



**DRAFT**

Minutes of Elgin South Area Forum  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall

**Present:** Rebecca Kail, (Chair), Steven Christie (Vice Chair), Aileen Marshall (Treasurer), Murray Ross, Louise Ellerby, Elizabeth Scott, Daniel Scott, Gordon Fimister, Christine Clerk, Linda McKenzie, Marilyn Kelly

**Apologies:** Pauline Knox, Moira Sutherland, Debbie McGhee, Cllr Divers

**In Attendance:** Ann Griffin, (Local Area Forum Support Worker), Mike Mulloy (Grampian Police), Cllr Sharp and Cllr Leadbitter

**1. Welcome** – The Vice Chair opened the meeting explaining that Rebecca would be late. Introductions were made and apologies recorded.

**2. Previous Minutes - Matters arising from previous minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> September.**

The O2 mast sited at the GlenMoray Drive shopping area is currently being moved. The resurfacing work for the car park and improvements to the walkways has been completed and Steven thanked the focus group for their hard work in achieving the desired outcome.

These minutes were approved as an accurate record. Proposed by Marilyn Kelly, seconded by Gordon Fimister.

**Matters arising from previous minutes, AGM 10<sup>th</sup> November**

The new Community Warden for Elgin will commence employment on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**3. Progress Report**

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

**Dooky Action Group.** The shelter has been completed and officially opened. Christine expressed concern that the shelter is being vandalised and ruined rapidly. She reported that a window has been broken over the weekend. It was suggested that better lighting would perhaps help. Mike Mulloy said that this is being considered with the Youth Development Workers. CCTV was discussed and it was reported a camera in B & Q would probably not be legally allowed that the use of CCTV to pan out on public property would also deter the shelter from being used. Complaints from local residents on North Street and the surrounding area have diminished proving that the shelter has detracted youths from causing noise and disturbance to the residents.

**Reiket Lane Works.** The road will be closed to traffic from the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and the temporary footbridge will be put in place.

**Elgin High Litter Group.** The group is waiting a date from Elgin High School for the opportunity to come together again and discuss the ongoing problem of antisocial litter in the area.

**Beautification Scheme.** Murray reported that the community council had taken the opportunity to talk to Ken Kennedy about the possibility of building a new flowerbed on Morrision Road opposite the Eight Acres

**Rebecca (Chair) arrived, and recommenced the meeting and thanked Steven the Vice Chair, for standing in.**

**New Elgin Hall.** Louise reported that the New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall have installed a new boiler which was part funded by the Elgin Common Good Fund. She said that the McDonald Brothers had played 2 evenings in the hall and has helped put both the hall and New Elgin on the map. They are currently trying to encourage more daytime lets as the playgroup has moved to their new premises. They are also considering fundraising opportunities to enable them to install new toilet facilities.

**Allotment Group.** Rebecca reported that the allotment group had met earlier that day and has arranged a site visit with Moray Council. The Moray Council has also given them details of a potential site in the Elgin North Area. There will be approx. 20/30 allotment plots and it is anticipated that there will be a maximum charge of £50 per year for the largest plots. Reservations are already heavily subscribed.

#### **4. Vacancy for Secretary**

Rebecca highlighted the vacancy for secretary and asked if anyone would be interested in taking on any part of the role saying it might be appropriate to share the responsibility. There were no volunteers at this meeting.

#### **5. Newsletter**

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

- Louise- an article on New Elgin & Ashgrove hall
- Linda -a short piece on adult evening class, keep fit/circuit training
- Steven – Bilbohall Estate Forum
- Rebecca – an article on Community Allotment Project

Ann offered to do the desktop publishing of the Newsletter. A proof-reader is still required. Ann to organise a time and place for the above volunteers to meet. **Ann Action**

#### **6. Elgin South Strategy Group**

Rebecca said that the strategy group had been unable to meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. Cllr Leadbitter said that a paper is being considered which will have implications on the Forum and would probably be further discussed at the Policy Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, as there were budget implications. He also encouraged that the forum should go ahead with the Strategy document. The following members volunteered to be part of the strategy focus group:

Rebecca Kail (Community Allotments, Greener Theme), Ray Wood (Linkwood Residents Group, Safer, Smarter Theme), Debbie McGee (Young Dookiteer Youth Club/Smarter theme) Steven Christie (Tenants Forum, Healthier theme/Housing), Louise & Aileen

#### **7. Treasurers Report**

Aileen reported that the account currently has a balance of £1306.46 with £64.00 in uncleared cheques. She offered the books to all members for inspection and highlighted the responsibility of the group to ensure that the books are satisfactory.

## 8. Correspondence

- Elgin South Area Forum Annual Report 2008 for members who were unable to attend AGM
- Adult Learning Evening Classes – Winder 2009 programme
- Midnight Football League 2009 – Elgin Community Centre
- Mental Health First Aid
- Local Matters – pilot newsletter from Transition Town Forres
- Community First Moray – Newsletter
- Email – Grampian Police ref reckless conduct on Stagecoach Bus in Elgin

## 9. Community Issues

**a) De-centralising Library Services.** Through consultation in Pinefield and Linkwood, suggestions had been made that instead of having to drive, park and use the main Elgin Library, that some of their services could be located in New Elgin providing a local service. After debate, it was agreed that this was a good idea. It would have an impact on the parking problems, be more environmentally friendly and perhaps bring books, internet access and other facilities to a deprived area in Moray. Cllr Leadbitter reported that a feasibility study had been done to provide a library for New Elgin and that it might be worth while obtaining a copy of this report. Locations discussed involved the New Elgin Primary School Annexe, New Elgin and Ashgrove Hall and the new facility on Southfield development. Ann to identify a representative from library service to talk to the forum about this. **Ann Action**

**b) Seagulls in New Elgin.** Ann reported that 3 members of the public had been in touch regarding their concerns about the increasing population of seagulls in New Elgin. Areas affected varied from Springfield Gardens, Baillies Drive and other streets. It was suggested that legislation is required to cope with this growing problem and that joint working is needed to ensure that the problems don't get dislocated from one area to another. It was decided to try and resolve this by tackling it from 3 different directions:

- Write to Moray Council planning department to ensure that any future applications consider and attempt to address these problems. **Chair in absence of Secretary**
- Write to retailers on Edgar Road and ask them to consider taking precautions to alleviate the population of seagulls. **Chair in absence of Secretary**
- Correspond with residents, offering advice and measures for seagull control through an article to the Northern Scot, community newsletter and any other publications which might be appropriate. **Ann Action & circulate**

**c) Smarter Choices/Smarter Places Bid.** Rebecca reported that the previous bid had not been successful but that another application through European funding is being considered. The forum may be approached for input for this bid in due course.

**d) Grave Yard Tap.** Cllr Divers had forwarded information for members that the tap in the Elgin Cemetery would be replaced and work should be complete by end of March 2009.

**e) Public Pathway in Dovecote Park.** Linda reported that a new pathway has been opened from the Springfield Retail development on Edgar Road through to the Dovecote Park. Christine reported that she had made enquiries about this and the gate has been closed temporarily to allow for a disabled access to be built. It was unclear if this gate would be accessible at all times.

**f) Elgin By-Pass.** Aileen asked if the proposed bypass for Elgin was completely forgotten now. Cllr Leadbitter said that in his opinion, the case for the Elgin bypass was not strong enough and that there might be a case to bring it forward in the future with a stronger business and financial case behind it.

**g) Travellers in Former Sawmill Site New Elgin.** Gordon Fimister reported that travellers have moved into the disused site opposite Elgin Mart and that their rubbish is encouraging seagulls and rats to the area. It was suggested that this is still private land and the owners would have to go through the legal process to have them removed. Murray offered to take this community issue back to the community council for consideration. Cllr Leadbitter offered to bring this to the attention of the Travelling Families Officer. **Cllr Leadbitter & Murray Ross Action**

#### **10. Date and Time of next meeting**

The next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 in New Elgin Primary School Annexe.

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 21:10

**Minutes prepared by Ann Griffin  
Elgin South Area Forum Support Worker  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009**