

**Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 17 June 2014 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Present:	In Attendance:	Apologies:
Rebecca Kail(Chair) James Wiseman Aileen Marshall Steven Christie (Vice Chair) Christine Clerk (Treasurer)(minutes) Elizabeth Scott Daniel Scott Bob Anderson Marilyn Kelly Linda McKenzie	Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC) Cllr John Divers Kathy Grant (Community Warden)  PC Mick Irwine (Police Scotland)	Cllr James Allan Cllr Graham Leadbitter Margaret –Anne Ramage  Catherine Sinclair Ian Todd (Community support Unit)

**MINUTES:**

ITEM	RECORD	ACTION
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Rebecca Kail took the Chair at 7:00pm, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were noted as above.</p>	
3	<p><b>Community Warden /Police Update</b></p> <p>Kathy Grant (Community warden) gave her report. There is a growing intolerance for noise. There is an increase in the number of complaints about dog barking. The first fine of £200 for fly tipping has been issued. The Moray council fine for dog fouling has increased. The fine for littering is £80. The Community Warden Information day at St Giles, Elgin went very well and a few people signed up for the Green Dog Walkers Scheme.</p> <p>PC Mike Irwin gave his report</p> <p>Generally in the good weather there is an increase in neighbour hood disputes and there are certain hot spots in Elgin and the Police are working to get these resolved. There are no reports of under age drinking. It is not a problem for Elgin. Operation Avon has been used to address this issue. A&amp;E are not aware of children ending up in casualty with alcohol related problems. Domestic Abuse is a huge problem and alcohol can be involved . A full report has to be completed even if no one is charged . Domestic abuse has been made a priority for the Scottish Government and domestic abuse incidents are dealt with as a priority. Interpreters are often needed but there are now companies set up which offer translation services and it is not now a problem to take a statement. If there is no evidence then charges can not be brought unless it is in the Public interest. Domestic abuse is now being reported more frequently and is being dealt with by a specialised unit.</p> <p>Theft is not such a great problem in this area and is usually down to certain individuals and not gangs in the area.</p> <p>PC Irwin was asked why there had been no update on the incident at The Level in March which was brought to the attention of the Inspector by the ESAF.</p> <p><b>Action</b> PC Irwin undertook to find out what progress was being made with the case.</p>	
4	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the ESAF Meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May   2014 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p>	

	Proposed: Jim Wiseman ; Seconded: Aileen Marshall	
5	<b>Matters Arising</b> None	
6	<b>COMMUNITY ISSUES /Action Group Updates</b>	
6	<p><b>Elgin High School Planning Application</b></p> <p>A copy of the DRAFT version of a proposed planning processing agreement (PPA) for Elgin High School has been sent to the ESAF from Angus A Birnie, Principal Planning Officer (Development Management), The Moray Council. The ESAF has been asked to confirm our agreement/commitment to the PPA by <b>16 June 2014</b> at the latest. Aileen Marshall has responded to Angus Birnie asking for an extension of the deadline to give the ESAF an opportunity to discuss the proposal at tonight's meeting and give a response tomorrow morning on Wednesday 18 June. Once the PPA has been accepted the process of consultation on the Planning Application 13/00774/PE to erect a replacement Elgin High School will begin. The ESAF has to prepare a response between the dates of 14<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August. The possibility of holding an ESAF meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July was discussed. The meeting felt that the timetable for responses was short and did not take account of the meeting schedule of the Forum or the Community Council or the time taken to formulate and submit a response. The option of asking for an extension to the deadline for responses to the end of August was discussed. This would give the Forum time to give a meaningful response. The progress review will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. The first thoughts of the Forum could be collected and sent off before then. The possibility of an extra Management Team meeting was discussed. The Planning application will come out on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and will be validated by 11<sup>th</sup> July. It was asked of the meeting if there was any point in objecting as the Forum agreed in principle with the building of a new Elgin High School. There has to be meaningful community Engagement with the Planning application. The General Public need to become involved with the process. Cllr Leadbitter stated that he was not aware of any issues with the school or the location of the school. There may be a wish to consult on the transportation situation at the entrance of the school and the parking around the school. This is the process of Community Engagement. The effect of increased traffic on Greenwards Primary School and on the Elgin High School needs to be discussed. The ESAF still need to be aware of what is in the Plan and ask for comments on the Plan. There might be a need to object if transport; general landscaping around the school or the design of the road access needs to be reconsidered. The ESAF decided that they need to be involved with the Planning Process and that nothing will be lost by knowing more</p> <p>Proper community Engagement should not need extra special meetings to accommodate the consultation period. As there are four weeks for Community Groups to consult and four weeks between meetings then the timescale is not appropriate.</p> <p><b>Action</b> the ESAF should ask for an extension on the consultation Period. Thank the Planning Department for consulting with the ESAF but we need more time. We would like a two week extension. AM</p> <p><b>Action</b> contact Angus Birnie and invite him to a Forum meeting to tell us what is happening and ask if the Planning Process is drawn up to a suitable timescale . AM</p> <p>The input from Angus Birnie could make a difference to the Forum response.</p> <p>The meeting was informed that there will be a Public consultation on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Leadbitter stated that the Planning Process had been already delayed and the first turf was due to be cut next year (2015). The meeting agreed that they did not wish to delay the Planning Process and felt that asking for an extension would not impact the building of the School. The ESAF needs to be able to engage with the Planning application. The Community council has asked for a week's extension to accommodate their meeting schedule. There should be an ordinary ESAF meeting to deal with the issues raised on the Planning Application.</p>	

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	<p><b>Schools Estate consultation</b></p> <p>No update</p>	
6	<p><b>Roads- Western Link Road and Sandy Road</b></p> <p><u>Western Link Road</u></p> <p>If The Moray Council recommend refusal of the WLR planning application it will go to the full Council . Otherwise if it is accepted then the Planning Application will go direct to a Public Hearing. There are around 800 objections to the WLR.</p> <p><u>Sandy Road</u></p> <p>The Sandy Road widening is not being dealt with under the WLR . This development has been in the Local Area Plan since 2000. It anticipates the increased traffic flow to the new housing. The ESAF response to the consultation on the Sandy Road Widening has been submitted.</p>	
6	<p><b>Spice</b></p> <p>No Update. Volunteers are being sought to tidy up the flower beds at Ladyhill.</p>	
6	<p><b>Welfare Benefits</b></p> <p>No update</p>	
6	<p><b>Health and Wellbeing Matters Including Dr Grays</b></p> <p><u>Pain Clinic</u></p> <p>Pain Consultants are willing to come to Elgin but have been told they will not be given a travel allowance.</p> <p><u>Children's Ward</u></p> <p>The ESAF resolved to monitor the situation. The response from Richard Carey has not been helpful. The initial scoping paper was designed to look at the sustainability of Paediatric services . There is no guarantee that there will be a positive outcome from this exercise. There is a possibility that children will be transferred to Inverness and that the Children's Ward in Elgin will become a Day Ward. The meeting felt that ESAF should insist on a Children's Ward in Dr Grays. The Moray Forum and Elgin Community Council should link up with Aberdeenshire Community councils and Forums to ensure that the children's ward stays in Elgin.</p> <p><b>Action</b> The ESAF needs to draft an Action Plan to ensure that the children's ward remains open.</p> <p><b>Action</b> Aileen Marshall to draft a letter to Richard Carey expressing the ESAF concerns.</p> <p><u>Launch of the new Dementia Strategy</u></p> <p>There is a new dementia strategy in Moray . There is an Information Fair this coming Friday on 20<sup>th</sup> June in the Alexander Graham Bell wing in the Moray College from 10am to 3pm</p>	
6	<p><b>Any Other Community Issues and Updates</b></p> <p><u>Grant Lodge</u></p> <p>There was a meeting of the short life working group on the 11<sup>th</sup> June in the Inkwell, Elgin Youth Café. The group will decide what to do with Grant Lodge. The remit of the</p>	

	<p>group is to identify commercial options for sustainability of Grant Lodge. There will be another meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July in ASDA. This is not an open meeting. Once a definite direction forward has been identified then more organisations will be included. The foyer of ASDA is also available for display purpose and to advertise the meeting. A list of suggestions has been drawn up. The group has until the end of September to put forward its suggestions. If there is to be a change of use of Grant Lodge then the Moray council will pay for the change of the trust deeds . this will cost approximately £20,000. The proposal to change the terms of use of Grant Lodge will have to go to the moray council for approval but it is felt that the councillors would agree to it. On the 30<sup>th</sup> June the group will be able to look inside Grant Lodge. Moray Camera club will take photos to show the General Public the interior condition of Grant Lodge. It is estimated that it will take around £2.5 to £3 million to restore the building. The Councillors went on a tour round Grant Lodge with Alastair Campbell . The fire damaged beams have been removed and replaced. The building is structurally sound. The interior of Grant Lodge could be redesigned to give more space.</p> <p><u>Living Streets</u></p> <p>There will be a one day training event to evaluate the quality of streets and spaces based on the people that use them.</p> <p>Names were taken to attend . Rebecca Kail, Jim Wiseman, Richard Anderson, Christine clerk, Marilyn Kelly</p> <p><u>Community Council update</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy reported that Elgin is now a Fair Trade City. There has been some progress on Deanshaugh Playing Fields. Landshut Bridge is now open. There is a new Armadillo car wash on Wards Road. Money from the Elgin Fund has been made available to build an amphitheatre in Cooper Park between Grant Lodge and the Tennis Park using excess soil from the Flood Alleviation Scheme. The amphitheatre will not affect the visibility of CCTV.</p> <p><u>Response to consultation on Local Development Plan</u></p> <p>James Wiseman reported that on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June there will be a meeting with the local planning department to go through the response and identify the good and bad points. The exercise has been a very good piece of Community Engagement.</p> <p><u>Cooper Park Toilets</u></p> <p>These toilets are now open from Monday to Friday . They will be locked at 4.00pm. A sign will direct people to the Local Library where there are existing facilities. There are no toilet facilities available on Sunday. The tourist information is open on Sunday but no toilets are available. The Bowling Green is open on Sunday . A key for the Tennis Courts can be picked up from the Community Centre.</p> <p><u>The Northern Scot</u></p> <p>The editor has approached the Forum expressing an interest in news items. The Elgin community council forward their minutes to the Northern Scot and any items of interest can be selected from them as news.</p>	
7	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>	
	Christine Clerk advised the remaining balance is £6,323.24. £40 was spent to pay for minute taking at the last meeting. .	<b>All</b>
8	<b>FORUM ISSUES</b>	
8	<p><b>Future Meetings and Minutes</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014</p> <p>The Chair for the July meeting will be Aileen Marshall .</p>	

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	<p>The minutes will be taken by Rebecca Kail</p> <p>The Plans for Elgin High School will need to be available. The availability of the key for NEON needs to be checked as the janitor is on holiday.</p> <p><u>Social Media</u></p> <p>The ESAF facebook page ahs been updated with details of tonight's meeting and the community Warden's event in St Giles Centre on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>AM</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Forum Action plan</b></p> <p>No update</p>	<p>MT</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>No new members</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Moray Forum</b></p> <p>No update</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The correspondence was taken as read. James Wiseman confirmed that the correspondence listed below had been circulated.</p> <p>13/6 Elgin High School draft processing agreement (re-send)</p> <p>12/6 New litter strategy</p> <p>12/6 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill launched</p> <p>11/6 Chewing gum fact sheet</p> <p>11/6 It's Your Neighbourhood newsletter</p> <p>11/6 News from tsi Moray</p> <p>11/6 Access to Streets training</p> <p>10/6 Response regarding FPNs</p> <p>10/6 Response re NfTaC</p> <p>9/6 Local Commission</p> <p>8/6 Community Council date</p> <p>8/6 CC papers</p> <p>6/6 SPICE minutes</p> <p>6/6 CARS newsletter</p> <p>5/6 tsiMoray ebulletin</p> <p>4/6 SCVO member bulletin</p> <p>4/6 tsiMoray ebulletin</p> <p>3/6 Welcome to my garden offer – from Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> <p>3/6 Elgin High draft processing agreement</p> <p>3/6 Beyond the usual suspects: Exploring Alternative Funding Sources</p> <p>30/5 Sandy Road reply</p> <p>30/5 Moray Council CAT Policy</p>	

	<p>30/5 tsiMoray ebulletin</p> <p>29/5 LDS consultation</p> <p>29/5 NHS response</p> <p>22/5 Invitation to Volunteers Fair – 5<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p>21/5 CC/forum response to LDP</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Any Other Competent Business</b></p> <p>The forum’s attention was drawn to a safety issue near the Cottar Hoose behind the Linkwood Health Centre . The electrical substation is not secure and can be a potential danger to children .</p> <p><b>Action</b> John Divers will inspect the area and then go into Springfield Properties and Barrett homes.</p> <p><u>Prescriptions</u></p> <p>The question was asked why there are not enough medicines in Elgin to supply prescriptions. Patients are unable to obtain a full prescription when going to a chemist in Elgin. In addition the pharmacist takes the prescription without telling the patient that they are unable to supply the medication. The patient is then unable to have the prescription back and go elsewhere. It was thought that the Chemist should tell you if they can not supply the prescription. Patients are regularly short of medication. It was felt that this was a Licensing issue. This is a Public service. The option of sending a Freedom of Information request to Boots the Chemist to ask how often they are unable to supply a prescription was discussed. It was felt necessary that the Patient should be informed that there is insufficient medication available and that the chemist should not be able to prevent the Patient getting their prescription back so they can go elsewhere.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7pm</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.12pm.</p>	