

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on
Tuesday 15th October 2013 at 7.00 pm in the NEON Building**

Present:

Aileen Marshall (Chair)	Steven Christie (Vice Chair)
Christine Clerk (Treasurer) (Minutes)	
Daniel Scott	Elizabeth Scott
Marilyn Kelly	Linda McKenzie
James Wiseman	

In Attendance:

PC Roddy MacLeod (Police Scotland)	Cllr Graham Leadbitter
Alastair Kennedy (ECC)	

Apologies:

Catherine Sinclair	Rebecca Kail
Cllr John Divers	Mary Dow
Margaret-Anne Ramage	
Ian Todd (Community Support Unit)	Roddy Burns (The Moray Council)
Kathy Grant (Community Warden)	

ITEM NO	ITEM DISCUSSED	ACTION
1.	Welcome Aileen Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies Apologies were noted.	
3.	<p>Community Police Report</p> <p>Speed Limits for HGV's An HGV is defined as a vehicle over 7.5te. On a single carriageway the speed limit is 40mph. On the A9 dual carriageway and the motorway the speed limit is 50mph. Transit vans and mini-buses 55mph and a bus, 50mph. When towing a trailer 50mph. There is a national traffic initiative for speed cameras. This generates a good revenue. There is a requirement for enforcement of speed limits to set an example to others.</p> <p>Break ins Since the meeting of 17/09/13 there have been 9 crime files concerning house thefts. One has been detected. The thefts have mostly been in outlying properties. Of the total thefts 26 have been recorded, 3 have been detected, 2 where no crime has been committed. These figures include rural thefts of diesel. Officer MacLeod told the meeting that there has to be sufficient evidence to charge. The evidence needs to be corroborated. There are three different outcomes possible. 1) A Warning 2) If the theft is by a juvenile it has to be reported within 28 days before the suspect is charged and released 3) The suspect is retained in custody until the court case. Locally there are no reported cases. There were three break ins at Brinuth Place. There have been 9 housebreakings with 1 detected.</p> <p>There has been an increased patrol on Baillies Drive and Brinuth Place and door to door enquiries have taken place. In Glen Lossie Drive there has been one walk in theft and on Edgar Road a window has been broken. A name of a suspect has been obtained and there was sufficient evidence to report the case to the Procurator Fiscal. It is necessary to obtain two pieces of evidence or the suspect needs to admit the crime with some corroborating information. Operation Avon is still running. This concerns drugs, under age drinking and rowdiness. Information is gathered and analysed for these topics to identify problems concerning anti social behaviour. The concerns raised in the previous meeting about rowdy drinking under Elgin Railway Bridge have been identified, but this area has not been associated with under age drinking. Operation Moravia, concerning drugs, is also running continuously. The meeting asked how well the new Police Scotland was working. The Officer replied favourably that there has been no change to the present service but that it was subject to change and review. The Police service is moving away</p>	

	<p>from Community Policing. New Teams are being formed to address specific problems. Moray has a Divisional Rape Investigation Team. It is now felt that specialist teams are to be formed to replace the divisional CID team. These specialist teams will be spread over a wider area and will travel to identified hot spots. Morale in the Police is better, but Officers have concerns about failure of prosecutions due to lack of evidence. Suspects have rights to a solicitor and do not have to admit culpability. They are cautioned that they do not have to say anything and are advised by their solicitor to say “no comment”. Officer MacLeod said that specialist teams are better for the management for the Force but not necessarily good for the individual Shifts.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting Proposed: Steven Christie Seconded: Marlyn Kelly</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>7.1 Analysis of the feedback questionnaire has gone to the Chair and a VOICE Report of the consultation.</p> <p>7.3 Drop in meeting was held in a bus and not the Elgin Bus Station waiting room from 8.30 to 11.00am. Plans for the changes to The St Giles Centre showed the bus station area covered over. The covered area will be ventilated. Modern buses generate much less pollution. Concerns were raised at the meeting that disabled could not board the buses. Child buggies are not allowed on and need to be stored in the Luggage compartment. Concern was also raised that there was no handrail for passengers to grip beside the drivers compartment when obtaining a ticket and that this was unsafe. Also there was no bell on the bus and it was difficult to alert the driver when you wished to alight at the next stop. Stagecoach were very receptive to passengers comments. A bus passenger survey was undertaken a few weeks ago.</p> <p>7.8 Libraries Action Group has indicated that it is taking legal advice regarding a Judicial Review. They will find a campaigner who is entitled to legal aid. Fiona Hyslop is now involved. Stuart Stevenson has said that Parliament time has been allocated to debate this issue. There is a formula to determine the number of libraries required per head of population. The cuts will continue for another few years. Moray is presently well served by libraries, but when seven libraries are cut then they will be in the bottom five in Scotland for library provision.</p> <p>9. NEON has been booked for ESAF all next year.</p> <p>11. Arnold Clark no longer has any cars parked on the grass verge on Edgar Road.</p>	
6.	<p>Community Issues/action group updates</p> <p>6.1 School Estate Review There has not been much feedback on this issue and we are awaiting the results on the consultation before getting involved. There is only one question in the consultation “What makes a good School?”. All parents groups have had two different questionnaires There is an online version with one question. What is it that people object to? – communities are diminished if the school is lost. New Elgin primary schools are bursting at the seams, they can not deal with the number of children. There are not enough places available. Nothing was brought up at the briefing in Elgin academy on 26th September which can be responded to. There are to be meetings with every Head Teacher in Moray. The results of these meetings will be collated and ideas will be formed which will be presented in a new consultation. The next phase of consultation will be before Christmas, then another consultation after Christmas. This consultation will look at education overall, and there is no hidden agenda. The process will show how the conclusion of the consultation has been arrived at and</p>	

	<p>what process was undertaken to reach that decision.</p>	
6.2	<p>Elgin high School There has been a delay over the ground condition which the school is being built on. Additional surveys and engineering works will have to be undertaken to identify a more suitable area for the school foundations.</p>	
6.3	<p>Western Link Road It will now be early in the New Year until anything can be done. The Wetlands has drained slightly which affects the ground level on both sides of the road. When the works start on the new school it is expected that the traffic on Edgar Road will increase.</p>	
6.4	<p>Dr Gray's Issue The letter from Sandy Dustan concerning bed shortages is acceptable but there are still some concerns. Another list of questions has been drawn up. It is of concern that on occasion there may be no beds available. Also how often has elective surgery been postponed for medical emergencies. Have beds been removed due to lack of staff? How many people have been relocated for treatment to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. How many nursing staff have been removed from surgical wards to nurse medical patients. There is concern as to the number of patients moved around the hospital to ensure single sex wards. What are the re-admittance levels. Are there too few beds? High bed occupancy in a small hospital might mean only one spare bed. There was a flu epidemic in September /October 2012 which took up extra beds. The social work department works with the hospital. Discharges are delayed due to the lack of carers at home. It was decided to ask Richard Carey back to the Forum to address these concerns. There are National guidelines for bed occupancies, which depend on the size of the hospital. Is Dr Gray's adequate for the population it serves as we have a large amount of elderly people. What is the difference in the level of service between now and 5 years ago? There is not a large amount of money in the Social work budget to cope with the increased demands for carers. The time each carer has to spend with some clients has been cut to 15 minutes. It was said that the time can be extended to 20 minutes if there is a need. There has been allocated up to 28 days post hospital care for discharged patients to save hospital time. The cost of travelling time between clients is allocated separately. Also a safer system for carers lone working and working in dark nights is being put in place. Acute services have been taken out of the joint Budget. There are concerns that savings made in Moray through better joined working with Social Care may be diverted to Aberdeen.</p> <p>ACTION: Contact Dr Gray's Manager, Sandy Dustan to express concern Action contact Richard Carey</p>	
6.5	<p>Housing Allocations Consultation Aileen Marshall has prepared a response from the forum</p>	
6.6	<p>SPICE update There will be a litter pick on Lady's Walk, High street and on the Wards on Sunday 26/27 October. Also a clear up from Blackfriars. There have been some bulbs donated from the Moray council to plant at the Lady hill but the vast majority of plants have been donated. Meet at the Bailey Bridge at 10.30am. On Sunday the meet is the car park behind Poundland at 10.30am.</p>	
6.7	<p>Whisky Freight Pilot - Update There are two freight loads a week. No information on how the project is performing.</p>	

6.8	<p>Welfare Benefit Changes The Trussel Trust food bank will open in Elgin shortly and will be able to take donations. Action Christine Clerk find out how people can donate food to the food bank</p>	
6.9	<p>Any other Community Issues and Updates None</p>	
7.	<p>Treasurer's Report Balance is £6770.57. Books will be submitted for audit next month.</p>	
8.	<p>Forum Issues Minutes & Forward Planning November/AGM minutes: Catherine. Aileen Marshall said that there were enough members available to have a rotating chair next year if necessary. In November the formal meeting will be held first then the AGM Forum Action Plan Forum action plan adopted unanimously. A vote of thanks was given to Catherine Sinclair for her outstanding contribution to the forum Action Plan Use of Forum Monies, Update on IT No Update on IT</p>	
9.	<p>Correspondence Taken as read Correspondence with S Dustan re Dr Gray's Circ 18/9, 10/10 SPICE Info Circ 18/9 (2), 19/9 Invite to WLR Exhibition Circ 18/9 Education Review Online Survey Circ 1/10 Cappgemini Apprenticeships Circ 1/10 ECC Papers Circ 3/10, 9/10 EHS Update Circ 9/10 tsiMoray Info Circ 11/10</p>	
10.	<p>Any Other Competent Business Frank Roach to be approached for an update on the Whisky Train Project.</p>	
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Date of next meeting 19th November 2013, (AGM) NEON, 7 pm The meeting closed at 9.02pm.</p>	