

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on
Tuesday 21st May 2013 at 7.00 pm in the NEON Building**

Present:

Aileen Marshall (Chair)
Steven Christie (Vice Chair)
Linda McKenzie
Daniel Scott
Mary Dow
Catherine Sinclair (Minutes)

Christine Clerk (Treasurer)
Rebecca Kail
Marilyn Kelly
Elizabeth Scott
Margaret-Anne Ramage (new member)

In Attendance:

Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC)
PC Carla Breen (Police Scotland)
Andy Simpson, Elgin High School

Cllr John Divers, Cllr Graham Leadbitter
Ian Todd (Community Support Unit)
Martine Scott, Senior project officer

Apologies:

Cllr James Allan

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	Welcome Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies Apologies were noted.	
3.	Police Report There have been targeted patrols at schools. Several minor traffic violations and littering offences were dealt with. Street Pastors will be out patrolling the town centre with police on Friday and Saturday nights from 10 pm to 4 am talking to vulnerable people. The initiative has been well received. A drive is taking place to tackle the issue of common assault.	
4.	Elgin High School Andy Simpson thanked the Forum for the support over the years and its help in keeping the High School a live issue. Martine Scott had passed a hard copy of the Proposal of Application notice to the Chair. It shows the site and a plan, for illustrative purposes only. A description of the building is in Annexe A, which the Chair will circulate electronically. There is a draft accommodation schedule illustrating internal layout but the design is still to be developed in detail. Ground surveys will also have to be undertaken. Exhibitions are planned for 24th & 25th June, provisionally at Moray College where feedback can be captured. There will also be exhibitions at primary school fetes. Statutory minimum is being exceeded with the Council keen to maximise opportunities for communication. Any questions can be emailed to Martine meantime. The project brief includes space for community allotments. Regarding fencing, discussions are underway as to how best balance the tensions of ensuring pupil safety and security, with access for the public. The school will be a community school, with sports and drama facilities also available. The BREEAM design and assessment method for sustainable buildings is	AM

	<p>being used and there is an intention to incorporate renewable energy, good heating and recycling into the building. Elgin Academy is gold standard in terms of energy performance. Due to budget constraints, the High School is likely to be silver (B+ or very good)</p> <p>The plan should also incorporate safer routes to school to encourage active transport and avoid road congestion at collection times. It is likely the main pedestrian entrance will still be at Ben Rinnes Walk.</p> <p>Positive design features and improvements were discussed. Planning and design etc. benefit from 'lessons learned' from schools built in earlier phases of the programme.</p> <p>There will be wired and wi-fi networks in the school, with the aspiration that pupils will be able to use wi-fi for their own devices. More laptops and notebooks are being taken to classrooms, moving away from the need to have fixed spaces for desktop computers. Universities are now offering distance learning to 6th formers.</p> <p>Rather than recreate Kestrel House as is, it is aimed to have a single area for pupil support to give an integrated and flexible service across a spectrum of pupil needs. This will also give current Kestrel House pupils access to the rest of the school.</p> <p>The blog will be used to provide updates as well as a record of the development. It is planned to leaflet immediately surrounding houses. The Forum would be happy to host a meeting for those residents later in the year.</p> <p>Cllr Divers has requested that planning for the access road is submitted along with the school planning application as it will need to be approved in advance of any plan related to a potential link road or alternative. Discussion is ongoing about the appropriate road standards required.</p>	
5.	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting Proposed: Christine Clerk Seconded: Marilyn Kelly</p>	
6.	<p>Matters Arising Traveller Consultation The submitted response was acknowledged.</p> <p>Kathy Grant was to speak to the Encampment Officer</p> <p>Allotments update The consultation closes Friday 23rd May. Rebecca will aim draft a reply on behalf of the Forum for the Chair to submit. She encouraged individuals to respond. The questions do not have to be answered. A succinct statement, with reasons why you would like to see any proposed changes would equally useful.</p> <p>Rebecca and Aileen met with Richard Hartland and the list of potential sites has been re-sent to him. Elgin Allotment Association (EAA) would be happy to take on identified, appropriate sites and are not relying on money from The Moray Council for site development. Rebecca is heartened to see allotments on the High School plans and feels some positive moves are being made. She has stepped down as EAA Chair and a new Chair is sought. There will be some EAA publicity action coming soon.</p> <p>Wetlands - stagnant ponds Cllr Divers contacted the Ranger who thought lack of rain may have caused stagnation. The ranger will arrange a litter pick. As of yet, there has been no improvement to the ponds.</p> <p>Glen Moray Drive path Elgin Community Council received the same response from The Moray</p>	<p>RK AM</p>

	<p>Council - there is no funding for lighting. Rebecca reported the leaf debris had been cleared.</p>	
7.	<p>Community Issues/action group updates</p>	
7.1	<p>Western Link Road - Update There will be a report out shortly identifying all plots that may be required for compulsory purchase should the road go ahead. Usually negotiation is used and CP is only a back-up.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment was discussed. The Chair will respond accordingly.</p> <p>Designing Better Streets are holding a drop-in open meeting on 15th June in the TA Hall from 10 am - 4 pm.</p>	AM
7.2	<p>SPICE update The litter pick took place with 56 bags removed from the wetlands alone.</p> <p>The inaugural AGM will take place 30th May to formally launch SPICE and adopt the constitution.</p> <p>Friday 23rd May is Elgin BID's show at the Town Hall 'Coothie TV'.</p> <p>The Community Warden was to investigate branded bags for litter picking so unsorted waste would not lead to households being penalised.</p>	
7.3	<p>Welfare Benefit Changes - local actions There has been no action locally</p> <p>Re Libraries an Equalities Impact Assessment is being carried out by the Community Support Unit, focussing on areas at risk of closure. Efforts are being made to target as many specific users as possible to produce robust evidence for local councillors to consider. If mitigation costs were to be higher than savings from closing the library, there would be a strong case for a u-turn.</p>	
7.4	<p>Any Other Community Issues and Updates Christine spoke to a railway employee, Alexander Scott who was photographing the pedestrian railway bridge. He advised here there was to be a new bridge with a lift rather than a ramp. Andrew Stuart, The Moray Council's newly appointed Sustainable Transport Officer was not aware of this and will follow up with Scotrail. Alastair Kennedy will ask George P Littlejohn, Community Council Roads & Transport if he has any further information.</p> <p>Cycle Parking Parking for 2 bikes has been relocated near the front of the Council Offices.</p> <p>Licensing Board Consultation Reminder to respond if possible. Approximately 15 minute survey. Link can be re-circulated if required.</p> <p>Capacity of Schools Margaret-Anne was offered one nursery place for her twins and advised to share the placement between them. This has since been resolved but clearly a policy change is required. This also raised concerns over the capacity of all schools in Elgin, especially in light of planned housing developments and numbers of 'out of zone' pupils at various schools.</p> <p>Zoning is a complex issue and changes can have implications for both schools and families, who could potentially end up with siblings at</p>	AK ALL

	<p>different schools. Zoning policy is set by The Moray Council and has not changed in the last 30 years. Discussion was held on issues relating to capacity, safe routes to school, parental choice, and what might trigger the building of a new school, or other means by which capacity issues can be resolved. There is a requirement for easily accessible information for parents, advising on school capacity, risk of refusal and road safety issues.</p> <p>The situation is being considered as part of the area based review.</p> <p>The Chair suggested having a forum meeting on this matter. It was agreed she would email Sandy Riddell and Graham Jarvis in the first instance about the issues raised.</p>	AM
8.	<p>Treasurer's Report Balance is £6890.57</p> <p>£40 for last minutes. Cheque from The Moray Council received for £1182 plus cheque for £155 for public liability insurance</p>	
9.	<p>Forum Issues</p> <p>Insurance Moray Forum is looking into finding insurance for all the forums.</p> <p>tsiMoray Christine attended the Third Sector Forum meeting</p> <p>Community Council Review Consultation A response was submitted</p> <p>Forum Action Plan A sub-group of Aileen, Catherine, Christine, Rebecca, Steven, James Wiseman and Margaret-Anne will meet with Ian Todd to draw up an action plan.</p> <p>Membership forms Margaret-Anne will fill in a membership form</p>	
10.	<p>Correspondence Taken as read</p> <p>Litter Pick Info Circ 17/4,30/4 SG Allotment Consultation Info Circ 17/4 Community Council Review Consult Circ 17/4 SPICE Info Circ 22/4 MSEN Trip Info Circ 24/4 Tsi Moray Info Circ 25/4 Big Lottery Fund Info Circ 1/5 Volunteer Action Fund Circ 3/5 WLR EIA Circ 8/5 Licensing Consultation Circ 8/5 Tsi Moray Bulletin Circ 9/5 Forum Insurance Info Circ 9/5 EHS Planning Documents Rec 10/5 Not Circ ECC Papers Circ 12/5 SPICE Papers Circ 15/5 Volunteer of the Year Info Circ 16/5/13</p>	
11.	<p>Any Other Competent Business Elizabeth Scott commented how good Ladyhill Gardens look. We wish our thanks be expressed to Anne Glover.</p>	AK/SC
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Date of next meeting 18th June 2013, NEON, 7 pm The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.</p>	