Capacity of schools</b> Sandy Riddell and Graham Jarvis will attend the forum meeting in September to talk about School Zoning. The Children and Young People's Services Committee will report on school capacity.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b></p> <p><b>7.2</b></p>	<p><b>Community Issues/action group updates</b></p> <p><b>Elgin High School</b> There will be an information session in the Moray college on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June to display the plans for the new Elgin High School. There will also be the plans for Edgar road.</p> <p>There will be a fete and talent show on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 6.00 to 10.00pm. This event will also involve other schools.</p> <p><b>Western Link Road</b></p> <p><b>Designing Better Streets drop-in meeting on 15th June.</b> Two members of the Forum had attended the meeting in the TA Hall. No update on the public response to this meeting.</p>	

	<p><b>Edgar Road residents Group</b> This will be a forum led initiative with the support of Martine Scott. James Wiseman is likely to motivate other residents to engage with this group. All of the Bilbohall scheme is likely to be affected by parking from workmen's cars. A march protesting against the Link Road is being organised. This will also highlight the services which are being threatened including libraries and classroom assistants.</p> <p><b>7.3 SPICE update</b> The AGM will take place 30th May. SPICE is now constituted and office bearers have been appointed. There is a proposal to cut the bushes near Tesco to see if the litter will be reduced. New flower beds have been dug out at Ladyhill - goods are being stored behind the house. It is hoped to install an outside tap and establish storage facilities. The monument door has been repainted green. Plywood has been used to stop vandalism. Action has been taken to address the amount of dog mess near B&amp;Q. The Animal services dog warden has been informed and Kathy Grant (Community Warden) will issue fines for dog fouling. There is no funding for dog waste bins as they tend to be vandalised. Rewards could be offered to people who report dog fouling. B&amp;Q have to take responsibility for the dog mess on their property. Articles have been run by the local press on the subject of dog mess but the topic needs constant attention. The message is not reaching those responsible and more effort is needed to impose fines as a deterrent. SPICE is using see through containers to identify the cost of clearing up waste. They are working with businesses to reduce waste and packaging.</p> <p><b>7.4 Welfare Benefit Changes</b> The Bedroom Tax has caused an increase in rent arrears. A Consultation will be undertaken on arrears policy. Further problems may arise when Universal credit is introduced. A Council motion not to evict people who were in arrears over the Bedroom Tax was overturned. Reductions in benefits have also been made on people with disabilities. The introduction of Universal Credit which will be paid four weeks in arrears will also have an impact. 43% of Appeals against the fitness to work test are being overturned. Cllr Leadbitter reported that his office is being overwhelmed with correspondence on the Benefit Changes.</p> <p><b>7.5 Application for MacDonald's Late licence.</b> An application for late opening from 6pm to 2.00am at weekends <b>Action</b> Aileen Marshall to respond that there are no objections</p>	
8.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> Balance is £6890.57, and paid out £40 for last minutes. A discussion arose on what the forum money could be spent on. A new Community Council scheme has a list of what the money can be spent on. We are waiting for the Moray Forum to respond about insurance. We are still deciding whether a separate laptop is needed to deal with concerns about data protection.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Forum Issues</b> <b>Wind turbine Training</b> Two training places are available on September the 12<sup>th</sup> to cover all aspects of wind turbines except community benefit. An extra place is available from the community council <b>July Forum meeting</b> It was decided not to have a July meeting . <b>Forum Action Plan meeting on Wednesday 12 June</b> Eight people attended and a skeleton action plan was devised. A template has been circulated and additional comments are invited. It is hoped the action plan will be completed in August <b>Community engagement and the single outcome agreement.</b> A discussion arose on the SOA. It was felt that Stuart Cree could be invited to the Forum to explain more about the SOA and ESAF's place in it.</p>	

10.	<p><b>Correspondence</b> Taken as read</p> <p>Martine Scott – Re Offer to Facilitate Meetings Circ 22/5 Correspondence with Graham Jarvis re Zoning Issues Circ 22/5, 24/5 tsiMoray AGM Notices Circ 22/5, 5/6 ESAF Allotments Consult Response Circ 23/5, 12/6 FAF Action Plan Circ 23/5 SST Conference Circ 24/5 SPICE AGM Notice Circ 27/5 EHS Exhibitions Notice Circ 28/5 tsiMoray Bulletin Circ 29/5 Scotland's Small Towns Elgin Report Circ 29/5 DTAS Bulletin Circ 29/5 Highland LEADER Programme Circ 29/5 Brodie Castle Fun Day Circ 30/5 Wind Turbine Training Offer Rec 31/5 Info circ 31/5 SPICE Meeting Papers Circ 9/6 Ladyhill Planting Circ 9/6 ECC Meeting Papers Circ 9/6 SPICE IYN info Circ 11/6 CC Scheme Review Docs Circ 11/6 EHS Exhibition Info Circ 11/6 Gypsy Traveller Response Circ 13/6 SE Strategy for Moray Initial discussion Paper Circ 13/6 McDonalds Late Catering Licence app circ 18/6</p>	
11.	<p><b>Any Other Competent Business</b> Daniel and Elizabeth Scott reported that the New Elgin Road would be closed from the Thornhill roundabout to the Linkwood roundabout from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July for six weeks. Works were commencing to improve water drainage .</p>	
12.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Date of next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013, NEON, 7 pm The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.</p>	