

Minutes of the Elgin South Area Forum Meeting held on

Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 7.00pm in the NEON Building

ATTENDANCE:

Present:	In Attendance:	Apologies:
Aileen Marshall (Chair) Steven Christie (Vice Chair) Christine Clerk (Treasurer) Rebecca Kail (Minutes) James Wiseman	Alastair Kennedy (C&RBoECC) Cllr John Divers Kathy Grant, Community Warden Ian Todd, CSU Michael Duncan , Police Scotland	Cllr Graham Leadbitter Bob Anderson Marilyn Kelly

MINUTES:

ITEM	RECORD	ACTION
1	Welcome Aileen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
2	Apologies Apologies were noted as above.	
3	Police Update The number of crimes increased compared to last month (167) but the number of calls attended (300) decreased. There was a house break-in (in Birnie) and 18 cases of vandalism. There are 10 ongoing enquiries and the detection of one crime has been completed. Extra people have been trained to tackle anti-social driving behaviour and this is a priority at the moment. The police attended Remembrance Day parades. In response to a question, it was explained that vandalism includes kicked doors, damage to cars or other property, permanent spray paint markings, etc. There was further discussion about the new drink drive limits that come into force on 5 th Dec. The lower limits mean it will be inadvisable to drink alcohol at all before driving. Since everyone breaks down alcohol differently, it might also be sensible to avoid driving after drinking the night before. Getting a taxi was suggested as a solution for those rare occasions when an emergency journey has to be made but the driver has drunk some alcohol, perhaps with a meal. Drink driving laws apply to mobility scooters but not to cyclists. Community Warden Update A new Early Intervention Officer started work today. He/she will work with young people (11-14 years) on issues such as anger management and reducing vandalism and graffiti at the skate park. A dog fouling case is due to come to court shortly. A temporary warden will take Kathy's place in January when she is on placement elsewhere. In response to a comment about anti-social parking at the bottom of Reidhaven Street (a designated cycle route), it was stated that both the warden and local police are aware of the issue.	
4	Previous Minutes The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.	

5	Matters Arising It was agreed to donate money for the transport booklet as requested by the Moray Forum. However, concern was expressed about the process and the inadequate timescales for decision making.	Action
6	COMMUNITY ISSUES & UPDATES	
6.a	Schools Consultations In the light of the report's recommendations, two decisions have been made by the council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secondary schools are to close • No rural primaries to close for at least 5 years <p>In addition, possibilities for changes in Elgin and Forres are being looked at as a priority. Re-zoning is likely in Elgin with a possibility of capping numbers to prioritise in-zone children. At the moment, only Seafield and East End have any space. New Elgin is very full.</p>	
6.b	Elgin High School Whilst supportive of plans for the new school, the forum had some concerns (primarily about the road and access to the grounds). To ensure our voice was heard, these concerns were submitted as an objection to the planning application. If the steering group is willing to listen, negotiate and make changes, the forum will change their 'objection' to a 'representation' in order to minimise delay. John Divers offered to raise the forum's issues at meetings with the steering group of the new Elgin High school.	
6.c	WLR The planning committee rejected the proposal for the WLR and there will be a requirement for the decision to go to full council. Two committees (ED&I and Planning) are at odds with one another. Disappointment was expressed that some councillors may have voted for political reasons. £2.5million has been spent on the proposal so far – and the consultation process has taken up a considerable amount of volunteer time. If the road does not go ahead, this has implications for housing development in the area and repayments may need to be made to Grampian Housing. Whilst some welcomed the decision and others were dismayed by it, it was agreed that solutions need to be found to improve traffic management in Elgin. ESDAG could perhaps use its considerable expertise and energy to help generate possibilities. Aileen proposed that the forum spends time and effort in seeking solutions that would ease the traffic burden on New Elgin Rd and Main St.	Action
6.d	SPICE Steven reported that SPICE has been awarded funding for signage. 30 bags of rubbish were collected at a recent litter pick. Volunteers are needed for a shrub clearing weekend – date to be confirmed.	Action
6.e	Health and Social Care See Aileen's report. The new chief officer for the merged health and social care service is in post. Richard Carey, Chief Executive of Grampian NHS, is due to retire shortly.	
6.f	Moray Local Development Plan This is now with the Scottish Government. A link has been circulated.	

6.g	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Alastair met Gary Templeton to discuss improving engagement with the local plan. The Community Engagement Group meets tomorrow. The ten-year plan proposed and developed by the CSU has been accepted by the CEG and the Community Planning Board. It will be discussed at the JCC and the Moray Forum.</p>	
6.h	<p>Any Other Community Issues and Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Muir Wind Farm – James is preparing a response for the community council, and the forum agreed to share this response. Despite initial difficulties with the first consultation, those involved have gained confidence because real changes have been made to the plans. • Community Awards – there have been 150 nominations for the awards, and the ceremony will be held on Friday. The forum noted that there is plenty of excellent work going on in Moray communities. • Bob Anderson has advised Aileen that he needs to step back from the forum for a while. The forum wishes to thank Bob for his contribution, and for keeping us up-to-date with progress about Grant Lodge. 	
7	<p>TREASURER'S REPORT</p>	
	<p>The balance is £7, 527.24</p>	
8	<p>FORUM ISSUES</p>	
	<p>Future Meetings and Minutes</p> <p>The next meeting is 20th Jan 2015. Christine kindly offered to take the minutes.</p>	
9	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>All correspondence listed below has been circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPICE Info Circ 22/10, 29/10, 31/10,11/11(2) • tsiMoray Circ 22/10, 5/11, 12/11 • Community Transport Conference Circ 4/11 • ECC Papers Circ 5/11 • Rural Direct Info Circ 10/11 • Charity Forum Info Circ 10/11 • BYOH Project Circ 12/11 	
10	<p>Any Other Competent Business</p> <p>None.</p>	
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting is 20th January 2015 at 7pm.</p>	